



YEMEN TIMES



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Sanaa University Graduates the 17th Batch of Its Medical Students

142 MDs Join the Profession

Tuesday, July 25th, was a proud day for the 142 graduates of the Medical College at Sanaa University. Parents, relatives and friends were at hand to join in on the joyous moment as roll calls were taken for the last time before the new medical doctors were announced ready for service. This was the 17th batch.

The majority of the 74 men and 68 women are joining the medical profession, following a six-months internship.

"It is my proud moment, and I look forward to a career life," stated Najla Jubary, the very top student in the batch. Sameer Mansoor and Waheeb Atroosh, two outstanding students were, nevertheless worried. "We know that favoritism will come into play in terms of job placement," they anxiously said. Khalil Abdul-Azeem, Adel Al-Mutawakkel - two other top graduates - said they were happy to have finished school. "It is time to look forward to a settled life."

In addition to the above five outstanding graduates, an honor list citing the most active students included Mona Arman, Fouad Bowtaj, Fouad Alwan, Qabool Al-Mutawakkel, Nabeela Shayif, Manar Al-Saqqaf, Hana Mohammed Najad, Nahed Nasher, Shaker Mohsen Hajar, Abdul-Mannan Hassan, Lutfy Abdul-Salam and Ahmed Idrees.

By: Izzat Al-Saqqaf



Qatar Starts Pumping in Assistance to Yemen

The State of Qatar has started several emergency aid projects for Yemen. The first of such project is the supply of generators for electrification in Hadhramaut. "We badly needed three generators, and our brethren in Qatar have come to our rescue," said Mr. Abdullah Al-Akwa', Minister of Electricity and Water. He added that the Emir of Qatar of Qatar has promised 40 megawatt electric generators for Hadhramaut and we are waiting for these.

Another project is the construction of a primary/preparatory/secondary girls' school in Hugarriah, Taiz. Vice Minister of Educa-

tion, Mohammed Al-Sa'adi, wrote stating that the Government of Yemen was very appreciative of the assistance.

A third project is in Sanaa, where the State of Qatar provides equipment and training for the development of the official media in the Ministry of Information. Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Akwa', Minister of Information, said, "Qatar's support is not something new." Mr. Mohammed Ali Al-Ansari, Ambassador of Qatar, said, "I am happy President Saleh visited Doha twice



during my tenure here as ambassador." He also indicated the consolidation of Yemeni unity and the change in leadership in Qatar will allow a more focussed direction in the bilateral cooperation.

TOTAL BLACKOUT IN YEMEN

There was a several-hour total blackout throughout the Republic of Yemen on Saturday, July 29th. Observers expect more trouble with electric supply in the future.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Issue of Population Growth

One of the most limiting factors in the future growth of Yemen is the rate of population growth. It is today a staggering 3.7-3.9% per annum.

From whatever point of view, the country cannot support this growth rate, and it is just our bad luck that we are the neighbors of countries that encourage families to have children. They have their reasons, and we have our compelling reasons to cut back on the size of our families.

In the past, people used to have large families because of the high mortality rates. Parents used to have as large a number of kids, because some were bound to die. In today's Yemen, the death rates have dropped dramatically. Yet, the birth rates continue in their past levels.

Another reason why families used to have a large number of children was because if offered a higher probability for supporting the parents in their old age. If there were numerous kids, the chances of some of them making it (striking it rich) were better. That would facilitate supporting the parents and relatives. But today, parents can invest in real estate and other projects which will generate returns for their old age. There is also the pension and other forms of social security.

A third reason why families used to have a large number of children was the need for physical protection. More offsprings, especially males, gave a sense of security in tribal Yemen. That is less of a case in the presence of a state that promotes law and order.

The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non-Governmental Organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle.

In modern societies, the success of the family depends on the quality of its members rather than their number. There is ample evidence that raising a few children well and caring for them is much superior to having a large number of children for whom we cannot provide adequate care.

This issue is not a luxury to Yemen. It is, in my opinion, one of the most crucial factors in determining the development prospects. Therefore, the government needs to address it fully and wholeheartedly. There are no social or cultural taboos, and even within the Islamic religion, there is so much that can be used in favor of family planning and birth control. It is here that we need the contribution of the clergy, as their role will be vital.

Can we go for it?

The Publisher

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Yemen Times Plans Yemeni-Kuwaiti Seminar

The Yemen Times is presently preparing for a seminar which will be held during August in Sanaa. The theme will be to discuss Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations and the prospects in the near future.

According to Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, there will be three main topics: The overtures made from the Yemeni side towards Kuwait; the recent positive response in the Kuwaiti media; and the need for non-governmental organizations and individuals to play a bridging role.

"We feel there is a role for the non-official circles to play. First we want to document how far apart, or better, how close the two sides have come, and then determine the next steps," Prof. Al-Saqqaf said.

Closing Down the IQS

Based on instructions from the Minister of Legal Affairs and the Chairman of the Political Parties Committee, the headquarter and branches of the Itihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyyah (IQS) or the Federation of Popular Forces, have been closed down. Al-Shoura newspaper, mouthpiece of the IQS party, has also been closed down.

The IQS and opposition parties have appealed to the President of the Republic, Speaker of Parliament, and Prime Minister to rescind the decision because, according to them, "it lacks legal or constitutional base".

A Model for NGO Merger

The Al-Aarooq and Al-Aghabira have completed their merger effort, and tomorrow, August 1st, they will announce the creation of the new united NGO. Both Al-Aarooq and Al-Aghabira were independent voluntary organizations in Hugarriah working for the betterment of their regions. Being next to each other, they decided to join forces and work together.

Mr. Mohammed Abdo Saeed, an Executive Director of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group, has been chosen to chair the unified new NGO.

New Diplomats in Sanaa

Three new diplomats have just replaced their departing colleagues in Sanaa. H.E. Mr. Badr Bin Salim Al-Sayyab is now the new ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, Mr. Yu Xin Zhi is the new ambassador of China, and Mr. Onder Yucer is the new Resident Representative of the UNDP.

At another level, Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, inaugurated on Thursday, July 27th, the Diplomatic Club which is sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the occasion, Dr. Iryani said that the Ministry was keen to help provide outlets for the spare time of the members of the diplomatic community.

The Club offers various sports and recreational facilities which could be used by the diplomats. "It is also a potential meeting point for the people involved in foreign diplomacy."

Mr. Yahia Al-Shami heads the Club, which is managed by an independent organ set up for this purpose.

Yemen Times learned that membership for the diplomatic community, employees of the Foreign Ministry, and the media people is available. Of course, only members can use the club.

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The Vice Minister of Education:

"We must go beyond the traditional approach. We must plan, decide and work with our eyes fixed on the next century."

Education is, no doubt, society's main vehicle for progress and growth. The transformation of Yemen, as elsewhere in the world, thus hinges on the performance in education. Our values, our beliefs, our very essence is shaped by the kind of information and education we are fed at schools and elsewhere. But for a country where there is little dose at home, in clubs or elsewhere, the education process at school remains very crucial.

Today, the Ministry of Education is responsible for nearly three million pupils and students in schools in the Republic of Yemen taught by about 130,000 teachers. That makes this ministry the most burdened of all in the Republic. As a result, the budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Education is only second to that of the Ministry of Defence.

To shed light on the efforts of this ministry, Yemen Times Social Editor, Salwa Al-Sanabani, interviewed Vice Minister Mohammed Saad Al-Saadi. Mr. Al-Saadi, 43, is from Rusud Area in Yaffa' Region, Abyan Governorate. He received his primary education in Rusud and Aden, preparatory and secondary education in Qatar, university and post-university education in Saudi Arabia. He is now completing his PhD dissertation with Um Durman University in Sudan.

He has written many books and papers on education, teacher training, vocational education and education planning, in all of which he has extensive experience.

The Vice Minister of Education, a soft-spoken person, is described as one of the most decent and straight Yemeni officials in government today.

Following are excerpts of the interview:

Q: Let me start with a difficult question. There have been many irregularities in the Ministry of Education and the school system. Your Ministry is accused of being one of the most corrupt ones in government. How do you respond to that?

A: I am afraid the image of Yemen as a whole suffers from corruption. It is not just haphazard irregularities or violation of the laws and norms, but it is well-organized. It looks like there are efforts to promote corruption and make it the order of the day.

But, I will agree that it is indeed a serious problem when the organization responsible for planting correct values among our new generations is itself plagued with this disease. When the principal (headmaster) of the school, teachers, or staff of the Ministry are corrupt, what do you expect of the pupils and students? What kind of role models can these corrupt people offer? What kind of values are we promoting?

It is a problem that exists and we simply hope to do our best to combat it. At another level, mis-use of foreign assistance, especially food aid, has been common. We have been fighting against this, and we hope to overcome such irregularities.

Q: You say you are fighting it. What exactly are you doing about it?

A: First of all, we have applied a system of constant shifting of the officials. Nobody remains in the same post for a long time. This blocks any root-building. Second, we penalize any person who has been caught red-handed in deviant behavior, and corruption is a major part of this.

Third, I think the main method for fighting corruption is by taking the corrupt officials to court.

You will appreciate the solution is a long-term process.

Q: Let me use a specific problem: We have documents of Ministry officials selling certificate freely?



A: Yes, that is true. We have uncovered a whole operation in which certificates were sold out to practically any body who paid for them. We have taken measures in this regard. But the fight against such corruption is a joint effort by many parties, including the media.

Q: There is also the issue of leakage of exam questions. Apparently, final exams are sold to students?

A: Again yes, there have been

cases of exams that were leaked out. I have to insist however, in spite of the media uproar, there were fewer cases this year than in other previous years.

In many cases, we have changed whole exams, and those who bought the leaked questions were stunned by the new questions. We will continue to fix up any loopholes in the system.

Q: The Ministry of Education is accused of excessive

paperwork and bureaucratic procedures. Are you doing anything in this regard?

A: Let me indicate that the cumbersome bureaucracy is the result of over-centralization and the inability to delegate authority. But this is part of the government system, and not just in the Ministry of Education. We realize that this system is problematic and costly. But it can only be corrected within the overall structure.

Q: Text-books have become a perennial problem that won't go away. Why does this problem persist and what can be done about it?

A: This problem persists because of many difficulties. For example, we do not have sufficient allocations to print or ship/transport the books. In some cases it is lack of local storage facilities. In other cases it is greed. People keep the books and then as demand intensifies, they sell them to bookstores and the children are advised to go and buy them. This happened in 1994/95, for example. In some cases, political interests want to embarrass us.

Q: Private schools are mushrooming. While this is a good development, it needs to be better organized. What is being done in this regard?

A: Yes, we have been licensing many private investments in education. This is good because it does reduce pressure on the government schools at better-off citizens move their kids to these

schools. Private schools, by and large, offer a better service than government schools.

To assist in the proper growth of this phenomenon, we are working to enact a law to regulate the service. We are also going to create a general directorate within the Ministry's structure that will cater to these schools.

We also hope to organize a seminar to discuss and assess this experiment.

Q: Teachers are the cornerstone of the education process. Yet, they are not well-paid. Is there anything you are doing to help the teachers?

A: I believe some 60% of the education process depends on the teacher. Unfortunately, the position and pay of teachers are not up to the status and role of the teacher in Third World countries.

Here in Yemen, we are now working to strengthen the financial remuneration of teachers, their training needs, and to support the teachers' syndicate. Already, one can see this trend being implemented in 1995/96.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I believe we all agree that education is the right vehicle for progress and growth. The trick now is to evolve the right educational system. We can do this, and we can put in place an educational system which will carry us into the 21st century.

We must go beyond the traditional approach. We must plan, decide and work with our eyes on the next century.

How Much for your \$

The Riyal exchange rate continues to move up and down in visible spikes. On Friday July 28th, each dollar fetched something like YR 118. Thus, over the last week, the Riyal bounced back gaining some 10% against the US dollar. But dollars were not available for sale. Most persons were unwilling to part with their dollars. Those who did sell dollars, did so to the extent of their basic minimum need of Riyals. Unfortunately for such persons, Riyals were not in abundant supply either. It is this tight Riyal supply that is propping it up in the exchange market.

Observers believe, in spite of the cyclical ups and downs of the exchange rate, the Riyal will inevitably fall in the long run, as the limited political confidence gained recently is overshadowed by economic reality.

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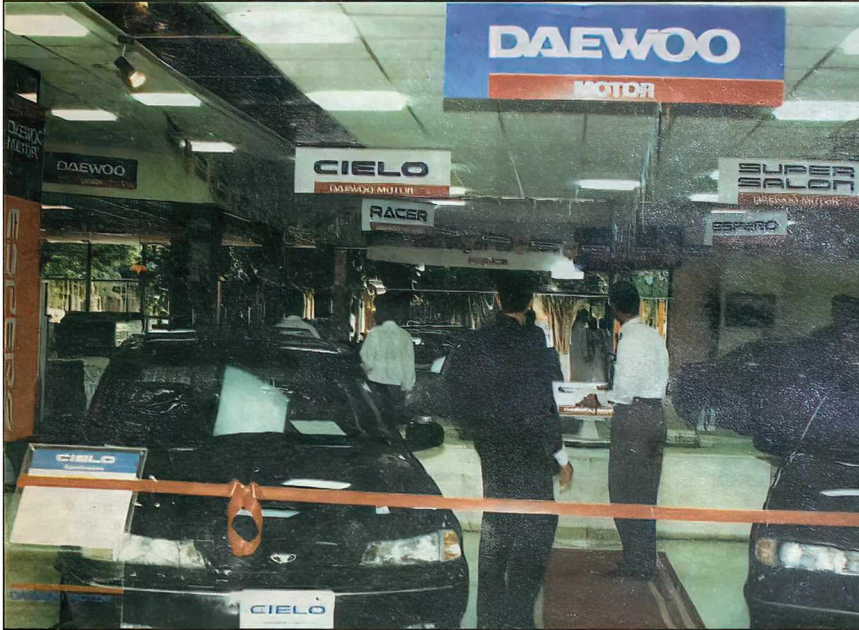
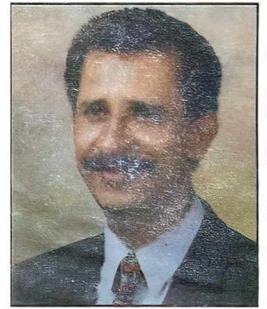
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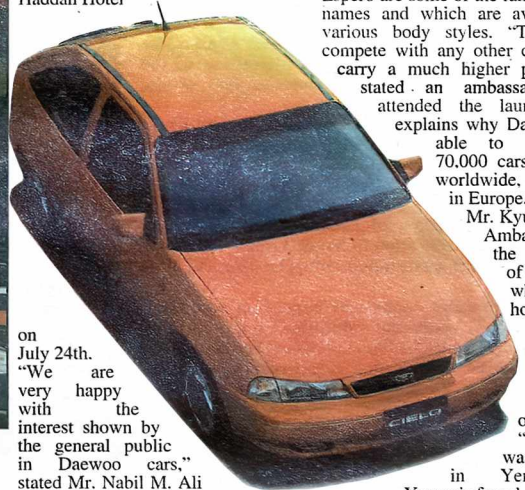
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Mr. Kyu Tae Cho, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, who did the honors of cutting the ribbon, was extremely optimistic. "Daewoo was popular in Yemen as

Yemenis found them to be great value cars. Now International Automobile Company is bringing back these cars in full force," he said.



Mr. Radwan Al-Naham, Director of Imports and External Relations, stressed the efforts of the company to ensure a large inventory of spare parts. "Come at any time for any part, it will be available," he said. He also indicated that the company is engaged in extensive training of repair personnel.

A number of ambassadors expressed interest in the car. "It looks nice, serves well, and reasonably priced," said the ambassador of Egypt, whose embassy is a prospective buyer.

"We have an installment payment system for those who can't put up the money up-front," Mr. Nabil Al-Khamiry said. "The terms are good and we try to meet the needs of our potential customers," he added. The car is equipped with all the facilities and accessories, including important safety features. Thus, Daewoo cars offer their drivers the perfect bend of top performance and imaginative function.

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Departing Diplomats Give their Farewell Comments

By Ismail Al-Ghabri, Sanaa Bureau Chief, Yemen Times

Sudanese Ambassador Refutes Allegations that His Government Is Involved in Training/Harboring Terrorists

On Sudani-Yemeni Bilateral Relations:

Bilateral relations between the Sudan and Yemen made significant progress over the recent years, during my term of office. The peak of this evolution was in the meetings of the high joint Sudanese-Yemeni committee which took place in Sana'a in December 1994, paving the way for more effective and fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

Another climax in the bilateral relations was the official visit His Excellency General Ali Abdulla Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen, last January to the Sudan on the occasion of Sudan's independence day.

On Sudan and Terrorism:

I can assure you that all accusations and allegations of Sudan supporting terrorism are absolutely baseless and incorrect. Such accusations and allegations are actually made by certain antagonistic circles with the aim of defaming Sudan.

On the Sudanese Community in Yemen:

In the absence of accurate statistics, the real number of the Sudanese community in Yemen is difficult to determine. But I can say that we have a relatively big community in Yemen. Most Sudanese in Yemen are teachers. Some occupy jobs of different



Omar El-Sayed Taha, Departing Ambassador of Sudan

nature both in the public and private sectors. One can generally say that the Sudanese community actively participates in the Yemen's national development process.

On Sudan's Relations with Gulf Countries:

In light of the recent Gulf tour by H.E. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Sudanese Minister of Foreign

Affairs - concluded recently, I can say that Sudan's bilateral relations with all Gulf countries are once again being normalized.

On Sudani-Egyptian Relations:

The sorrowful deterioration in the Sudanese-Egyptian relations can be mainly ascribed - in my opinion - to a series of false accusations and miscalculated assumptions. Let me give a vivid

example - the accusation that Sudan was behind the attempt on the Egyptian president's life in Addis Ababa. Without going into details, we all know now those accusations are baseless. We do hope that the Egyptian regime will refrain from any further escalation of the present tension.

On Personal Impressions of Yemen:

I leave Yemen with deep feelings of gratitude and appreciation for the limitless help and assistance I was given by Yemeni officials, at all levels. That explains the success of my mission.

I must mention my admiration of the natural and spontaneous fraternal feelings of our Yemeni brethren for the Sudanese expatriates. There is a special feeling of being together.

One more impression I have of Yemen and Yemenis, is the deep sense of political maturity and self-confidence. This sense was clear and evident during the parliamentary elections of April 1993, and the continued political evolution.

Again this sense was clear and evident during the gallant and valiant stand of the Yemeni political leadership and people to defend their national unity and stood together through a fierce and devastating war waged by secessionist elements that conspired against the Yemeni people, unity and democracy.

Sluyter Says Her Country is Keen to Strengthen Cooperation with Yemen

Interview With Mrs. Valerie S.M. Sluyter

The Republic of Yemen enjoys a very friendly association with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The enthusiasm of the officials of both countries has been the driving force in the consolidation and development of this relationship. One such official is Mrs. Valerie Sluyter, Deputy Chief of Mission.

Prior to her departure, Yemen Times went to speak with this exceptional diplomat to get a summarized conclusion of her experience in her years of service in Yemen.

Q: Could you assess the relationship between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Yemen?

A: Our relationship is based on friendship and good cooperation. These special ties have been established since 1975. I am sure the relationship will continue to grow in the future.

Q: The Netherlands is one of the largest aid partners of Yemen. What is the volume of Dutch Aid being disbursed at the moment?

A: When we started in 1975, we started with 20 million Dutch guilders on an annual basis. At the moment, we disburse about 50 million Guilders annually. We are in constant search for additional projects.

Q: As you prepare to leave, what are the most lasting impressions of Yemen?

A: I will leave Yemen with very good memories, which I will cherish for a long time. I have been very happy here, and the work was interesting.

Many diplomats consider Yemen a hardship post. Personally, I had

a very good time because of the hospitality of the Yemeni people and the friendship and understanding of the officials. I would like to add something. When I first came to this country, I was warned that being a female diplomat, I should prepare myself for a lonely life. This has not been the case. Most of the Yemenis that I have met and worked with, have invited me to their homes, their houses and sometimes their qat sessions. They have given me the opportunity to meet their families. They have taken me out over weekends when they thought I was lonely, and I would like to thank everybody for this hospitality.

In addition, of course, the international community, especially the diplomatic one, has been superb.

Q: Do you foresee any prospects for Dutch companies investing in Yemen, specially in the Free Zone?

A: I can't speak for the investors. But, I should think yes. The prospects are good, but it is up to the private sector in both countries to determine that. Regarding the Free Zone, I know that it is established by decree, but that doesn't mean that it's functional, as yet. Once the economic situation stabilizes, which will happen in the near future once you start implementing your economic reform program, I am sure the Dutch who are always looking for investment opportunities all over the world will also develop an interest in Yemen especially the Aden free trade zone.

Q: As a woman, you must have followed issues concerning Yemeni women. How do you feel about this issue?

A: Because of my work in the embassy, I have met more Yemeni men than women. Luckily outside of office hours, I have had quite an opportunity to meet with Yemeni women. I am afraid my contact was mainly in Sana'a, so my knowledge is very much limited to the middle class urban Yemeni women. What I can say is that there aren't a lot of differences between me, as a Western woman, and them. I think they are very independent, they know exactly what they want and they are on their way to improving their position in society. It will take a few years to convince Yemeni men regarding a larger role for women, but I think it will eventually happen, like it did in Holland and elsewhere in the world.

Q: Where is your new post?

A: For the next year I will not be working. The Ministry decided to give me one year leave at my request so I can join my husband who is our head of Mission in Khartoum, Sudan.

Q: Any last comments?

A: Yes, I would like to stress that as a friend of Yemen, I think its success will depend on the full and effective implementation of the economic reform program. If political developments continue in the right direction, I foresee a very bright future for this country and I wish it prosperity and strength.



Chinese Ambassador Points to:

“Historical Relations between China & Yemen.”

On Relations between Yemen and China:

Both China and Yemen are developing countries and share similar experiences. We both suffered from foreign invasion and occupation. Today we are both engaged in the sacred mission to build our homelands and improve the living standard of our people.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in the 1950's, China and Yemen have maintained firm, friendly and cooperative relations on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence. Politically, we have supported each other in the fields of economy, culture, education and other fields. Looking into the twenty-first century, I am optimistic and I think that the next century will see an all-round development in relations between our two countries. A prosperous, developing and unified Yemen accords with China's interests. In the same way, a prosperous, progressive and unified China accords with Yemen's interests.

On the prospects that Chinese companies will participate in development of Yemen:

In the past few decades, a number of Chinese companies have been engaged in the construction of roads, bridges, hospitals, factories, schools, dams, cold storage warehouses, etc. Besides, there have been Chinese medical teams working in a number of governorates and cities. They have contributed immensely in the socio-economic development of Yemen.

At the moment there are not many Chinese companies here. Among those that still remain is the China Road and Bridge Corporation, which has made quite a name in this country for building and paving streets in Sana'a and Aden, and for its water supply and drainage projects. The China Construction Corporation has contracted a few civil engineering projects. A Chinese Fishery company is fishing here in cooperation with its Yemeni counterpart. We also have a number of doctors and teachers working in this country. The Chinese Government encourages Chinese companies and entrepreneurs to come and invest in Yemen. At the same time, Yemeni entrepreneurs are welcome to invest in China.



Departing Chinese Ambassador Li Liugen

On trade between Yemen and China:

Trade between China and Yemen has developing steadily in recent years in spite of the fact that Yemen confronted a lot of economic difficulties. Since 1992, the year I became China's Ambassador to this country, the annual value of the two-way trade between us is something around \$300 million. China's exports to Yemen is between \$80 million and \$100 million annually while China's imports is between \$150 and \$250 million, mainly of crude oil. I hope that trade between the two countries will grow further.

On China's position regarding the Middle East Peace Process:

China has always supported the total restoration of the national rights to the Palestinian people. We have consistently insisted on a just and equitable settlement of the Middle East issue in accordance with relevant UN resolutions. I am very glad to see that a breakthrough has at last been achieved in the

Middle East peace process. With the support of various countries, and especially with the sustained struggle, the Palestinian people have established their national autonomous region headed by President Yasser Arafat. Due to the complicated nature of the issues, the peace process still faces difficulties. However, I am convinced that with the relentless effort of all parties, with the flexibility that is expected of Israel, the Middle East peace process is sure to continue.

On China opening up to the world:

Since 1978, the year China adopted a policy of reform and opening to the outside world, we have achieved rapid economic growth, and our overall national strength has been constantly growing. In the world today, economic development is a global business wherein China needs the rest of the world and vice versa. A China that is pursuing a policy of reform and opening is capable of providing the world with vast markets for commodities and labor, whereas China can obtain technology and funds, which she needs in her development.

On impressions of Yemen:

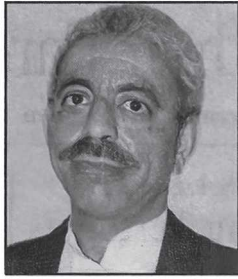
I visited Yemen briefly in 1966. In early 1991, shortly after the country's reunification, I arrived in Aden as China's first Consul-general. Then in 1992, I came to Sana'a to take up my new post as China's Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen. I highly appraise the tremendous social and economic changes that have taken place in Yemen in the past few decades, especially since its reunification. My country is yet to be reunified. It is a sacred cause for the entire Chinese people, including those who are living in Taiwan, to bring about the island's return to the motherland. I am certain that with the support of the governments and peoples of other countries, the Yemeni government and people included, the Chinese people will definitely attain their goal of reunification.

At Present, Yemen has difficulties to tackle. In the past few years, I witnessed the great and fruitful efforts the Yemeni people, under the leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, have made in developing their country.

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The Koran Says, "There Is No Compulsion In The Religion"



This writer is of the opinion that the Yemeni people possess a string yearning for progress and development, notwithstanding their political, sectarian regional or tribal affiliation. This task, however requires the efforts of all the Yemeni people, who are joined together by so many attributes, all of which can be useful in harnessing the inherently strong drives lying dormant in the Yemeni people, simply because Yemen is unable to arrive to the suitable environment, which can convert this drive into working energy, which builds rather than destroys, feeds rather than starves, succeeds rather than fails, produces rather than just consumes and finally achieves self sufficiency and pride rather than forces Yemen to depend on handouts and become reliant on the mercy of a destiny guided by others who give assistance to Yemen. Progress is attainable only if certain prerequisites have been arranged by a society. As a society, then, the Yemeni people and their rulers must ask themselves: "What are these prerequisites to progress, why are they missing in our society and what must be done to arrange for their availability - and soon?"

The requirements for progress of any society must start with security and stability. These are basic foundations for the orderly and proper functioning of any society. Thus any shortfall or inability to affirm the presence of security and stability in a given society can only lead to a chaotic

state, in which society can not hope to achieve any objectives it may have set for itself and, as such, fails to display any discipline by which the available resources of the society can be channeled for the good of all members of the society fairly and systematically.

During the Transitional Period (1990-1994), the country faced a series of unusual acts of violence and terror practiced by the factions of the dominating political forces - mainly against each other, in their quest for as much authority and dominance as can be forcefully squeezed out of the other "factions" that made up the ruling establishment during those tense years. Such violence could have been easily avoided if good intent and serious concern for the people of the country and their welfare held sway over all other considerations in the minds of those to whom was entrusted the task of steering the country in the proper course to modern statehood, prosperity and progress. The overall impression was that this trust could surely not be betrayed by the rulers. However each faction insisted that a piece of the pie was not enough and claimed the whole pie to themselves accordingly, notwithstanding what costs and sacrifices the people must put up with for this unlimited yearning for power and dominance, without the provision of any guarantees for the returns to be realized from all these costs and sacrifices. The end result of this expensive craving for power

was the tragic civil war that shook the country in the second quarter of 1994. The least that was hoped for after the war was that the victorious factions will now be able to put away their combat gear and start to carry on the duties of the government, as now there are no real contenders that stand in their way who would prove capable or even interested in sharing the pie with them.

As it turned out, violence and terror did not terminate with the elimination of "the cause" of Yemen's troubles during the Transitional Period (the Yemeni Socialist Party), as the victors claimed. Violence continued to be a way of life in the country. Whereas the violence during the pre war years was pointed at any of the ruling factions (We never really got all the clear facts about the several incidents of violence that erupted then), we now have violence and terror which is pointed at random at any target. We have violence geared to suppress political freedom, freedom of the press and the right of assembly, as many of the recent issues of the free press illustrated (The official and informal press of the rulers and their grapevine had prepared scenarios to explain these incidents and to cover up the facts pertaining to them.). We even have violence directed against businessmen. But the most alarming type of violence that has raised

the fears of many conscientious Yemenis is the violence that has carried with it religious or sectarian implications.

The attack on the Badr Scholastic (Religious) Center (See Yemen Times issue, last week) is the last of a series of attacks organized in a mysterious and terrorizing manner with a goal of monopolizing religious sentiment with one "sect" that has only recently entered the country, yet professes to be the only representation of Islam in Yemen! Drugged by the recent victory against the YSP, the patriarchs that control this sect have brought it upon themselves to do away with all organized efforts to preserve a great and important part of the religious heritage of the country from the danger of being swallowed up by invading materialistic concepts that have come in from the east and the west of which unfortunately, only the negative and socially destructive have gained the most wide appeal. It was not enough that the patriarchs have successfully arrived to the top of the authority ladder in the political structure that controls the country. These patriarchs now insist on eliminating existing traditions and institutions that have been implanted in Yemen (whether Shafei or Zeidi or Ismaili) for centuries.

In a country as violence prone as Yemen is (See Common Sense 10-7-95) the almost nil eruption of violence for the sake of sectarian disputes has been one of the most remarkable peculiarities of the war torn history of the country.

The exercise of tolerance to preach Islam in the way that is conducive to the worshipper's own conception, without deviating from the basic fundamental tenets to which all Moslems agree upon, has been an attribute of Yemeni society since Islam

entered the country some 15 centuries ago. Even non-Moslems of Yemen (a large Jewish community that lived in Yemen until 1948), enjoyed the right to practice their religion and build their temples in whatever manner they saw fit without being harassed by the followers of the different Moslem sects that surrounded them.

But now we have religious patriarchs who have given themselves authority on deciding what is the proper way to worship Allah, getting Yemen embroiled in a confrontation which it has really no need of and which will bring about an end to any hope for peace and stability to reign in this country.

How can something as innocent as a summer religious school attended by young Yemeni girls and boys be subjected such deplorable terror tactics, simply because these open peaceful summer religious schools provided supplements or alternatives to the conspicuous religious institutions - run by these patriarchs for decades without any opposition from the other long established sects and with very strong encouragement from the rulers - despite their questionable organizational and financial structures and their ability to organize paramilitary organs, that are now acting to undermine continued peace and security in the country, according to the narrow-minded "decrees" of these self-made religious jurists, who have no recognized credentials that confirm the religious scholastic authority which these jurists have passed on themselves?

What religious dictates justify the terrorizing of young children studying the Koran and the traditions of the Prophet Mohammed and the actions of his followers in an open atmosphere that encourages individuality and rea-

soning and dialogue as the suitable instruments for the proper propagation of the faith, which Yemeni ancestors successfully used in delivering the message from the Atlantic Ocean to the jungles of Java?

If we assume that these patriarchs wanted political power, then they already have it. So why this continued insistence on keeping unrest and insecurity as dominating ailments that plague our society? As participants in the ruling coalition, one would expect that these patriarchs would start proving that their participation in government would successfully bring the country on the right road to progress and stability and an improved standard of living for its people. Instead these patriarchs continue to issue dictates that seek to have them become overlords to the spiritual inclination of the people of Yemen, whose adherence to the faith has never been questioned, even by the prophet Mohammed himself, centuries before this clerical mentality that recently surfaced from the obscure corners of the deserts of Arabia, which has proven to be more of a disservice to Islam and more dangerous than any Crusading effort we have seen because it grows and destroys like a cancer, that can not be treated.

One final note: While the continuing massacres in Bosnia are bleeding the hearts of a billion Moslems everywhere in the world, Yemeni young boys and girls in a genuine Moslem religious institution are being subjected to terror and intimidation by the Serbs within us who continue to disregard the importance of peace and security as essential requirements for the development of modern Moslem societies that can withstand any efforts by the West to turn the entire Moslem World to a Bosnia Herzegovena.

"Is Yemen Implicated in Religious Terrorism in Italy?"

Last month, Italian authorities rounded up many of the Muslim activists who live in Italy, because they engaged in illegal religion-based violence. The police also closed down the Milano Islamic Center because it became a contact point for their activities. The Italian police produced evidence that the "Islamic" units plotted to murder Egyptian President Mubarak. Part of the evidence is telephone conversations in which there were references to get rid of the "modern-day pharaoh". Unfortunately, there were two references to Yemen. The first reference is a fax message dated 24/12/1994 in which Yemeni passports were offered to the members of the group in return for \$300 a

...e che (di un dr) in ficiale a det- que- aveva- e c'è il Mustafà vi par- di Ra- Fran- tto di

contattarlo perché lui vuole partire per l'America".
Mustafa: «Sì».
Omar: «Potrai dargli del soldi e lui a sua volta potrà procurarti un passaporto italiano... Con questo potrà girare sicuro».
Mustafa: «Va bene».
Omar: «Qui dicono che si tratta di passaporto falso... dicono falso, ma è sicuro che con questo passaporto potrà girare... Ci sono molti algerini che con questo passaporto vanno in Inghilterra».
Fax allo sceicco probabilmente dallo Yemen (14/12/94).
«Nostro sceicco, voglio dire a voi se avete bisogno di passaporti yemeniti, non dovete fare altro che contattare questo numero (...) e se Iddio vuole provvederemo a mandarveli con il nostro metodo speciale. Il prezzo per un passaporto solo è di 300 dollari. Chiediamo al nostro eminente sceicco di esporre questo argomento a coloro di cui lui ha fiducia tra i fratelli in modo particolare quelli che si trovano in Albania e a

Zagabria. Se volete inoltre che facciamo un'operazione di scambio, cioè voi mandate a noi passaporti arabi, non importa la nazionalità, noi a nostra volta vi mandiamo passaporti yemeniti».
27/9/94. Testo di un fax destinato al fratello Mohamed.
«Vi informo in modo sintetico, le grandi linee del nostro lavoro. Primo: Continuare l'operazione campo. Dobbiamo concentrarci nel colpire gli ebrei e gli americani. Se Iddio vuole. Secondo: Continuare la preparazione per il totale combattimento. Terzo: Allargare l'organizzazione civile per tutti quelli che accettano di partecipare con noi e suddividere con noi le nostre difficili circostanze... Chiedo ai fratelli di non permettere a nessuno di diffondere lo spirito della disfatta e del fallimento... Chiedo a tutti i fratelli di trattare con tutti i musulmani, specialmente quelli che appartengono alla corrente della Jihad, con lo spirito di tolleranza, pazienza e perdono».

...so è quello di Osama Ben Laden, miliardario saudita, fondato sospetto che parte dei soldi siano ar-



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Phone: 2630/2979/4465;

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الحديدة: ت: ٣/٢٢٢٤٦
الخرطوم: ت: ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٦١٠
بورتسودان: ت: ٣٢٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥

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The second connection of Yemen is the upcoming visit to Italy of Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Al-Zindani, Chair of the Al-Shura Council of Yemen's Islah party, which rules the country in partnership with the PGC. Sheikh Zindani's visit next month, comes in response to an invi-

THE NEED FOR BETTER WOMEN'S HEALTH SECURITY

One of WHO's leading messages at the United Nations IV world Conference on women, to be held in Beijing next September, is that health security lies at the core of women's physical and mental well-being. This concept will be discussed in-depth by world experts during the Colloquium on Women's Health Security, organized by WHO, to be held on 5 September 1995, in the framework of the Conference.

According to WHO, health security encompasses all aspects of the basic right to health. Health security means the guarantee of accessible and affordable health care to all - men, women and children. Its three cornerstones are equity, choice and partnership. In the case of women, this translates into provision and access to information and education; adequate nutrition; freedom from violence; the right to work in safe environments; and access to appropriate health care services.

Essential to the realization of health security is the provision of information and education. According to WHO, basic education and literacy must be tailored to allow women's intellectual development. This is the primary tool to enable them to understand their potential, as well as the environment in which they live, in order to protect their own health and that of their families. WHO calls for an end to discrimination against girls in the area of education. Moreover, health education should be part of the school curriculum from an early age. It should include knowledge of the human body, of healthy lifestyles, as well as disease sources, in order to teach young people to be active participants in safeguarding their own health.

Health security also includes the provision of adequate nutrition. While an adequate nutritional intake is necessary for all people, it is especially critical for girls and women. An insufficient food intake during childhood leads to an underweight, anaemic and growth-stunted adult woman, and can impair the health of future generations. Health security should address social, cultural, economic and legislative factors to permit girls and women to be equitably fed, and nutritional taboos to be dropped.

Freedom from all forms of violence against women is an essential component of security. Across the world, women are exposed to a variety of abuses, ranging from domestic violence, including rape, to psychological exploitation, and violence associated with armed-conflict and mass migration. Women suffering such abuse face physical injuries, psychological trauma, depression, substance addiction, suicide, and sexually transmitted

diseases, including HIV infection. Even worse, women who experience such violence often lack access to rehabilitative care, insurance coverage, or compensation for their suffering.

A WHO message calls for governments and health planners to improve their response to the threat to women's physical and mental well-being by regarding violence as an important health issue. Women need access to a just legal apparatus, as well as to a responsive health care system capable of addressing cases of physical and psychological harm, and its myriad consequences.

Working in free health-risk environments is also an important area of health security. Women's gender-determined social and economic roles and lack of education, see them concentrated in specific working areas, many of these characterized by exposure to potential health hazards. In cities, women are overwhelmingly found in the informal sector or in small, under regulated enterprises. In rural areas, they come into contact with pesticides and other toxins. Further more, whether in rural or urban areas, women are left with low-skilled, low-paid occupations.

Many of these occupations entail exposure to carcinogenic chemicals; excessive noise, heat and humidity; physical strain; eye fatigue and allergic reactions. In the worst cases, they are also exposed to reproductive health problems, and damage to the skin and the musculoskeletal system. On many occasions their lack of authority and power in the work place subjects them to sexual harassment and its resulting complications.

Through health security, women can have access to quality health care services, and be sure that their health will be met from birth to old age. This implies that women should be given easily accessible good quality health care services, especially at the peripheral level. Furthermore, full access to therapeutic treatment requires that the female population be included in research studies and clinical trials of new drugs; while the design and development of new medical technologies also must involve women in order to reflect their needs.

The WHO Global Commission on Women's Health has prepared a Declaration calling for government action to sustain the realization of women's health security. This document, to be presented and adopted at the United Nations IV World Conference on Women, sets goals and targets to improve women's health and to enhance their education and access to equality care, as well as to assure that women attain the highest possible level of health.

Yemeni-German Workshop as Climax to the New Urban Planning Law



A Yemeni-German Technical Cooperation workshop in the field of Urban Development Planning was held in Sanaa during 10-11 July.

On the opening session, Mr. Harald Gehrig, Counsellor at the German Embassy, indicated that the German Technical Cooperation with Yemen in Planning Assistance for Urban Development is more than a decade old. "Our major common goal with the Ministry of Construction Housing and Urban Planning is the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework for this important field of Government activity," he said.

Yemen is facing today, a serious urban problem. Yemeni cities have experienced an explosive urban growth. The urban population of Sana'a which for several centuries never exceeded 50,000 inhabitants, has grown in less than twenty years to more than one million. Similarly, Taiz, has a million inhabitants today. Hodeidah, Dhamar, Ibb, Aden and Mukallah - only to mention the major cities - have grown at rates much higher than the world average. As a result, numerous socio-economic, cultural, ecological, infrastructural and urban planning and development problems abound.

"Our support mainly aims at enabling the Government to plan and control urban growth. At the beginning of our technical assistance we hoped, that planning and promoting secondary cities could absorb some of the growth of the major cities. Therefore, we assisted the Ministry of Housing in the elaboration of the first ever land-use and street plans of 37 secondary cities," the German Embassy official said.

The German Assistance Project (GTZ) also included training urban planners, engineers, surveyors and architects at the Ministry's headquarters and in several branch offices, through on-the-job training, workshops, seminars in Yemen and in international forums.

"We prepared more than fifty studies, manuals and guidelines which should help the staff perform their tasks more efficiently. We also provided numerous long term advisors, DED development workers, short term experts, office and surveying equipment, computers, vehicles and small direct financial contributions to local projects. For Sana'a and Aden, aerial photography were produced and new orthomaps are being provide," he added.

"I am happy that the draft law

which we have together worked on for so long, has been discussed and enacted by parliament and is now issued by the President," he said.

Mr. Ast, Team Leader on the German side, described the passing of the law as an important step and achievement.

"Another important step will be the issuance of the Executive Regulations, which are frequently referred to in the text of the law."

Other recent urban planning achievements through German Technical Cooperation include:

- Follow-up work on the study of the Sana'a Urban Ecology with a view to Urban Climate, Water Resource Protection, Reducing Air Pollution, Reforestation and other aspects.

- Execution of an Emergency Program to re-establish the Urban Planning Offices for Aden, Lahej and Abyan.

- Execution of a practice-oriented training course at Sana'a University for 24 staff members of 7 Governorates.

- Assisting in the Reorganization of Ministry to raise efficiency.

- Coordinating the main project-activities with the National Water and Sewage Authority and the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **SHELL INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ B. V.**, A Company organized under the Laws of the Netherlands, of Carle van Bylandtlaan 30, 2596 HR The Hague, the Netherlands, is the sole and exclusive proprietor of the following invention:

PROCESS FOR CATALYTIC PARTIAL OXIDATION OF HYDROCARBONS

for which application for patent was lodged in the Patent Office of EPC on June 24, 1992 under serial No. 92201879.1

Copies of the specification and drawings, if any, of the aforesaid invention may be obtained upon application to the above-mentioned owners.

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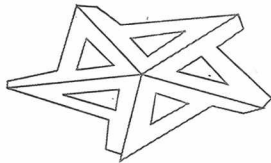


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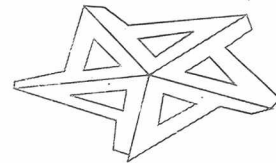


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ALFA



Inaugurates Its Permanent Showroom for National Panasonic Products

Dr. Abdulmajid Al-Mikhalfi, Vice Ministry of Trade and Supply, and Mr. Mohamed Abdulla Al-Kassous, General Manager of the General Corporation of Telecommunications have inaugurated earlier this month the first permanent showroom for ALFA Co. sole authorized distributor of National Panasonic products in Yemen. The occasion was attended by Mr. Cater Akey, the Middle East Department Manager of Matsubhita Electric Corporation.

The showroom exhibits top of the line electric equipment, home appliances and telecommunication equipment produced by the Japanese corporation of Matsubhita Electric. The equipment offers the most advanced technical features of these National Panasonic products ranging from televisions, video cassettes recorders, tape recorders, refrigerators, washing machines, blenders, air conditioners, irons, fans and others. The showroom also exhibits stylish and advanced communication equipment like different models of telephones (equipped with recorders, and eight internal connection line systems) facsimile and switch boards (starting from 8 lines to 288 internal lines) and many other equipments of high quality.

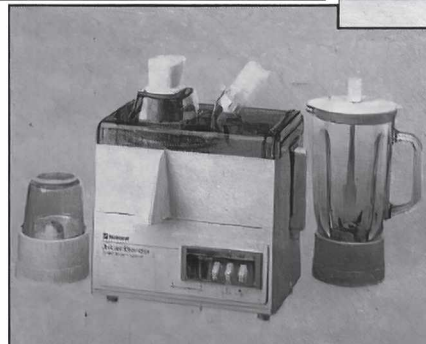
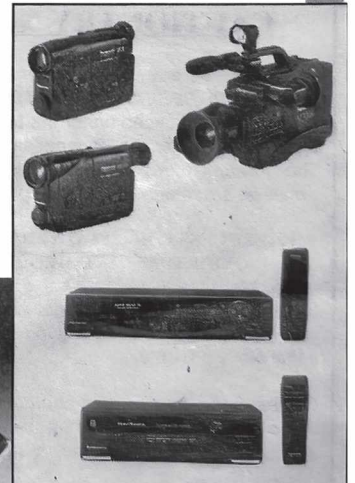
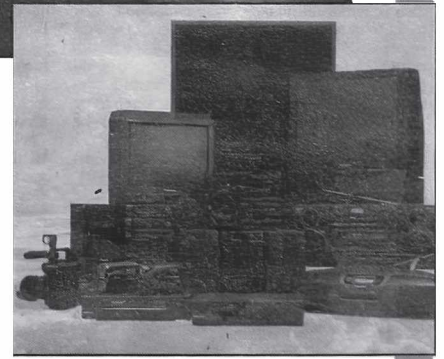
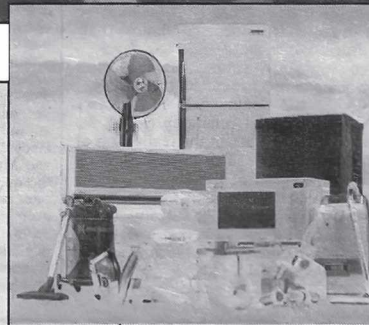
Mr. Cater Akey stated, "We are proud that the company is opening a permanent showroom for direct sale to the public and we thank our agents and customers. This inauguration is a watershed in the Yemeni market."

Mr. Mohamed Bin Mohamed Al Rashidy, General Manager of ALFA Co. Ltd., stated, "Matsushita is a very well known company to the Yemeni people as it was previously carrying the name. National and currently National Panasonic. Without a doubt, the Yemeni consumers are going to benefit from the high quality products which they have known for a long time.

When ALFA Co. Ltd. become the distributor for National Panasonic products in Yemen, the customers became able to deal with the company directly and purchase their requirements directly. They also received superb after-sale service including maintenance and spare parts. This, undoubtedly, has improved relations with the Japanese side and allowed for a growth in the business volume. National Panasonic is truly the leader in the Japanese market and the Yemeni consumer will benefit from the new products in the fields of electronics, electric products and the great advances achieved.

Main Features:

- ALFA Co. Inaugurates its permanent showroom in Yemen
- The showroom contains a variety of advanced home appliances telecommunication equipment.
- National is the first commercial name trusted by the consumers, due to the high quality and technical progress.
- National Panasonic is committed to producing advanced, easy to use and guaranteed quality products.
- National Panasonic products are truly the best in Japanese industry.
- We look forward for serious investments to bring advanced equipment to the country.
- Customers may purchase directly from the company or its distributors and receive guarantees.



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Centre to Defend Human Rights Victims

Some seventy lawyers and jurists have come together to form the Yemeni Centre for Defending Human Rights Victims. The official announcement establishing the centre will be made on Thursday, August 3rd at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa.

We have invited many members of the legal profession, human rights activists, leader of political parties, the diplomatic community and many more," explained Mr. Yassin Abdul-Razzaq, tipped as Secretary-General of the Centre.

The Centre envisages the establishment of an eight-person Executive Council assisted by a 19-member Legal Consultative Board. The thrust of the Centre's efforts will be on five specific fields:

1. Liberties, specially freedom of the press, minority rights, human rights, etc.
2. The rights of women and children.
3. The rights of workers and employees.
4. Rules and regulations of government which contradict the laws and constitution.
5. Documentation of information.

According to the persons engaged in preparing for the establishment of the Centre, 'a persons's political colors are not important to our functioning.' As a result, the Centre brings together key members of various political parties.

The idea behind the centre was evolved because of the victimization by the state of political opponents university professors, poets and writers, and above all, of journalists. The cost of trials has become one of the key factors in victims acquiescing to their conditions. "We are here to help such individuals stand up to their rights and champion their causes," explained Abdullah Al-Saqqaf.

The commitment of the lawyers and jurists to

the need for protecting the rights of all members of society was clear from the very fact that they have personally contributed towards the financing the centre. "We appeal to all individuals and companies concerned with the human rights issue to support us, even if morally," Mr. Yassin Abdul-Razzaq stated.

The core of the group that is involved in this effort is experienced in defending victims. Many of them had gone to court to defend the Yemen Times, Al-Shoura and Al-Wahdawi newspapers. They have also filed law-suits on behalf of Abubakar Al-Saqqaf, Mansoor Rajih, and many other victims.

This same group has just released a list of violations by the Yemeni state. The report outlines the specific of violations, where and when they happened, and who is involved on the victim's and government's side. A copy of this report may be obtained from the Yemen Times.

At another level, the Centre hopes to document the cases of prisoners, at least those in which politics has been a factor. "There are many cases in which people are victimized because of their political beliefs and ideas."

Nadia Al-Khulaidi, who is the driving force behind the effort to work on behalf of the women and children of Yemen, said that the rights of women and children are routinely abused. "Society should be alerted to these violations, which often degrade the majority of the population," she said.

The ceremony to mark the launching of the Centre will take place at 10:00 on Thursday morning at the Taj Sheba's Abu Nawas hall. Attendance is by invitation only.

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of the Yemeni Chartered Accountants Society.

They also congratulate the following colleagues who
were elected to the new board of directors of the Society:

Ameen Mohammed Al-Shami,
Mohammed Dirhem Zaid,.
Ibrahim Yahia Al-Kibsi,
Hassan Ali Al-Dailamy,
Fouad Saeed Fare',
Tareq Al-Shaibani

We wish all of them the best of luck, and
prosperity for the Society and success in achieving its goals.

Yours:

Mohammed Zohdi Mejanni, Ali Mohammed Al-Washaly,
Khaled Ahmed Al-Beel, Ahmed Fouad, Ismail Al-Jazeera,
Adel Abdul-Azeem Abul-Naga

تكنولوجيا البناء
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الشركة اليمنية
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Applications close on 29 July 1995

Islamic Fundamentalism: Warning Signals!

WHAT is wrong with believing or practicing fundamentalism? Need it be necessary dogmatic or fanatical? Fundamentalism literally means a belief in fundamentals or the basics of any philosophy, concept, theory or religion. Dogma is an over-emphasis on certain aspects which blurs or ignores the essential aspects. Fanaticism is the irrational or blind belief in something to the exclusion of other faiths and beliefs. When these words – fundamentalism, dogmatism or fanaticism – are applied to a particular faith or religion, they tend to become rigid, so rigid that they exclude other forms or modes of faith.

However, to judge these phenomena, one should not merely go by dictionary definitions, but assess them in light of the actual forms they acquire and the realities they reflect in the pursuit of achieving their goals. This has become important and necessary because of the various forms which these concepts are acquiring not only in the field of religion or personal faith, but in their effect on social, economic, cultural, political and other aspects of life in various countries, especially in the Islamic world.

For instance, in Iran, Islamic fundamentalism started as a religious revivalist movement against the late Shah's policy of Westernization, which took the form of curbing the influence of the mullahs and clergy, liberating women's behavior beyond acceptable decency, and in general being closely aligned with the West. Islamic fundamentalism in Iran, thus, was a reaction against the Shah's attempts at modernization. It was also a symbol of the people's resentment against such efforts.

However, the success of this religious revival led to the domination of the clergy over the polity and society. The initial success of this "revivalist revolution" soon revealed its basic weakness; that is, the absence of any positive and constructive social or economic content. It was really the replacement of the Shah's autocratic rule by the overriding authority of the clergy who fanned the flames of religious fanaticism to again and retain power.

The illiterate and poor – mostly marginal farmers and landless laborers – found temporary solace in religion against the brutal oppression of the Shah. The intellectuals had hoped the religious revolution would soon lead to social and economic progress. But this has not happened so far; after more than a decade, women have again been put behind the veil; the Sharia law, as interpreted by the clergy, is applied and enforced ruthlessly.

If only the religious revival of Islam had combined some elements of modern concepts of social equity and justice, equality and individual liberty, freedom of expression and democracy, it would indeed have created a new Iran and won the admiration not only of some Islamic countries, but of the whole world. But what has happened and is still happening is the explosion of religious fanaticism for political ends. Sectarian conflict persists in Iraq, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and many parts of the Arab world. Some of these countries are using Islamic fundamentalism to divert the attention of their people from internal social and economic problems to supposed external threats to Islamic solidarity. Attempts are being made to color the issues with religion and present them as Muslim versus non-Muslim; irrespective of the rights or wrongs of each particular case.

Muslim Populations:

There are some one billion Muslims worldwide. They live in almost every part of the world. Islamic fundamentalism in its dogmatic application, though limited to only a few of those countries, could still lead to upheavals and crises that might engulf the whole world in religious war and violence.

Religion as the basis of statehood is difficult to understand, let alone accept in the modern world. If it were, then all countries with majority Muslim populations should form one state, and the same would apply to Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and followers of other religions. Bangladesh, although a Muslim majority state, broke away from Pakistan in 1971. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia fought against Iraq in the Gulf war of 1991. In the modern world,

factors other than religion play an important role in the formation of sovereign states. These include geographic and strategic unity, demography and ethnicity, economic and social compulsions and, above all, respect for historically formed frontiers.

Hence the development of secularism or the separation of church and state. Secularism is not opposed to religion as such, but respects all religions without adopting any one of them as the basis of its statehood. It does not or should not allow religion to be exploited for political purposes, especially in multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-religious or multi-lingual societies such as India, China, USA, Canada, Russia and others.

But secularism also cannot be applied as a dogmatic panacea for all problems. To be effective and successful, it must have a social, economic, cultural and political content such as democracy and freedom, equality of opportunity, and individual liberty. It must ensure the fundamental human rights of individuals and societies without any discrimination based on creed, caste, color, sex or social status.

With the increase in modern facilities of science and technology, culture and communication, no ideology that is dogmatic and fanatic can survive for long – whether it is religious, political or social. Stalin's dogmatic concept of Marxism failed and has been overthrown in its own citadel. Hitler's racism and Mussolini's fascism have died out though their embers are still smouldering in a few places. The dogmatic deterioration of Hinduism under Manu's law of caste and sex has been given up in the land of its birth, India.

Unfortunately, some religion-based politicians are trying to put back the clock of history. Although this is by no means limited to the Muslim clergy – as Christians, Jews, Hindus and others have also engaged in it, religious fanaticism has been dominated by the Muslim clergy. They have introduced policies that discriminate against non-Muslims. They even discriminate against members of their own religion, if they are women or of a different

sect. Such policies will inevitably lead to upheavals and crises. We cannot put barriers against ideas – they have wings with which they fly across national and ideological boundaries.

One World

Mankind is moving slowly but steadily towards the concept of one world where all countries and peoples, and individuals within each country, must have freedom of faith and expression, individual liberty and democracy. Just as a family cannot survive for long if it is half-rich and half-poor, half-enlightened half-backward, similarly a country or indeed the world cannot survive for long if half the population is living below the poverty line while a few are lolling in the lap of luxury. It is such disparity and sense of being cheated that gives fundamentalism credibility as a solution, especially among less developed segments of society.

Fundamentalism in any concept – be it religion, politics, or culture – cannot survive the movement of ideas across the globe and the explosion of information and communications, realities and develop respects for other faiths and cultures. But, the transformation will not be easy and painless. There may be many upheavals and uprisings before fundamentalism and fanaticism give place to tolerance and a spirit of live and let live.

The world trend is clear and the direction is visible: the winds of change are blowing towards freedom and equality, and against fanaticism and dogmatism. Change will come sooner or later. The hope is that it will come through wisdom and statesmanship, which leads to the strengthening of just and fair relations externally, and democracy and development internally, in the community of nations.

This presents both a challenge and an opportunity to the leaders and the people, the media and the intellectuals. They must wake up to the realities and must not merely sleep in their ivory towers. They have to come down to earth and do something positive and constructive to save humanity from the scourge of self-destruction.

THE ISSUE OF AKHDAM

I don't know how to start this article. I had written about the *akhdam* a few weeks ago, and my article generated some heated debate on the pages of the Yemen Times and outside. I feel I want to have another shot at the issue.

First of all, let me state that *akhdam* is the word people freely use to describe a 'tribe' of black Yemenis, living in different places and doing menial jobs, if at all. The *akhdam* generally live in miserable conditions and utter poverty. They don't seem to have ambitions, they rarely send their children to school, and they keep moving from one place to another, like Europe's gypsies.

They are considered to be the lowest social stratum in the Yemeni social structure. No tradition controls their behavior, nor do customs frame their attitudes. There is no rules that govern their time and no real laws guide their life. They are free in the sense of not being subjected to any limitations. They are lazy, and the *akhdam* rarely have full-time jobs. They earn their living mainly by begging. That is their real job.

They chew qat, smoke hubble bubble, watch TV and videos, and produce lots of children. Most of them don't bother think about the future. They believe today is today and tomorrow is another day. If something belong to tomorrow, why worry about it today. They live their day, and apparently, they are happy, absolutely happy.

I am not saying all of this in a derogatory sense. I am simply trying to state a fact. Curiosity is what leads people, including me, to their place. So, one day, I went there.

As I stood next to one of their collection sites, I could see and smell it is dirty, even by Yemeni standards. It is a collection of half-dilapidated huts, built so closely to each other than one can barely squeeze through. As one enters, you notice they are built of various size iron-boxes, badly arranged stones and mud. Roofed with cartoon, long shattered woods and blankets.

The streets are very narrow, merely enough for one person to pass. The doors are made of blankets or simply a piece of cloth. To enter, you lift it up and proceed.

Children of different ages gathered around us laughing, talking, chewing qat and asking my colleague to take photos. A man came to us with his black unshaven face. Though welcoming us, there was a question obviously forming in his eyes. I could almost feel him saying, "What do you want?" My partner made a friendly gesture, our eyes made contact, and we were shown in.

We entered one of the huts. These huts are usually shacks, made of a thousand little things which were discarded by society. Often, the hut is a small roofless room or rather space, covered as a roof by clothes, blankets, plastic or pvc sheets, etc. There are often wooden polls holding up the "roof". Of



course, the huts are made of a small dark room that has no windows. There is no furniture, carpets, or couches.

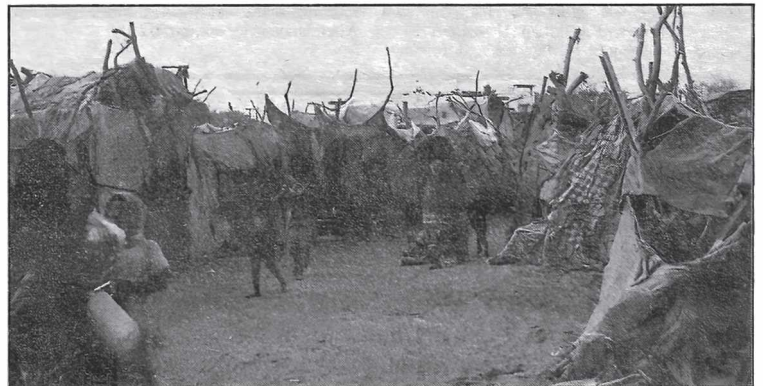
The furnishings of the hut varies from one hut to another. If the owner is well-off, there may be a few gadgets and electric appliances. But there is always a place for chewing qat.

In this one room, all family members family sleep, eat, chew qat and cook. As I was there, one woman was cooking a meal. "How can she see what she is doing?" I kept asking myself.

There are no bathrooms. When it rains, the place becomes miserable. An old woman said, "When it rains, we don't know where to go for it simply ours in, and everything becomes wet." Privacy – the concept does not exist. It is amazing that even the most intimate of activities go on within these circumstances.

Women represent a big question mark in this world. Usually, heavily burdened with 6 to 12 children, they also do the cooking, washing, sometimes working and often begging. To call it responsibility is unfair. For women wake up in the early morning, prepare breakfast, and then proceed to the endless chores. Then they go out either to work or beg. A few of them work as maids.

Begging is an art. The main thing is to extract the sympathy of the potential giver. This means, children are used as a tool for begging. The adults drag little babies and infants to the streets and intersections to gain people's sympathy.



One of them said, "I take all my children with me. Each one of them gets at least 100 riyals a day. It is better than leaving them at home with no one to 'care' for them or letting them play in the street." If half a dozen children go out begging, and they can start on their own as early as three years, or be carried off as early as a few weeks, the total income is good.

Talking to different mothers, I realized not many send their children to school. Amina, a young girl said, "I went to school for three years, but they wanted money for books, uniforms, school fees, etc. Where will I get the money? So, now I beg." Another girl, Fatema, said, "I go everyday to beg. Foreigners are the best, because they are generous. Whereas Yemenis sometimes give a little, they often yell curses at us."

But that is not the whole truth. Money is not really the main issue, although it is a consideration. The *akhdams* actually get used to living a very easy, quiet and undisturbed life. They take, and never give. They teach their children to be parasites, to get money without exerting any effort to earn it. And when their children are old, the cycle is repeated with a new generation.

Most of the *akhdam*, including the women and children chew qat on a daily basis. When I asked from where they get their qat supplies, they carelessly indicated it was collected from different places, including the ground and trash cans. How terrible, dirty qat leaves collected and then chewed by the *akhdam*.

Saeeda Mogbel, 43, welcomed us inside her hut heartily. A quite clean one. It consists of quite a big hall and a very small room behind the hall. Rocks and metal/wooden boxes are put together in an orderly manner, covered with sheets of cloth so that you can sit on them. In front of the hall there were two seats for people to wait. Hanging down from the ceiling, decorations and colored fabrics were hanging.

Saeeda said, "I neither beg nor my husband or

children. You may not believe me. But you can ask my neighbors. I have two girls who finished primary school and my other five children are now in schools."

Saeeda works as a maid. She goes everyday from house to house cleaning, cooking and baby-sit. Her husband also works as cleaner.

But not all *akhdam* families are like that.

Wedding are a special celebration. The bride and groom choose each other. The two couples have to agree to marry each other, unlike the case in the majority of Yemeni households. Then he pays to her family 1000 riyals if he is a close relative, or he pays 15000 riyals as dowry, if he is not related. The wedding day is a day when all relatives gather in the bride's hut to sing and chat. We attended one such wedding.

The bride was being prepared in a small room. I went in to see. She was surrounded by friends. An old woman was decorating her hands and legs. Joma Mohammed, the bride, was only 14 years old. She had finished primary school. She talked in a different way. She talked politely. Her manners confirm that she has been to school.

Joma studied with the OXFAM literacy program in Bab Al-Yemen, Sanaa. She was forced to leave school because of financial difficulties. Joma said, "I want to finish school, I wish I was not forced to beg. I long for a different life."

I found out that the *akhdams* can't build permanent fixtures because they do not own the land. They are often forced to leave. That is why, even if they wanted to improve their habitat, they can't. Many of them resist being dislodged, but they are always overpowered.

As I went back home, I was still thinking about the wretched life of the *akhdam*. Definitely, there are some who want to improve their status. What they need is help, encouragement, and above all, compassion.

By: ANWAR AL-SARHI

"This is Seven Oscar YT-01. Are you there?"

Mr. Brenden O'Brien is an active promoter of Amateur Radio Relaying, not just in the U.K, but throughout the world. Amateur Radio Relaying is performed by about 3 million registered radio signal code holders throughout the world. Hobby Amateur Radio Transmission (or HAM Radio as the Americans call it) allows the hobbyist to make contact with any other hobbyists throughout the world in a two way communication link-up, depending on the equipment. Yemen is highly in demand by HAM radio hobbyists throughout the world. That is what brought Mr. O'Brien to Yemen last week. Hassen Al-Haifi of Yemen Times interviewed Mr. O'Brien to discuss his hopes to arrange for an expedition from the amateur Radio Relay Society of CB to transmit and receive from/to Yemen.



communication skills - all of which are simple. Then you get a license to operate with a particular call sign. The prefix for the call signs here in Yemen would be seven Oscar.

Q: What does a typical radio cost?

A: The costs vary a lot. An amateur can get by with a very good station for less than US\$ 1,000. Of course, some radios could cost as much as \$ 5,000.

Q: How many members are there in the Amateur Radio Relay League?

A: In the ARRL, there are over 1,000,000 members, but there are over 3,000,000 registered HAM radio operators in the world.

Q: Have you been contacted by Yemenis interested in amateur radio in Yemen?

A: Not directly. But all the people I have met have shown great enthusiasm and support for the idea of running an expedition in Yemen and to talk to the outside world from here.

Q: Have you been contacted by others outside Yemen interested in reaching Yemeni amateurs?

A: The whole world wants to talk to Yemen. Yemen is the number one place in the world demanded by Amateur Radio Transmitters. We call Yemen the Mount Everest of amateur radio. It is the last of the Arab countries to allow radio contact. We hope to end this kind of isolation.

Q: Have you talked to Yemeni officials about this?

A: I have met a number of Yemenis officials, including Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani - the Prime Minister; Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; Engineer Ahmed Al-Anisi, Minister of Communications; and others. I have also met with many public figures and opinion makers in Yemen.

Q: What are the benefits of this exercise, say to Yemen?

A: I have said that to the user, this is a hobby, an enjoyment. Contact and friendship with people the amateur may never even see. To society, there are many considerable benefits. They are used in schools to train young people on technical aspects of radio transmissions, communication equipment, and other cutting edge of technology gadgets.

To Yemen, it means the situation here is normal enough to allow radio contact. It teaches the world about Yemen. It raises people's awareness of Yemen as well as the potential for investment and tourism. In short, it takes Yemen off the list of the very least contacted countries of the world.

Q: Could you describe your project?

A: We plan to bring to Yemen 8 to 10 of the best operators in the world because Seven Oscar is the most demanded call sign prefix for now. We will make radio contact for 24 hours a day for one month. We hope to make a new world record in terms of contact. Each operator has a transmission and reception channel, and people simply exchange call signs.

Q: Who sets the call signs?

A: Good question! That is done in Geneva by the IARU which stands for International Amateur Radio Union.

Q: How many countries participate in HAM Radio?

A: The entire world. Yemen is the only Arab country without HAM radio operators.

Q: Next step?

A: As soon as I go back, there will be an official request to the Yemeni authorities to grant us permission to set the expedition. We hope to receive a positive response. If that happens, we could set up shop before the end of the year.

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Q: What does your organization exactly do?

A: The Radio Society of Great Britain and the Amateur Radio Relay League in the USA and the controlling authority for making international contact by amateur radio - all of them engage in facilitating contact among the members. That is basically what it is guided by a number of codes and directives.

Q: What is all this about?

A: Amateur radio is exactly a hobby, as you said. Hobby radio is international radio contact. It is about building friendship and good will worldwide. It is about crossing international boundaries. You have to go through a certain training program to develop the basic knowledge about electricity radio waves and some com-

Arab Hospitality Adjusting to the Change of Times

Renaud Detalle - Sanaa

Over the last months, the Yemeni government has been taking steps towards what might become a structural adjustment program. The government, thus, tries to respond to a situation of economic distress that has been taking its toll on a growing number of Yemeni citizens. But a continuous economic crises may help accelerate social change, for the better or the worse.

Arab hospitality is famous around the world and anybody who has been a guest in a Yemeni household knows it is not a legend. The story of the traveller in whose honor the last sheep of a remote beduin camp was slaughtered might be difficult to experience again, but a family's reputation still rests on the generosity it displays towards its guests.

In societies that put much value on family and family bonds, a wedding is an appropriate occasion to prove one's generosity. What is considered a normal wedding in Yemen will last for several days with guests invited for plentiful lunch and then provided with qat for the afternoon chew. Adding the cost of dowry makes wedding a costly business for families. This is all the more so at times of declining revenues and raising prices. It explains why so many young men remain bachelor for much longer than it used to be. Other reasons for not rushing into marriage include improved education and housing shortages.

There have always been families who had trouble to make ends meet. But when most Yemenis were villagers the custom of *ja'ish* was a solution. *Ja'ish*, a word is derived from the same root as *army*, *jaysh*, means gathering people. Villagers would be called to participate to clean a cistern, collect garbage or provide food to a needy family marrying a son. This custom shows that "community participation" of which development workers expect so much, is not new to Yemenis. The only problem is that *ja'ish* is mostly remembered as a custom which has long passed away.

In modern times, other attempts have been made to reduce the expenses of weddings. As anthropologist Martha Mundy reports in her recently published book, the last Imams launched campaigns to organize collective weddings. Judges and religious scholars were sent into tribal areas and by way of persuasion or threat convinced families to marry their sons and daughters at reduced costs. These missionaries also reminded people that Islam never required dowry.

The Late Ibrahim al-Hamdi (1974-77), President of the former Yemen Arab Republic, set a maximum dowry amount of 15,000 riyals. This authoritarian measure was not very successful but it is still respected until this day in his hometown of Thula. The system of Thula is that people actually do pay more - dowries can reach several hundred thousands riyals nowadays - but the amount in excess of the YR 15,000 is supposed to go to the local council. In the former PDRY (South Yemen), dowry was limited by law to 100 dinars (about a hundred US dollars) and few dared to exceed it. After unity, new initiatives have appeared. The



numerous local charitable associations that have popped up throughout the country try to set voluntary ceilings and collect donations for the poorer families. At a larger scale the Charitable Association for Social Reform has organized several collective weddings where up to 500 couples got married at the same time. The association first helps families to establish wedding contracts by sending men of religion whose presence in the negotiations keeps the dowry price down. For the wedding itself, the Association provides lunch for hundreds of people as well as qat and musicians for the chewing parties. Women also enjoy their separate party. As positive as they might be, these initiatives establish barriers within society as long as certain families who can afford still organize traditional expensive weddings which involve slaughtering sheep for several days and spending tens of thousands of riyals for qat. The line between true hospitality and vulgar ostentation is sometimes difficult to draw when the bridegroom's family reports the amount it spent for its guests. The name of the pre-Islamic poet Hatem al-Tai'i is still synonymous with unlimited generosity and senseless hospitality. The Roman Empire tried to limit luxury spending by edicting "sumptuary laws". The price and quality of jewels worn by a woman, for example, would be controlled by the police - and excesses were punished. Authoritarian measures against decadent Romans are not adapted in a country that has embarked on a democratization course. Responsible citizens can find solutions to social problems without expecting the state to intervene.

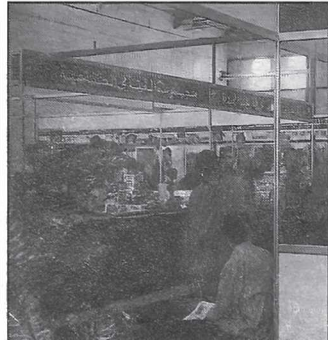
One such initiative is the one taken by members of the Al-Ulufi family. This family of judges is originally from Arhab but most of its members now live in Sanaa. It was Muhammad Abdallah Al-Ulufi who committed the suicidal assassination attempt against Imam Ahmed in Hodeidah in 1961. The Imam died of his wounds in 1962. This family, which is related by marriage to many other families of the Northern Yemeni upper-class, now counts a number of high-ranking military officers and senior officials. Everybody could expect a memorable feast on the occasion of the joint wedding of two young men from this family on August 3. Yet instead of spending vast amounts of money and embarrassing poorer families who can't afford such expenditures, the family decided to skip the lunch and limit its hospitality to a single qat-chew for its guests. Sometimes generosity also means self-restraint.

ADEN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE

On 20th July, 1995, the Governor of Aden, Mr. Taha Ghanem, inaugurated the Aden International Exhibition Centre, a facility which is built and quipped according to the finest

world exhibition standards. The occasion also marked the launching of the Yemeni Products Exhibition, which continues until August 3rd. Many companies and firms

participate in showing their products as well as in direct sale to the public. This exceptional exhibition was attended by many officials, businessmen, the media and general public.



Yemen Exhibitions & International Trade Corp.

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

Who Wrecked Africa?

1960, was the year of Africa, because in that year, many African countries became independent. When colonialists left Africa, they turned over power to civilian governments which have been 'elected' by the people. Even though these governments were inexperienced, they were doing a good job. There was no hunger, no war, no favoritism, no tribalism and Africa - the richest continent in the world - was on its march in the course of development. Unfortunately, because of the Cold War, the super powers were in a fierce rivalry to establish a foothold in the continent. As a result, they helped topple the civilian governments of Africa by military officers who were installed and manipulated either by the East or West. Those military men were unschooled in the fine points of government. They made COUNTLESS and grievous mistakes. That is why you have a wreckage every where in Africa today - Somalia, Liberia, Angola, Libya, Uganda, Mozambique, Chad, etc. They transformed the developing, and inherently rich Africa into a dark continent in the real sense of the word. For God's sake, when will the Africans stop the wrong assumptions and misplaced faith in strength and brute force? They should know they cannot build their countries through GUNS.

Hussein A. Ahmed (Douglas),
English Teacher, Khamer

The Sea

I have improved my English a lot by reading Yemen Times. Here is a poem by **Barry Cornwall**.

The sea! The sea! The open sea!
The blue, the fresh, the ever free!
With out a mark, without a bound,
It runneth earth's wide regions round;
It plays with the clouds; it mocks the skies
or like a cradled creature lies.
I'm on the sea! I'm on the sea!
I am where I would ever be
with the blue above, and the blue below,
and silence wherso'er I go
If a storm should come and awake the deep,
What matter? I shall ride and sleep.

By: **Ali Khalil**

Do Our People Deserve This?

These days, our people live truly in a time of stability and security following the worry, tension, agony and struggle of the war between the legitimacy forces and the secessionist gang last year. Everybody knows the wicked goals of the secessionists who wanted re-split Yemen. We remember what our people, all of them - men and women, old and young, boys and girls - in the battle-fields, in hospitals, in cities, everywhere. Yemenis, without exception, supported unity with their life. Nobody could accept returning to a time of two countries again. It was wrong and it is refused. We must not forget that each one of us helped in his/her own way. Some contributed money, others made bread, still others offered water, etc. The Yemeni people put up with all kinds of difficulties with great patience. They had great optimism. We all understand the role of public support in bringing this dirty war to a quick end. So people expect a positive effect to be reflected on their lives. They need opportunities in economic activities. But is that what is happening now? Of course not. Most of our people live in bad conditions. They suffer without exception. Employees are so poor. There is no comparison between their monthly income and their basic needs. They need at least four times the level of their salaries to make them live in a reasonable I have come to the end of my point: "Do our people deserve this?"

By: **Yahya Dahami, Sanaa.**

What Is Our Future?

Some may take me for a pessimist when they read my views. But I worry about the "future". When I was young, I read a lot stating that my country will have a great future. I had great ambitions. I expected a new dawn to emerge heralding an auspicious future bringing happiness. But our night is getting longer and longer. We are in a long moment of suspense. I ask myself when will the bright future come? Is it but a dream? Is this a nightmare? But I worry the future itself a mere slogan or a mirage. I am beginning to have troublethinking of the future. I realize now that the future has become the enemy of man.

By: **Abud Lawhed Hamid Morshed**
Student in the College of Education, Ibb

Discrimination and Racism in Yemeni Officialdom

I would like to express my thanks to you for this opportunity to express my views and grievances. My family and I came to this land of our forefathers a decade and half ago with Yemeni passports. At first, we were not allowed into the country, because our passports were from the former People's Democratic of South Yemen. They considered us communists who did not believe in God. "Go back from where you came from," some of the officials at the airport told us. My parents are of Yemeni origin and were born in Yemen (Hadhramaut). My brothers, sisters and I were born abroad. Eventually we were allowed into the country and we filed full legal procedures to obtain Yemeni I.D's. You should be sure we spent lots of money and time. Even then, we were denied Yemeni I.D's. At the end, we were told to go to Aden to obtain them from there. The reason why we could not have I.D's is because we are born abroad. They called us "muwalladeen", or half casts. We did go to Aden where we were issued with South Yemeni I.D's. After unity, we were asked to change our I.D's from the previous South Yemeni ones to the new unity I.D's. Again, we have to apply at the place where our IDs were issued (Aden). Once in Aden, having completed all the formalities, we were told to go to Haddramaut and get legal documents from the courts in Tarim or Seyoun. Now after fifteen years, to prove that our parents were born in Hadhramaut - in such and such town or village, This is to be signed by two witnesses in front

of a judge. Since we need the IDs, we pursued this labyrinth of bureaucratic procedures. But now we are stuck again. The judges wouldn't sign the papers because they don't have the authority from Sana'a to do so. The ID office in Seyoun also has no right to issue IDs to (muwalladeen). So we were sent to Mukalla, where we were issued with two new forms, which will have to be signed back in Tarim/Seyoun then returned to Mukalla (the provincial capital) of Hadhramaut. Once those forms are approved, then we have to go back to Aden and finish what we had began in the first place, to receive the new ID and still be referred to as "Mukalla IDs" i.e. a half cast Yemeni. Do you think this is fair? How many of us have the kind money and time to run around across the country and still end up a "Mukalla ID holder." I also want to ask how pure these so called Yemenis are? As written from their own history books they claim to have been ruled by Ethiopians, Persians, Circassians and many more. And lastly, they hypocritically preach that "God Almighty says that all men are equal."
By: **Said . A., Hodeidah.**

EDITOR'S NOTE:
What the ruling cliché in Sanaa is making into law and bureaucratic order is called discrimination and racism. It is neither constitutional nor legal. Above all, it is immoral. It is amusing to see these same officials speak on behalf of God and raise slogans of high values and morals.

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

The moon is shining and the sky is clear. The weather is cool with a smooth breeze. It is moments like these, I remember you. I lost my sleep, for many days somewhere else I lost my sleep because of you. My mind became dull, because of you. I lost my smile, because of you. I lost my kingdom, because of you.

A wife, a child... It is a dream for me. They come some time during the night Wife is in the mental Hospital Doctors giving her shock treatments She cries . . . the child cries . . . "Where are you? Where are you?" they cry. I am in prison. I am a slave here.

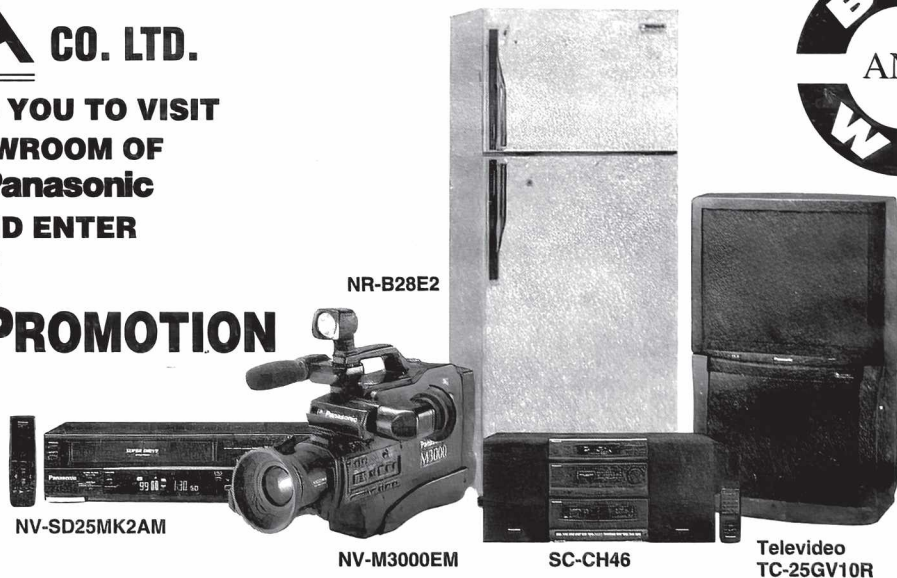
Best of luck . . . to everybody.

But still, I wait for you. Waiting for a knock on my door I know, it may be just a dream. Oh but for a dream. But for my dreams. And dreams may one day come true.

Best of luck. Best of luck.

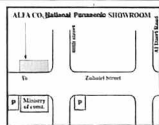
By: **Ravi Menon, Taiz.**

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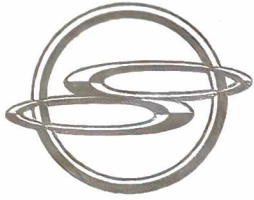


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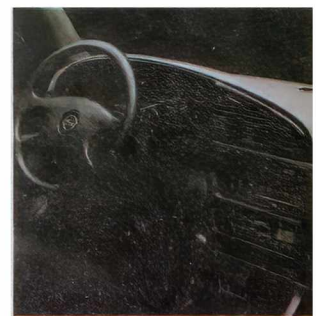
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AL-WAHDAH, Sanaa: 26-07-1995**(Official):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Ministry of Information: Yemeni Satellite Television Transmission Starts in January
- 2) Apprehension of a Gang that Forged Title Deeds of State and Private Property: Forged Documents for 400,000 Libnas in the Capital city (1 libna = 44 square meters)
- 3) New Tax Law to be Discussed by Parliament for Autos and Equipment

Article Summary:**The Central Bank . . . Forbidden to Speak**

The article complains of government institutions that refuse to give any details or viewpoints on the issues within their responsibilities. A case in point: the attempt by a journalist from Al-Wahdah who was refused interviews by the senior officials of the Central Bank of Yemen since as one assistant Deputy Governor pointed out, "We are forbidden by the Governor to make any statements regarding the fluctuating US\$ / YR exchange rate and the decision to raise interest rates."

AL-HIWAR, Sanaa: 16-07-1995**(Independent/Baath):**

- 1) Briberies and Robberies In Yemen and "Yemengate" Abroad.
- 2) Yemen Hands over Extremists Wanted by Egypt for Terrorism. CIA May Have Been Involved In Mubarak Assassination Attempt.
- 3) Al-Hiwar Publisher Receives Fiery Warning Letter.

Article Summary:**Totalitarianism Once Again!**

Following the People's General Congress' general congress, an article by a political editor (No name) points out the insistence of the PGC to refuse to deal with other political organizations, or to adhere to proper interaction with other political parties like the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Nasserites and Baath Party.

26 SEPTEMBER, Sanaa: 20/07/1995**(Mouthpiece of the Military):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) 110 Scholarships and Electric Generators for Hadhramaut from Qatar
- 2) International Companies Compete For Treasure Hunt off the Coast of Socotra
- 3) Positive Progress in Identifying Border Marks by Saudi-Yemeni Committee



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

Article Summary:**Culture and Culture**

Veteran Columnist Abdel Samad Al-Qalisy points out that many people knock down Western culture and point to the many social ills in the West. They tend to neglect that there are several aspects of western culture that are positive and which could be useful to Yemen as a developing democratic society. Among them: individual freedom, respect for others, which are still subject to many restrictive interpretations by our society. In addition there is respect for tradition and history, whereas in our society we tend to reject all tradition and discuss the past with curses not bearing in mind that there is good and bad in all times.

AL-WAHADAWI, Sanaa: 25-07-1995**(Nasserite Unionist Party's mouthpiece):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) "Yemengate": The Forgery was Carried Out in Hunt's Office and the Foreign Ministry Notorious Signatures!
- 2) The Opposition Bloc, and Violations of Human Rights by the Rulers
- 3) Large-scale Condemnation for the Deplorable Attack on the Badr Scholastic Center for Religious Studies
- 4) Itihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah (Federation of Popular Forces Party) Sues the Ministry of Legal Affairs.
- 5) Vice President of the World Bank: "Yemen Will Face A Widespread Water Crisis. We Stopped Payment for some of the Projects Because the Funds Were Diverted to 'Other' Purposes

Article Summary:**A Journalist Goes on a Hunger Strike**

The Chief Editor of the former Al-Tayyar Al-Wahdawi newspaper went on a hunger strike two months after being visited by Amnesty International representatives in his cell at the Political Security prison. Since his arrest, no specific accusation has been lodged. He asks assistance from all political and human rights organizations to stand by him especially in the wake of his illness and suffering.

SOUT AL-MUAARADHA, Sanaa: 22/07/1995**(The Voice of the (Rulers) Opposition):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Poor are the Ones Who Pick up the Bill for the Reform.
- 2) Violations, Excesses and Fraud in the Ministry of Health
- 3) Beware the Revolt of (Empty) Bellies .

Article Summary:**The Bribery . . . Incentive and Liquor**

The article points out that a renowned merchant swore that for every big deal he carries out, he has to pay large amounts of money to buy incense, honey and liquor given to senior officials as gifts. In the past, cash, qat and jewelry were the instruments for bribery. (Well, reforms are working. . . even in bribery: The Editor).

DEVELOPMENT, Sanaa: 19/07/1995**(Issued by The Federation Of Chamber Of Commerce And Industry):****Headlines:**

- 1) The Fall of The Dollar . . . To Where?
- 2) The President: "We welcome Arab and foreign investors. We provide facilities by smoothing out procedures and the removal of obstacles."
- 3) World Bank Official: "The economic reforms needed (by Yemen) have yet to begin."
- 4) Bahrain Given Third Rank among Nations with Free Economic Policy

Article Summary:**Illiteracy Is A Serious Danger . . .****Yet Nobody Moves**

In her regular column, Mona Salih Al-Sulaimany points out the seriousness of illiteracy problem in Yemen. She outlines the reasons for its continuations from political, social, economic and geographical standpoints. Solutions? She urges to increase awareness of the importance of eliminating illiteracy, building more schools and spreading them to cover a larger geographic space. She also indicated the need to improve the lot of teachers.

AL-AYYAM, Aden: 26-07-1995**(Independent):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Diarrhea Cases in Abyan Could Be Cholera
- 2) Expansion of Aden Telephone Network Will Cost US\$ 50 Million.
- 3) Shabwa Investor Bids YR 1286 million to Buy Four Public Sector Factories.
- 4) Efforts to Release Al-Shoura Newspaper.

Article Summary:**Jarallah Omar and Other Leading YSP****Leaders Expected to Return Soon**

The President was contacted by Mr. Jarallah Omar during his recent visit to Cairo. He requested to be allowed to return to Yemen. Al-Ayyam sources said that a number of other YSP leaders, who are abroad since the Civil War, are also expected to return in order to be able to participate in the 4th general congress of the Yemeni Socialist Party scheduled for October 1995.

AL-THAWRI, Sanaa: 27/07/1995**(Mouthpiece of the Yemeni Socialist Party)****Headlines:**

- 1) The Opposition Warn Against a Religion Intercourse War.
- 2) The Illegal Arrest of a Member of Parliament.
- 3) Itihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah Accepts the Apology of the Sheikhs of Al-Hada.
- 4) Continued Violation of Human Rights in Yemeni Prisons.

Article Summary:**For the Second Time in Lahej:****AN ATTACK ON A FEMALE JUDGE**

Judge Thikrayat Abdul-Kareem Abdullah Shaikhan was physically attacked and insulted by the Deputy Director of Health Affairs in Lahej, last Monday.

Judge Thikrayat was asked by the attacker to notarize documents with which he had played in an effort to influence court proceedings on a case in the courts. When she pointed out that the documents were not genuine, the man simply slapped the judge in the face and shouted insults at her. He walked away.

Judge Thikrayat filed a law-suit against the attacker. Surprise, surprise, many people are now intervening on behalf of the attacker so that the judge may withdraw her lawsuit.

It will be noted that another female judge, Ms. Sultanah Suhail, was attacked last May. The general trend is to mount pressure on career female judges and make it unbearable to continue.

صبراً جميلاً آل القرشي

قلوب عامرة بالإيمان، مؤمنة يقضاه الله وقدره، نتقدم بخالص العزاء والمواساة للأخ المهندس عبد الإله أحمد ثابت القرشي وأشقائه جميل وخليل وبسام وبقية أفراد الأسرة بوفاة والديهم. إزاء هذا الحدث الجلل، لا يسعنا إلا أن نسأله تعالى أن يسكن فقيدتنا فسيح جناته، ويلهم أهلها الصبر والسلوان.

وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

د. عبدالعزيز السقاف

عباس عبده محمد القرشي

طاهر سعيد سيف

عبدالرحمن أحمد طه

عبدالحكيم منصور القرشي

أمير القرشي

مختار محمد أحمد السقاف

رفيق ياسين السقاف

وجميع الأهل من آل السقاف والقرشي

كذلك خالص العزاء والمواساة للأستاذ عبدالله عبدالرحمن القرشي والأستاذ عبد القادر حسين القرشي والدكتور مروان عبد الحبيب والدكتور رياض عبدالحبيب القرشي والدكتور فيصل حسين القرشي وجميع أفراد الأسرة بوفاة عمتهم حرم المرحوم الحاج أحمد ثابت القرشي.

سأل الله لها الرحمة والجنان، ولأهلها جميعاً الصبر والسلوان. وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

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Rothmans Supports Yemen's 1995/96 Football League Matches

By: Anwar Al-Sayyadi,
Yemen Times.

The Rothmans Yemen National League matches were kicked off on July 20th at Al-Moraisi Stadium in Sanaa. The first match pitched Al-Ahli - Sanaa against Al-Ahli - Hodeidah. The Sanaa Team won.

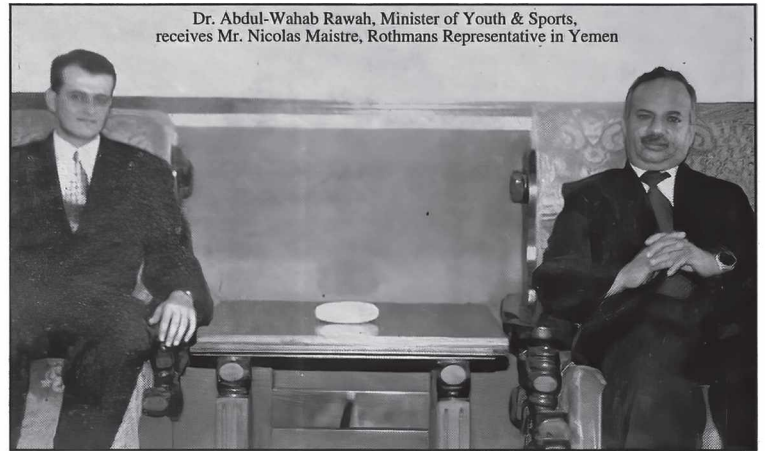
The Rothmans Yemen National League brings

together soccer clubs from Sanaa, Hodeidah, Taiz, Aden, Abyan and Hadhramaut. The games will be played for the remainder of this year and the duration of 1996. The League was formed on the basis of funding made available by Rothmans of Pall Mall International Ltd.

On April 7th, an agreement was signed between the Ministry of Youth and Sports, represented by Mr. Hussain

Al-Awadhi, Secretary-General of the Olympic Committee, and Rothmans represented by Mr. Steven James, Managing Director, through KAM, an international sports marketing company. According to the agreement, Rothmans will make available \$95,000 to finance the matches.

On July 24th, Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports, received Mr. Nicolas Maistre,



Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth & Sports, receives Mr. Nicolas Maistre, Rothmans Representative in Yemen

Rothmans Market Manager RPMO Yemen, to express his gratitude and appreciation for the contribution. "We are aware that Rothmans has been associated with the sponsorship of many sporting events worldwide. The most famous one is, of course, Formula One Motor Racing," the Minister explained.

Nicolas responded by assuring the Minister of Rothmans full and continued support. "Our Company has always enjoyed a long association with Yemen, and we are very happy to be given the opportunity to invest in the development of Football in Yemen," he said.

Rothmans has also supported

many social and development projects. It provided assistance to the victims of the earthquake of 1982, it supported emergency self-help effort in the aftermath of the war, provided four ambulances to the Ministry of Health, and

offered limited funding to non-governmental organizations every now and then. "We are very keen on our social responsibility to the community in which we work," Mr. Nicolas Maistre concluded.

NOTE:



The numbers below are as up-to-date as our records show. If your number has changed, please call us at (268-661/2) for a correction. This is a courtesy service to our readers.



Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
Telephone Enquiries	118
Aljumhuri Hospital	202192/3
Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Banks:	
Yemeni Banks:	
Central Bank	274371/3
Commercial Bank Sanaa	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
Branches of Foreign Banks:	
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
Government Offices:	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	271970/2
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
Insurance Companies:	
Y.I. & Reinsurance/Aden	273311
Marib Insurance Sanaa	206112/4
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General Sanaa:	265191
Aden:	243909
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Insurance Co 01-272890-2	
Taiz:	215012
Hodeidah:	217292
Aman Insurance Sanaa:	214093
Hodeidah:	03-240354

SANAA :	
1. Embassies:	
Afghanistan	217691
Algeria	209688/89
Bulgaria	217244
China	275337/340
Cuba	217304/5
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	245792/265469
Egypt	275848/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	268888
Germany	413180/413174
Hungary	248147
India	2419801/2
Indonesia	217388
Iran	206945/8
Iraq	216681/790
Italy	265616/73409/78846
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	413275/6/7
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	268887/8/9
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
Palestine	215404/5
Poland	248362
Qatar	217488/296
Romania	215579
Russia (FR)	78272/78275
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	247885
Syria	414892
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395

U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A	238842/52
Vietnam	215985
2. Honorary Consulates:	
Austria	266725
Belgium	205925
Canada	208814
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215171/2
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	209360/207054
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	203534
3. International Organizations	
FAO	207331/607
UNDP	215505
UNHCR	204963
UNICEF	231256/7/8
WHO	252213/204

ADEN Consulates :	
China	233115
Ethiopia	231335
France	255896
Germany	232162/233607
India	233131
Iran	231893/361
Italy	232586/88
Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Palestine	232340/232717
Russia (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	232760/325256
Slovak	233630/232101
Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13.
FAO Branch	233722/232146

AIR LINES

Air France	272895/6
Air India	272544
Alitalia	273655
Alymen (HO, Aden)	231339
Alymen (Sana'a)	203637
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways(Sanaa)	248151/2
British Airways (Aden)	243475
Cathay Pacific	271803
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	265274/75, 265374
Iraqi Airlines	219431/224/5/6
Japan Airlines	219431/224/5/6
KLM	278747
Korean Airlines	272548
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	272731
Pakistan Int'l	219431/224/5/6
Hover Airlines Intl., Inc.	205779
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	74930
Sabena	285865/925
Sudan Airways	272503-5
Swiss Air	272547
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel H.O.	275028/9/30
Universal -Zubeiri	267929, 273924

HOTELS

Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
Plaza Suites	209074/209903/205483
Hadda Hotel	2152124/5
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
Marib (063)	
Bilquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
Mukalla (05)	
Hadhramaut	2060
Al-Itamad	552493

COURIERS

Aramex / Sana'a	243-925
Aramex / Aden	255-683
Aramex / Taiz	213-489
Aramex / Hodeidah	218-168
DHL	248017-249878
Life Express	205696
Skypack	77310
American Express	272435/6

Contest No.38

مسابقة رقم ٣٨

Prepared by:
Al-Farouk Institute of
Languages & Computer

إعداد:
معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

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Please fill in the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the Al-Farouq 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.

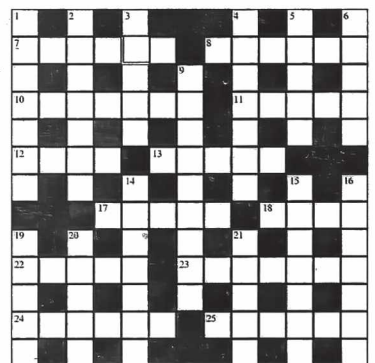
سيعلن اسم الفائز في العدد القادم من "يمن تايمز".

Contest No. 38

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 7. Swiss breakfast cereal. | 1. Make believe. |
| 8. City gent's hat, or a cricketer's | 2. From 13 to 19 years. |
| | 3. It flows in veins and arteries. |
| | 4. November 5th burn-up! |
| 10. "Taxi-boat" in Venice. | 5. Come into flower. |
| 11. Scowl. | 6. Incorrect. |
| 12. Keeps on at. | 9. Venue for the 1992 Olympic Games. |
| 13. Get a goal. | 14. Section of a book. |
| 17. Blackboard writing material. | 15. Not a replica, real. |
| 18. Very brave man. | 16. Always. |
| 22. Set of similar articles. | 19. Nimble. |
| 23. God of the Sea. | 20. — organ: harmonica. |
| 24. Any one from A to Z. | 21. Eve gave one to Adam! |
| 25. Fair-haired (girl) | |

Correct answer for contest No. (37)

REVEAL	LOSER									
E	I	M	Q	A	P	E				
F	A	L	S	E	U	N	I	F	O	R
U	L	T	R	E	R	O	O			
T	E	A	T	I	M	E	R	N	O	T
E	I	C	N	I	B	E				
P	I	N	C	A	A	M	E	N		
P	I	N	O	D	G	X	A			
U	C	L	L	A	P	L	A	U	D	
P	E	R	I	T	I	M	V			
P	E	R	H	A	P	S	P	R	I	C
E	G	S	Y	E	N	N				
T	E	E	T	H	A	S	C	E	N	T



WINNER OF CONTEST NO 37 IS:
Ali Al-Solahi



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Yemeni & Djibouti Coordinate Military Policies

Following a week-long visit to Sanaa and Aden by a military delegation from Djibouti headed by Brigadier Fathi Ahmed Hussain, the Chief of Army Staff, Yemen and Djibouti agreed to coordinate military policies. The two countries had gone through differences in the aftermath of the Yemeni civil war. The secessionist forces had shipped away to Djibouti some of the military hardware prior to fleeing the country. Yemen had pressed for their retrieval. Djibouti had turned over to Yemen some air-planes, helicopters, ships and their weapons.

The two countries also agreed to work together to better control the southern exit of the Red Sea, around Bab Al-Mandab strait.

Their armies, but specially their naval forces will coordinate efforts activities vis-a-vis alien military ships and other forces. "The visit aims to simply strengthen the already good cooperation between our two countries," said Mr. Dhi Yazan, Director of Public Relations at the Office of the Chief of Staff of Djibouti.

The Yemeni side went out of its way to make the trip successful. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Defence Minister and other senior officials received the guests.

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