



YEMEN TIMES



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CBY Pushes on to Force the Riyal Up:

A Mis-guided CBY Policy

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor of Economics, Sanaa University.

The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) has made bringing down the value of the US dollar vis-a-vis the Yemeni Riyal, as one of its main objectives. It is doing everything it can to make the Yemeni Riyal appreciate.

Let me start by stating that, in my opinion, this objective is itself wrong. A stronger Riyal does not help the Yemeni economy. To the contrary what we need to do to make the Riyal depreciate until equilibrium point (which I think is close to YR 200 per US dollar), at which point, the production factor of the economy are correctly represented.

The question of the exchange rate is one that has been troubling the Yemeni public, because more and more individuals are sucked into the game. Is the rate going up? Or is it going down? What are the factors that are pushing the Riyal up?

The CBY measures that have led to the present rise in the value of the Riyal vis-a-vis the dollar are mostly of a temporary nature and cannot be sustained for long. Let me give examples:

1. Postponement of Payment on Government Dues: Over the last few weeks, the CBY has turned off the faucet on government spending. In many cases, this is a mere postponement of payment. Sooner or later, these dues will have to be paid and government expenditures, which now look reduced, will grow enormously.

2. Drying up the Riyal Supply:

The CBY is withdrawing as much cash from the market as possible. As a matter of fact, the CBY is about to change the reserve rules. Instead of the present 30% on just current accounts, the CBY will now demand a non-interest bearing 25% reserve on all deposits - the so-called RRR (Reserve Requirement Ratio). Thus, commercial banks will have to turn over more of their Riyals to the CBY.

3. Increasing the Interest Rate:

The CBY tripled interest rates on deposits to 20-22%. This means two things:

a) Individuals and companies have increasingly tied up their excess cash in new deposits:

b) The banks now charge at least 30% interest on advances and loans, thus dampening the credit and investment markets. By the way 30% on 75% (the part of total deposits left with commercial banks after RRR) barely covers the 22% the banks have to pay their depositors.

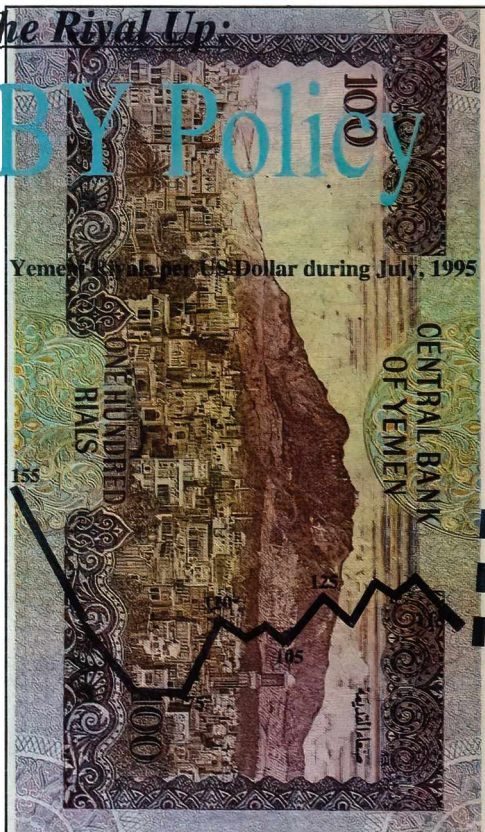
4. Increasing Revenue Collection:

The Government has made a strenuous effort to improve collection of revenue. This has shown a limited improvement.

Whatever the case, the Riyal has gained over the dollar, and the trend will persist until mid-August when the value of dollar is expected to dip to below 100 Riyals.

Then as the reform measures start to clutch, and as the inability of the CBY to sustain the current measures, the Riyal will start a downward spiral.

Read more on page 3



Yemeni Riyal per US Dollar during July, 1995

King Hussain Visits Yemen

His Majesty King Hussain of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is expected to fly into Sanaa following his trip to Saudi Arabia. The King is presently on a regional tour of Arab capitals trying to bolster Arab solidarity. "Like Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh before him, Jordan's King is now working to overcome the fallout



of the Gulf War. Accord Document in King Hussain has a special standing among the Yemeni people for his efforts to resolve differences among Yemeni politicians during Yemen's political crisis of 1993. The efforts led to the signing of the Pledge and

Amman. Unfortunately for Yemen, however, the document was not implemented and Yemen drifted into a civil war. The Jordanian Monarch is the first head of state to visit Yemen since the civil war.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Driving the Opposition Out of Business..., Underground..., and Out of the Country

What is happening to the legitimate opposition in Yemen is rather frustrating. To start with, it is itself fragmented, and badly underfinanced. It suffers from the continued oppression of the rulers. At the end of the day, any casual observer will tell you it poses no danger to the rulers.

Yet, the rulers are doing all they can to drive it underground by making it almost impossible for it to work openly, they are driving it out of business by driving up the cost structure up and monopolizing the services the opposition needs (like printing its newspaper), and finally, they are driving it out of the country because the rulers are making it rather hazardous for the opposition to live in Yemen. Let me use specific examples:

1. Many of the opposition political party premises are infiltrated by PSO individuals. They and the independent political and human rights activists are unable to plan and execute anything meaningful effort without the rulers countering the measures immediately, in one way or another. Even Opposition members and independents in parliament, and there are some 90 such persons, are unable to obtain information and put issues in motion.

2. Many of the opposition newspapers are out of circulation, because the cost structure has hit the roof. The Attagammu newspaper is out of business and has not been in print for over four months. Al-Shoura has been ordered out of business by the Ministry of Information. Al-Hiwar, a third opposition newspaper, comes out irregularly. The same is true of Sawt Al-Yemen. Al-Belagh has the same fate.

3. The very lives and well-being of key opposition and independent political and media personalities are at risk. Last week, bombs were planted near the home of Abdullah Al-Wazeer, publisher of Al-Belagh newspaper. The premises of the Ittihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah was attacked with grenades and showered with gunfire. Many individuals, including members of parliament, are routinely harassed and intimidated.

I think these policies are very short-sighted. The rulers should see that such behavior exposes the nature of the regime. The opposition is not in a position to threaten the grip on power of the present rulers. It is this reality that makes me wonder why the rulers act this way towards the opposition, and why they choose to go for the overkill.

The Publisher
S.S.P.

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Immigration Office Stresses Registry of Foreigners

The Department of Immigration has issued announcements to all foreigners residing in Yemen to register with it. The Department has given the 31st of August as the deadline for completion of this registration requirement.

At another level, the Immigration Department has announced that its revenue from sale of passports, and to a much lesser degree, issuance of visas and residence permits, has exceeded YR 150 million in the first half of 1995. Total revenue for the same period last year was 60 million.

The main explanation to the rise in immigration revenue is the new passports issued to Yemeni workers who are eager to travel to Saudi Arabia.

Launching the Bosnia Donations Campaign

In a major drive to help the Bosnian Muslims, the Committee to Support the Bosnian Muslims launched its campaign in Sanaa on Thursday, August 3rd. The first donation was a YR 200,000 made by President Ali Abdullah Saleh from his personal income. He also made a YR 100,000,000 donation in the name of the Yemeni government.

In a statement on the occasion, President Saleh urged the Yemeni people to give generously to "this just cause". He indicated that the leader of the world is using a double yardstick in addressing today's issues. He finally urged US President Bill Clinton not to veto the Congressional decision to lift the arms embargo placed by the UN against the Bosnians.

The Committee has targeted raising a total of 1,000,000,000 Riyals, the equivalent of US \$20,000,000 to be transferred in 4 installments starting this week through the Central Bank.

Indian Week Festival in Yemen

The Indian Embassy in Sanaa, the Indian Tourism Board and the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa are sponsoring An Indian Food & Cultural Festival Week, during 24-30/8/1995.

The Taj Sheba management is also bringing none other than the world famous chef, Mr. Satish Arora, who will kick off a curry-dinner evening on Sundays at the Taj. Mr. Arora will also give some tips regarding special dishes he has developed.

At another level, Mr. Vijay Albuquerque, General Manager of the Taj Sheba Hotel, disclosed to the Yemen Times that some 1.4 of the Indian population traces its origins to Yemen. "That is a solid bridge between our societies," he disclosed.

A Change of the Guards at the YSP Parliamentary Bloc

The whip of the parliamentary bloc of the Yemeni Socialist Party was changed in a meeting held last week. Mr. Ahmed Ali Al-Salami is now the leader of the bloc, and Abdullah Ahmed Majaidee' is his deputy.

At another level, the YSP deputies discussed the arrest of one of their own, Mohammed Naji Saeed, who is in police custody since Tuesday August 1st. The member of parliament is accused of having killed a person during the civil war.

The Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, at the request of the attorney-general's office, has agreed to waive parliamentary immunity to allow prosecution of the deputy.

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Ahmed Thabit Al-Absi:

"I am optimistic about the future of the Yemeni economy."

The continued spikes in the exchange rate of the Yemeni rate have created jolts in the market, and forced many businesses to hold off and wait for the market to stabilize. Stabilize, it hasn't, and it does not look like it will in the near future.

The price of the US dollar in terms of Riyals has fallen a one-time high of YR 160 in May 1995, to the lowest in a long time, YR 70, in July 1995. A daily change of some 20% has become a common phenomenon which repeats itself too often to disturb any planning of investments or trade.

The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) has tried many things to bring sense to the exchange rate market. It has put the money changers behind bars, it has allowed the banks to operate in money changing, it has intervened by selling and buying currency in the market, it has manipulated the money supply of Riyals, etc. Yet, it doesn't seem to have grips with the problem, partly because instead of searching for an equilibrium exchange rate, the CBY is trying hard to push the dollar down, vis-a-vis the Riyal.

In order to better understand this situation, the Yemen Times went to speak to Mr. Ahmed Thabit Al-Absi, Vice General Manager of the International Bank of Yemen (IBY). Mr. Al-Absi is a professional banker, with years of experience in banking, in the UK, Singapore, Greece and Saudi Arabia.

He served in many capacities, and his last post was Regional Manager for the Saudi-Holland Bank, in charge of more than forty branches.

Today, in addition to his responsibilities at the IBY, he is a member of the Banking Committee which guides the activities of the commercial banks. He is also one of a few insiders who is on daily contact with the CBY in the effort to steer the country's money and banking policies at this difficult time.

Excerpts:

Q: How do you assess the exchange rate situation today?

A: Of course, we are in difficult times, and this is a problem that has accumulated over a number of years. The last blow came following the Gulf War when many Yemeni laborers in the Gulf came back to Yemen. As a result, we lost a major source of our foreign exchange earnings.

In general, the Republic of Yemen needs about \$2 billion annually to finance its needs. So, the job ahead of us is to find \$2 billion every year. And by the way, this can be done.

Q: You say, it can be done. Can you outline the sources for this money?

A: Of course, I cannot speak in exact terms. But, just think of the various sources of hard currency.

We have the exports of oil. This can provide approximately 20% of the need. Then, another approximately 20% comes from foreign aid (loans and grants) from bilateral and multi-lateral sources. Remittances can cover another bit. If relations with Saudi Arabia improve further, and more Yemenis go to work there, remittance will cover a lot more. Assume, for example, a conservative estimate of an additional 100,000 Yemeni workers are engaged in Saudi Arabia. The average monthly income is SR 4,000, and the average remittance is SR 1,000 per month. This means a monthly additional remittance of SR. 100,000,000, or 1.2 billion per year. This by itself represents a solid 20% of our foreign exchange needs.

In addition, we have traditional exports as well as new exports

such as fish and marine exports, fruits and vegetables - increasing volumes of which are now being shipped to Saudi Arabia. Then there is tourism as a source of foreign exchange.

What I am saying, in short, is that the means are there for us to mobilize. We simply need to put our act together and improve our management.

Q: Lately, the Riyal has gained, although there have been ups and downs. To what do you attribute this?

A: As you know, the exchange rate depends a lot on demand and supply, and a lot of trust of the people in the system.

The Republic of Yemen has overcome its internal divisions and the secessionists have been defeated. In other words, we now have a unified political leadership for the country.

We also have reached a certain agreement with Saudi Arabia, and this has boosted people's confidence in our system.

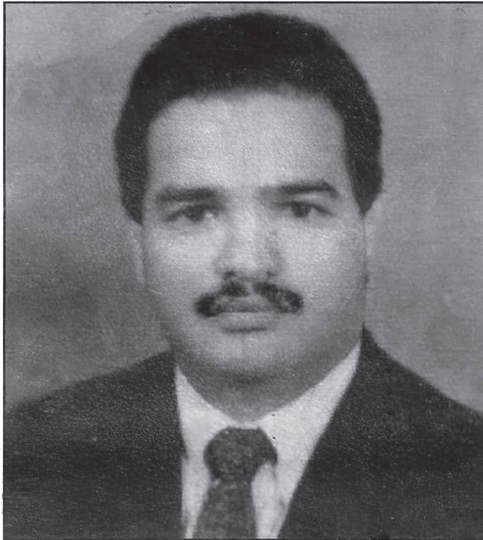
Then, there is the rising level of rapprochement with our other neighbors.

Finally, the Government of Yemen is addressing the reform issue in earnest. It shows people we are ready to bite the bullet.

All those factors serve as background for improvement in the exchange rate situation.

Add to that the recent measures introduced by the Central Bank of Yemen. These include raising the interest rate, drying up the Riyal money supply, putting ceiling on credit facilities, increasing the required reserve ratio, etc.

In short there are many reasons for the Riyal to appreciate.



Q: But is it in the interest of the Yemeni economy for the Riyal to appreciate?

A: Of course it is. I mean this will help bring inflation under control, and it will bring down the cost of living.

I know that decreasing the value of the Riyal could help our balance of payments situation by increasing the prospects for exports and reducing imports. But this is not applicable to Yemen.

You see, no matter how high the prices of imports are, we will end up importing because the demand on what we import is inelastic. We need these goods. They are, after all, foodstuffs, spare parts, clothing, etc.

In terms of exports, we are faced with an inelastic supply condition. No matter how high prices are, our production base puts a real limitation on expansion.

That is why I think that we should work to make the Riyal appreciate it would improve our terms of trade.

Q: How has the change in the exchange rate affected business?

A: Many people are no longer hungry for dollars, as they were. Even importers are cooling off until they can picture clears up. That in turns has dampened demand on the dollar, thus further pushing it down: I believe the next few weeks, the exchange rate will fall even further.

Q: What would you say is the equilibrium price of the US dollar?

A: It is not up to me to say, it is up to the market. I do know the trend in the short term ahead of us is a downward one.

Q: The banks have been authorized to deal in the exchange market. What is the picture now?

A: You know there is an exchange rate committee of the bankers under the guidance of the CBY. This committee has authorized the banks to sell dollars at YR 105 and buy at 104. So far, we have not been in business, partly because the parallel market rate is slightly higher. Once this market comes to the bank rate, we will engage the market. I believe this will happen soon.

Q: There are efforts to establish Islamic banks. I know of at least three such projects. What do you make of it?

A: Of course the fact that I work in a traditional standard bank already says about my beliefs. I know that even many of the large of these Islamic banks do eventually collect interest on their deposits abroad. Of course, they also engage in efforts in venture capital type of investments.

In principle, Yemenis would like to avoid interest. The question remains, however, whether interest is usury or riba as stated in Islam.

Let me also point to the changes needed in the banking laws of this country to set up Islamic banking. The CBY needs to change many laws, or issue a new one to enable Islamic banks operate in Yemen according to their rules. Finally, let me mention that Islamic banks are not allowed in Saudi Arabia, which is the guardian of the holiest shrines of Islam.

In my opinion, we should handle this matter with care and caution. We should not be propelled by emotions. Let us look at the issues, the character of the applicants to start up this system, and then reach a conclusion.

Many mistakes have been committed in the name of Islam. I don't think we do not need another example.

Q: You are in close contact with the CBY. What kind of advice do you give them?

A: First, I do not give them advice, but we exchange information and ideas.

Second, if I were to do give advice, the main problem with the CBY is the slow pace of its reaction to changes around it. There have been many changes that have occurred. The CBY could have reacted much sooner in order to take the necessary measures vis-a-vis the changes that have taken place. In the past, the record is that reaction comes much too late, too little.

Q: How is your bank doing?

A: The IBY is doing very well. As you may know, many of the embassies, oil companies, and foreign companies and agencies bank with us. We pride ourselves in giving them professional and specialized services.

We have branches in Sanaa, Hodeidah and Aden. We plan to open two more - one each in Taiz and Mukallah.

We engage in continued training of our staff and updating of our system and services.

Q: Any last comments?

A: Banking is a very fragile business which cannot take the volatility we have seen. It requires guidance with a long-term policy based on clear strategies. Only in this way can the banking sector become stable and contribute to the growth of the economy.

In my opinion, the CBY has many professionals who can do the job. But they need to be given the authority to do it. Too much interference does not allow professionals to get on with the job.

One last point. I feel optimistic about the future, and there is reason for this optimism. But, we have, here again, to engage in professional management to steer the economy to the right track and stay on it.

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The Riyal exchange rate continues to move up and down in visible spikes. On Friday August 4th, each dollar fetched something like YR 110. But dollars were not available for sale, at least not in large volumes. Observers believe that the Riyal will continue to gain for about two more weeks. By mid-August, the value of the US dollar could dip to below YR 100. But thereafter, it is expected to start falling.



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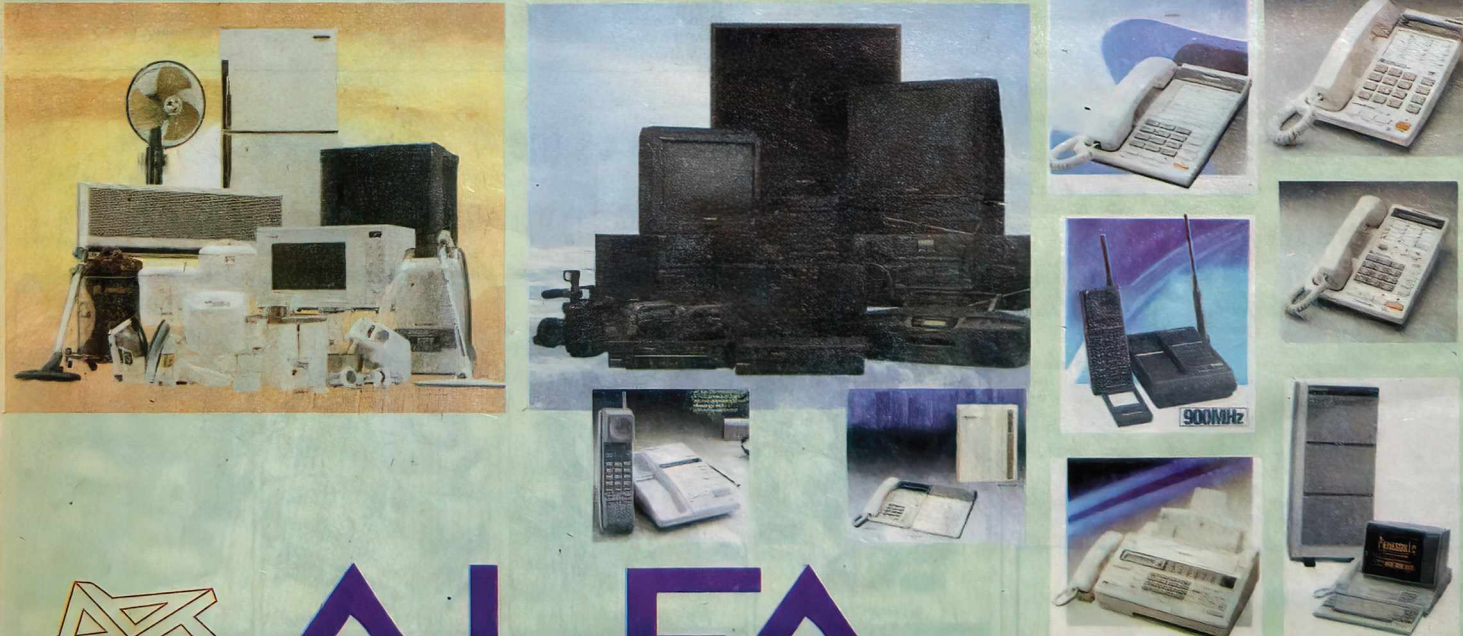
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Women in Poilitics: The PGC Experience:

“The PGC drive to recruit Women is done through helping them live better.”

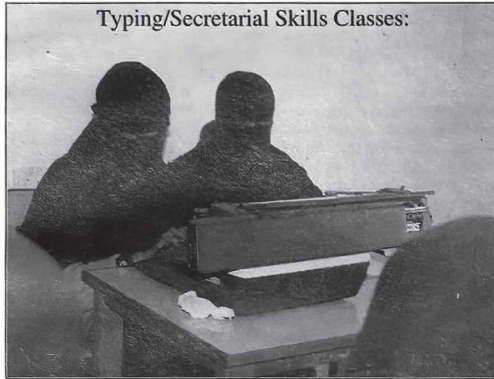
The issue of female participation in public life in general, and in politics in particular, remains badly under-studied and under-investigated. Almost all political parties are visibly male-dominated, though they do give lip-service to the need to involve the women of Yemen.

Unfortunately, even in the Yemeni Socialist Party, which presented itself as a champion of sex equality, women had a token representation. All political parties have a marginal female membership as well as a small representation in the managing bodies of the parties. Yet, the People's General Congress came up with a novel approach in terms of enhancing female visibility in the party activities. Instead of asking women to compete with men in all departments, the PGC set up a women's section which becomes a launching platform for aspirant female members of the party. From the women's department, it has become possible to breed a new generation of women who are taking on the party.

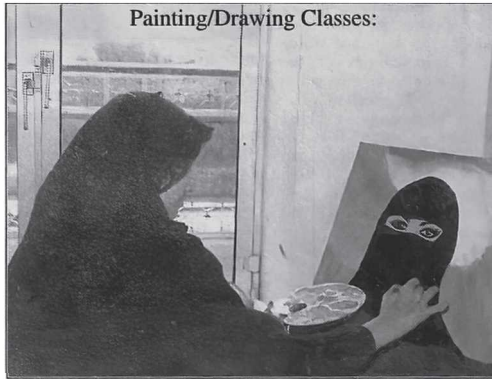
In the recent PGC general congress, female presence and clamoring was clear. At the end, they did get a 12% representation in the Permanent Committee, well in line with what the women represent in terms of membership in the party.

Yemen Times opens up the file of Yemeni women in politics with this interview by Salwa Al-Sanabani, Social Editor, with an active female PGC member. Other articles will follow.

Ms. Amatal-Latif Ahmed Miyad is a member of the Permanent Committee of the PGC. She is in charge of Sector Three in the Women's Department of the PGC Party. She got a BA degree in 1984 from Sanaa University's College of Economics. Ms. Miyad's full-time work is Deputy Headmaster of a Girls' school in Sanaa.



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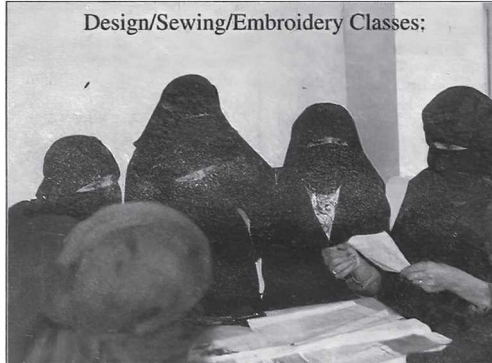
Q: How do you assess women's participation in the 5th General congress, and the elections in the PGC bodies?

A: The fifth General Congress of the PGC aimed to push towards the new Yemen. Men and women from all walks and classes - over 5,000 in total - met for five days to discuss various issues relating to the future, and our vision of it. We also discussed the role of PGC in such an evolution and our interaction with other forces in society. We also discussed the importance of women's role and their full participation and contribution to the betterment and progress of Yemen.

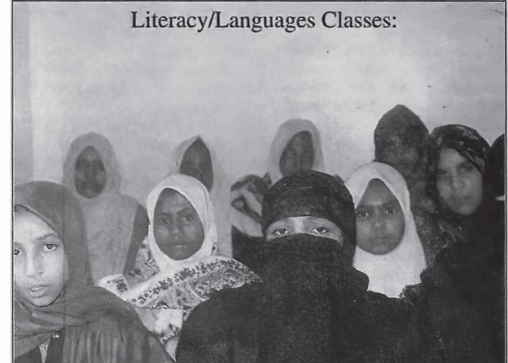
Let me say that while on the one hand we demand an equal footing with men, we also demand that a special privilege be given to men in order to make up for the disadvantage with which we are starting. I think, to some degree or another, we achieve both in the 5th Congress.

Q: You are responsible for Sector Three in the PGC's efforts towards women. What does that mean, and what do you do?

A: You may know that the PGC has set up many many sectors around development centers. These are aimed at helping women improve their living standards. It is also, of course, a recruitment point for the party. Center 3, as many women call it,



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has become a focal gathering point for many women in Sanaa. It is a combination of a recreation facility as well as a school. Women, even those who are not PGC members, come here to spend time and exchange ideas. We also provide training in various fields such as sewing, knitting, embroidery, drawing, painting, etc. Finally, we offer literacy courses for those women who are illiterate or semi-illiterate. We also offer English language course for students.

Q: Does your party encourage women to join political parties?

A: Yes, and here I would like to ensure that the PGC is the right place for women.

Q: But men still dictate key decisions?

A: This is a reality, not only in Yemen, but all over the world. I do not think it changing much in the foreseeable future.

Having said that, let me insist that whatever little progress is made here and there, is crucial for the proper evolution of our society. It is in this light that I see the limited progress that was achieved in the 5th general congress of the PGC. I believe the next elections will offer still more progress.

Men must realize the importance of women's role in society. If more men could see that women can contribute enormously in all fields and at all levels, there will not be resistance to their participation in public life.

Unfortunately, no matter what women do, they always face some men who insist that a woman place is at home. Even more damaging is their pretence that their position is based on Islamic teachings. As everybody knows, Islam has not created a society of different classes of citizens. Women were involved in trade, war, etc. in Islam.

Q: Do you really feel women can make a difference in politics?

A: All I know is that we must continue to press ahead. After all, women can vote and can run for public post. We can work towards alliances in terms of exchanging support. I hope that the PGC will open up this long road.

The only way the women of Yemen can make progress is through education. So I feel lucky that I can work on this at two fronts - the school and the center. In both I try hard to make the young girls see that education is their vehicle towards a fuller life.

We hereby repeat this advertisement in its corrected version

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on the occasion of his election as chairman of the Yemeni Chartered Accountants Society.

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

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Mohammed Dirhem Zaid,
Ibrahim Yahia Al-Kibsi,
Hassan Ali Al-Dailamy,
Foad Saed 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,
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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

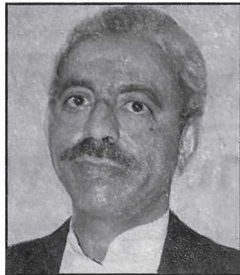
Kuwait: 5 Years After

Five years ago, Saddam Hussein's dream of Greater Iraq started and failed at the same time as his armor rolled through every street and alleyway of that small city state that lived in serenity and wealth, yet without being able to guard it. Little did the modern sheikdom, that had accumulated a great knowledge on international high finance know that international power politics was taking a turn that was to make it the first victim of a new world order. August 2, 1990, was a memorable day for Kuwait and those who were able to thrive from its wealth. It was the day when neighbors forgot how to be neighbors and friends forgot the meanings of friendship.

It was the day when roles were assigned to states, notwithstanding the end results that was to come out of those roles. It was the day when petro-dollars were earmarked to go back to their former owners in the largest mercenary effort ever organized in history. It was the day when the largest war contract was tendered out under the guise of international legitimacy. It was the day that petroleum users made it clear that what lies beneath the desert grounds falls under the control of the users, and let nobody have any second thoughts about it.

Saddam Hussein's mighty display of power against a state defended by a police force showed that realities of the cold war had lost their meaning in a new world order that has not made up its mind what kind of realities to go by. It is not enough to be neutral and peace-loving, as Kuwait was, as long as the bordering state has the incurable war itch that operates on the whims of a dictator who overestimates his own strength, on the basis of a weak assessment of the victim (as was the case with Iran) or the regional and international implications (as was the case with Kuwait). Many analysts wonder if Saddam Hussein fell into a trap set up for him so that the West can create new regional realities in the Middle East that it has been planning for some time. The new realities include:

- 1- Provide a justification for a permanent military presence for the West in the Gulf area.
- 2- Knock out the military tonnage of Saddam Hussein to maintain a balance that is less frightening to Israel first, and to the petro Sheikdom neighbors, second.
- 3- Weaken the significant role of the petro-dollars in the international investment markets, by taking Kuwait out of it. It will be noted that Kuwait has played the most shrewd role,



until its income from such investments reached half of its total GNP. It has since auctioned off a lot of its overseas assets.

The effort also led to re-absorbing the large foreign reserves accumulated by such countries like Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E, which could bring havoc to the Western money markets if large movements of those assets was ever decided upon by the owners. Since the war, the net foreign position of those countries have fallen to less than 40%.

The end of Saddam's adventure in Kuwait was catastrophic for Iraq and Kuwait, and many of their neighbors. An infrastructure that had taken thirty years to build was completely knocked out. It is impossible to get a full valuation of this destruction, but in present day prices a \$ 300 billion figure could still be an underestimation.

In addition, Iraq lost its regional power position and thus terminated Saddam Hussein's ability to affect the course of events in the area, which may have relieved most of his neighbors.

Kuwait lost its role as an important player in the international money market and lost

a sizable chunk of its pre-invasion assets, and had to invest into a high leverage position in order to put back its oil wells into feasible production again.

Saudi Arabia was also a major loser. Once steadfast financial bastion that boasted accumulated reserves of several hundred billion (some of which was already eaten up by Saddam's previous failed adventure with Iran). Saudi Arabia also suffered from the point of international politics. Though operation Desert Shield carried with it international legitimacy, the entry of 500,000 troops to the heart of Arabia damaged the stature of Saudi Arabia as the guardian of the Holy Land of Islam, especially among the masses of Muslims in Saudi Arabia and throughout the world. It has also given its internal fundamentalist an ammunition with which to hit the regime.

Moreover, its ability to influence regional and international issues has declined due to the loss of its strong financial position and due to its continued reliance on protection from the West. The other states in the region that suffered included the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, which also had to put up a good share of the cost of Operation Desert Shield, whether they wanted to or not.

But from a human and personal point of view, the biggest losers were Yemen, Jordan and the Palestinians.

The Yemenis lost the backbone of the economy - its guest laborers in the Gulf were forced to return as a result of the misguided, or unclear, position of the government of

Yemen. In addition, Yemen lost the large amount of financial support which the Gulf states used to provide it with, both for current fiscal needs and long term development project finance. Jordan was also a loser, but the Jordanians, given their leadership and their ability to adjust quickly, were able to keep this loss to a minimum. The Palestinians also lost a lot, but again here, the breakthrough in the Middle East peace process has eased the difficulties. In addition, the highly skilled and hard-working Palestinians found many acceptable alternatives.

On Yemeni - Kuwaiti Relationship:

It is not difficult to understand the shock the Kuwaitis felt because of the somewhat cool attitude taken of the Yemeni government vis-a-vis the invasion of Iraq five years ago. The Kuwaiti policy towards Yemen since 1962 was not governed by ambition or interest. It was friendship more than anything else that drove the Kuwaitis to Yemen in the days when the young Yemeni Republic was looking for the faintest hint of friendship from any of its neighbors in the Peninsula. The Kuwaitis gave the Yemenis their first university, which it continued to expand and support until that fateful day of 2nd August 1990. It gave Yemen its first modern hospital, which it also continued to support until that day. It participated in the financing of many of the basic infrastructural projects like electricity, water, etc. It strongly backed all the efforts towards re-unification

of Yemen and sponsored some of the negotiations leading to the Unification Agreement of 30 November 1989. The Kuwaitis were also very responsive to Yemen's investment calls by joining as partners in public and private projects that lead to the establishment of the country's first five-star hotel (Sheraton), residential complexes, a bank, a modern office complex, and the first modern movie house complex. The Kuwaiti enthusiasm for investment in Yemen was unlimited, until the bureaucratic environment stopped it.

Kuwaiti assistance was also significant in the southern part of the country (The former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen). They gave generous assistance in higher education, health projects, etc. Again, this assistance was for friendship's sake, for goodwill and no strings attached.

Five years has passed and Kuwait has been able to get over a lot of the problems brought on by the invasion of 500,000 Iraqi troops of the small defenseless country. A lot of people have paid a heavy price for this blunder, and the Yemeni people have more than paid for the blunder of their leaders. The Yemeni people are eager to regain the friendship and brotherly relations with the Kuwaiti people. Our government is also more than happy to let bygones be bygones and start over again. If only for the sake of friendship and nothing else. That is really all that matters in the end.

But of course, friends are to behave as friends, especially in times of need. The question is, "Have our politicians learned the lesson?"

A Serious Undertaking to Blow up the Home of an Opposition Political Figure

Last week witnessed the execution of a major effort to blow up the home of Mr. Ibrahim Ibn Mohammed Al-Wazeer, leader of the Islamic Work Movement party, an opposition political party, and publisher of Al-Balagh newspaper. The perpetrators fled after they accidentally set off one of the devices, making a big hole in the wall of the house. They left behind some six kilograms of explosive material and over 100 sticks of dynamite (pictures).

"This kind of undertaking is too big for any individual or group to carry out," Mr. Al-Wazeer said. He also disclosed to the Yemen Times that he has contacted President Ali Abdullah Saleh by telephone asking for an explanation to this. "The President told me to contact the Ministry of Interior and find out who is behind it. But I told him it is up to him (the president) to do tell me if I am welcome and safe in this country or not," he said.

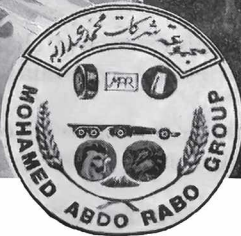
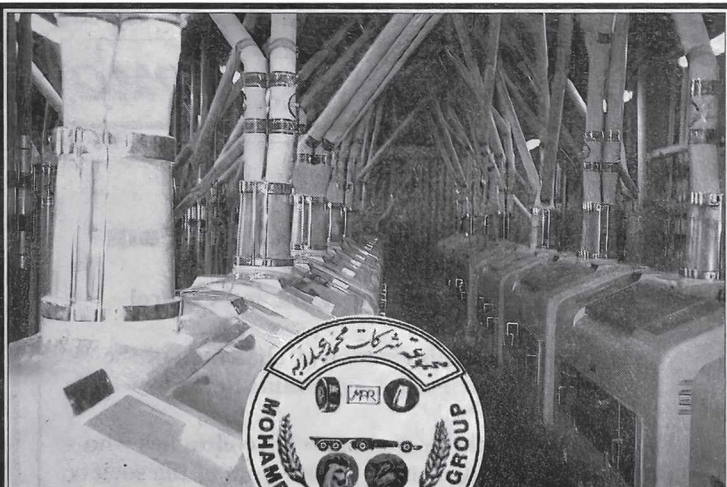
The Investigations officer who went to the site, some thirty kilometers in the eastern suburbs of Sanaa, were baffled by the size of the operation. Yet, the authorities have been unable, up to date, to apprehend anybody. Mr. Al-Wazeer, a religious scholar and a well-respected public figure, is



understood to be at odds with the President. He has frequently come out against the state and its policies. During the civil war, Mr. Al-

Wazeer, spent most of the time in Aden, and has since lived in a voluntary exile. He came back to the country only two weeks ago after repeated assu-

rances by the President. "This is a nice sort of welcome. I did not expect it and I don't want it," he said. The investigations continue.



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الخرطوم: ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تيلكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكس: ٧٤٥٦١
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“Streamlining the Bureaucracy Is Urgently Needed.”



Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarib is the senior-most advisor at the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform. He was recently elected as chairman of the Yemeni Chapter of the European Marketing and Development Association based in London, and elected as member in the Administrative committee of the Arab Management Association based in Cairo. Dr. Al-Tarib had worked in many leading positions in government. He also advised many local, regional and international corporations as well as international organizations. Finally, he lectures in many colleges, universities and research centers. Ms. Fatma Yassin Al-Azzany of Yemen Times interviewed him concerning the present administrative and economic issues of Yemen.

Q: How do you assess the economic conditions in Yemen today?
A: To be frank, the economic conditions in Yemen need a revolution. New blood has to be brought in to participate in the reform and modernization process. Similar to the political revolution we had in defeating the secessionist forces, we now

need an economic and management revolution. The Yemeni economy needs to break the **stagflation** (stagnation coupled with inflation) that has held a grip of us in the recent past. Mismanagement, corruption and sheer neglect and carelessness have left a negative impact on our development. Corruption and law-breaking are taking their toll on the economy.

Q: But what can be done to help the situation?
A: Implementation of administrative decentralization will lead to major benefits in all governorates. Good planning, timely and implementation and proper monitoring are integral and basic components of the management process. We do not have any of these. Mind you, and we are almost in the 21st century. Economic development also depends on security and stability. Investors should feel their assets are safe. Unless the rule of law prevails, very little can be done to encourage investment. There is another important factor. Under the pretext of control, many people dip their fingers into economic activities simply because they want to share in the pie without having earned it. We

need to free business from bureaucratic meddling and cumbersome paperwork. Finally, we must push ahead with the privatization process. But this has to be done with complete transparency and according to the book. I suspect much corruption and favoritism could enter the picture.

Q: Investment in the free zone. Why is it stuck?
A: One of the key factors in an investment decision is trust. Investors have trouble trusting our rules and whether we are serious in apply them, they have trouble trusting the decency and character of the persons in charge. I am not trying to blame any one. I am just stating the facts as I see them. The gap between what our officials say and what they do is so enormous, that what they say and the rules they enact become almost irrelevant. We have to work on the credibility of the system. The investment law has many advantages on paper, but requires more credibility. Then there are practical problems like multiple responsibilities and authorities charged with the free zone. There are also infrastructural limitations. In short, we really are not ready for the free zone job. I believe the liberation of Aden harbor is a first step in the right direction. But even this, we have been unable to accomplish.

Q: What could the European Marketing and Development Association - Yemen Chapter - do in assisting in all of this?
A: To start with, no one is asking for our help, or for any professional help, for that matter. We could help the government by encouraging investors to grab the opportunities in Yemen. I have received many inquiries from potential investors. What we do is send to them a copy of the investment law and ask them to come and visits to explore the opportunities. But this requires linking up with the relevant authorities and working in close coordination with them.

Q: What exactly does the Arab Management Association do?
A: This Association was established last year. It assists Arab corporations and companies by providing expert opinion and advice. It is a think-tank. It aims to play a major role in the management field, because this is where the problem is. Some countries have already taken a lead in this effort. Egypt, for example, has started to build a data base center to assist leaders in


industry, finance, banking and commerce. Many Arab countries adopted specialized programs in management development, in order to keep up with innovations and reform.

Q: The situation with Yemen's private and public sectors is in flux. How do you view the mix between the two?
A: Both sectors co-exist in almost all countries of the world. So, we should not think of a sit-

uation in which one is excluded at the expense of the other.


We should think of optimality, and which is more efficient at which business.

Q: Any last comments?
A: I think Yemen can secure a good development prospect provided we can streamline the bureaucracy. I can't over-emphasize this matter. It is a must and it is urgent.




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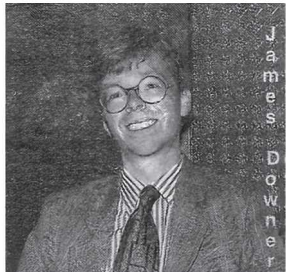
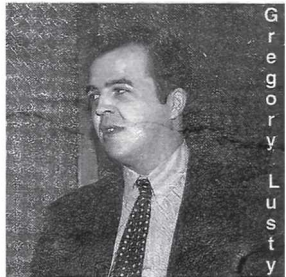
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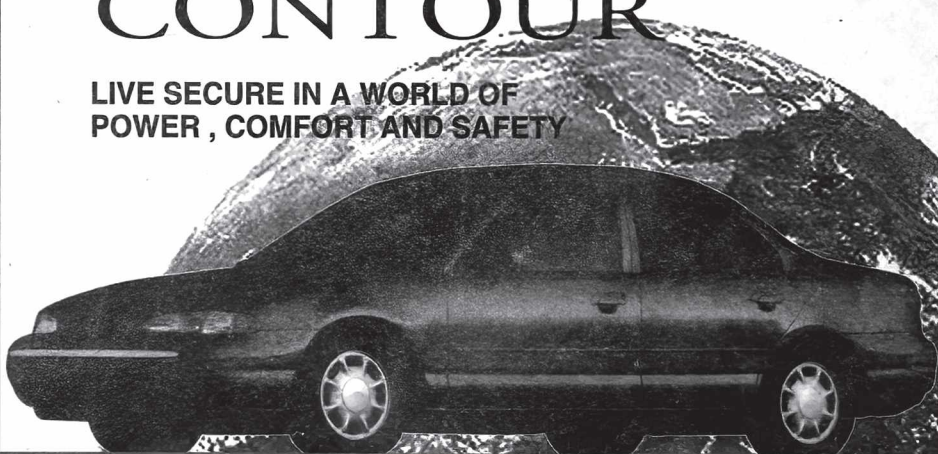
New 2nd Secretary at UK Embassy

Gregory Lusty, 2nd Secretary at the British Embassy is leaving Sana'a this week, after four months of service. He came on a temporary basis. Mr. Lusty is on his way to Amman, Jordan. "I had known Yemea in 1989. I was a student of Arabic at Sana'a University. My first experience was so good that when they asked to come a temporary replacement I kimped on the opportunity," he said. Mr. Lusty had also served as the Yemen Desk Officer in the Foreign Office from January 1992 till the middle of 1993. Mr. James Downer is the new 2nd Secretary of the British Embassy. "I am just settling in and I hope to be able to interact well," he said. Interact well, he is doing. The word in town is that he is fast becoming a professional qat chewer. "I am getting used to it."




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Women Are Violated in the Most Savage of Ways at the Sanaa Women's Prison

The Hell Called Women's Prison

By: Sarah Abdullah Hassan,
Intern Journalist, Yemen Times

I really did not know the way to the Sanaa Central Prison, which has a section for women. My companion and I asked for assistance as we walked towards this mysterious place. We were lucky to meet an employee of the prison administration, who took us right to where we wanted to go.

The prison walls stood high and lofty defying any efforts by the inmates to escape. Inside, I knew there were lots of stories - all with a sad ending, for they represent a waste in human time and feelings. There are many stories written about inmates and prison conditions. I felt, however, there was room for more to be written. I was right.

After a short tour of the prison compound, we walked to the women's ward. The supervisor started screaming at us. "The press is always trying to make us look bad. They always report bad things. We don't want the press," she yelled. We explained that we were researchers from Sanaa University, not journalists. She was a little bit pacified.

As I walked through a narrow pathway, the smell hit me. It was awful. I was also surprised by the number of children inside prison. There were 35 infants and children along with the 87 female inmates. In the whole prison, there are some 2400 prisoners.

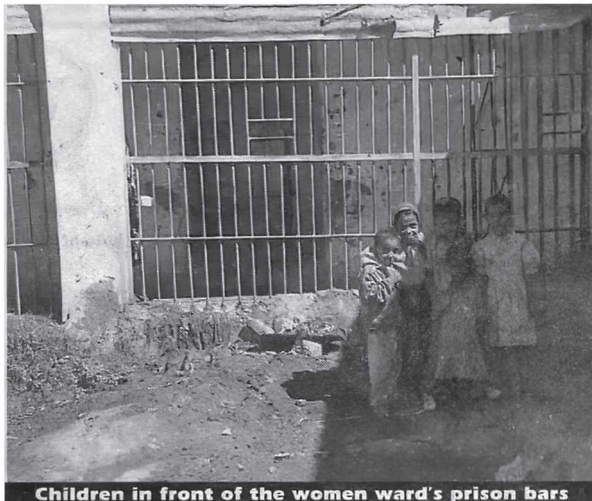
My impressions of women in prison was dramatically changed the more I visited them. In all, I made five six-hour visits. They are not the violent, ruthless and even crazy persons I imagined. The inmates at the Women's Ward were gentle and even cultured.

The facts we have uncovered are disturbing, to say the least. Inside those high walls is hell, in the true sense of the word.

Many innocent women, as well as men, are behind bars. They are unable to do much to help themselves.

Before I go over the details of some of the cases, let me outline some of the basic demands of the female prisoners:

1. That the officer in charge of the female ward be a woman, and not a man as is the case now.
2. That the dreaded night interrogations be terminated. Inmates, kept until late into the night for "interrogation" are molested. Officers bring out some female inmates under the pretext of interrogation. During the interrogation, the inmate is forced into sexual relations. Some inmates have by now accepted this fate.
3. The women demand that if they complete serving their sentences, they should be released, irrespective of whether a male relative comes to claim them or not.
4. There must be a kindergarten for the infants and children.
5. There must be a medical care unit attached to the women's ward.



Children in front of the women ward's prison bars

Mona: Victim of a Broken Family and a Bad System:

In one of the rooms, we met Mona, 17, a woman from Aden. Although she tries to put on a laugh, you can see she is easily irritated. Her parents are both medical doctors.

Four years ago, her mother went to serve in Sa'adah. The father remarried, and thus started the troubles of Mona and her brother. One day early this year, her father had to travel to Cairo. Mona asked her father not to leave her with her step-mother, but to take her to mother in Sa'adah. He refused. Mona could not bear the abuse of her step-mother, and decided to run away in search of her mother. A friend who was travelling to Sanaa, agreed to accompany her. She was in the second secondary year, was arrested.

At the bus station in Sanaa, Mona, was accused of stealing YR 10,000. Some 'police' officers took her to the Investigations Office. She was searched. There was no money. Soon, Mona, outspoken as she is, demanded to be taken to the Prosecution Office. The Prosecution Office sent her to prison on a temporary basis until the case is resolved. There, she remained for six months.

After six months, she was brought in front of a judge, because that is how long it took to process the papers. (By the way, the Vice Manager of the Sanaa Central Prison says there are some 800 prisoners who are in prison on a temporary basis as ordered by the Prosecution Office).

In court, the prosecution office, which was under pressure for having thrown an innocent girl in jail for six months, changed the accusation. This time, Mona was accused of adultery. The girl gasped, and she

yelled, "I am virgin. How can they say that?" Here the judge decided that it was necessary to determine whether Mona was virgin or not. Because if she was, then she could not have committed adultery. One of the lawyers had a suggestion. He volunteered to marry Mona, and to thus tell the court if she were virgin or not. A marriage contract was worked out, and the lawyer was given a room inside the prison to find out the truth. It all sounds out of this world.

The lawyer then reported that it was true Mona was a virgin. But the judge refused to accept the lawyer's testimony and sent Mona to jail on adultery charge. According to her, the judge even insulted her and the communists of Aden "who are rather liberal with their sexual relations." "I felt insulted and humiliated. I did not feel there was a fair treatment." She tried to kill herself three times. Her suicide efforts were not successful. In my fifth visit, she sounded even worse than ever. Her 'husband' lawyer has long gone by now, having satisfied his desires. "My life has been destroyed! Even if I get out, there is no meaning."



What am I doing in prison?

Inmates Are Forced into Sexual Relations by Officers during dreaded Night 'Interrogations'.

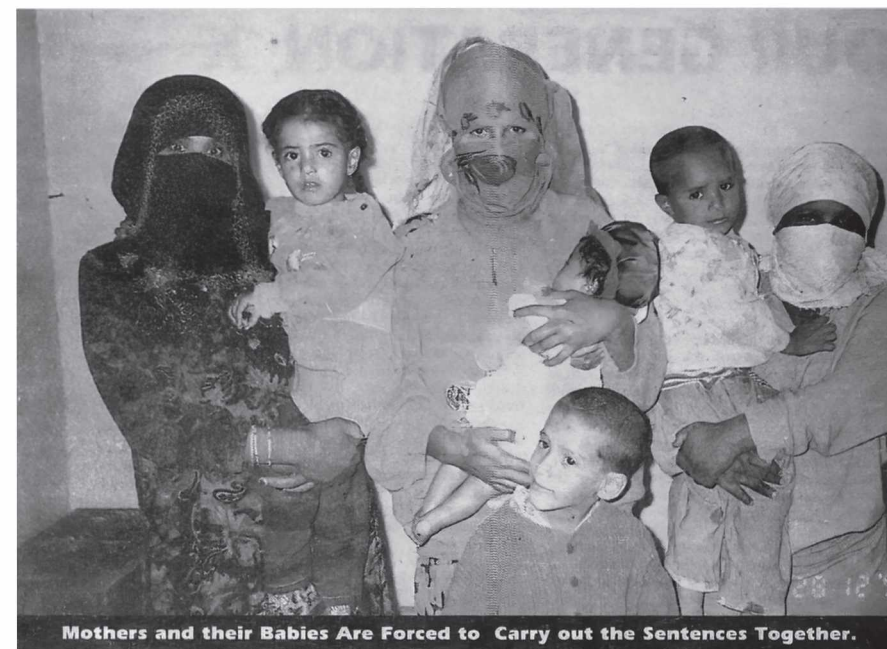
Children Are Born and Raised in Prison because their Mothers Happen to Be There.

Before visits by Human Rights Groups, the prison is cleaned, and food supplies are improved.

The Prison Manager Says His Men Only Beat up the Women when They Do not Do as They Are Told.

Inmates who have Completed their Sentences Are unable to Leave because no Male Relatives Come to 'Claim' Them.

Inmates Are Deposited in Prison by Male Relatives without a Court Order. Only 18 Inmates Are Court Sentenced.



Mothers and their Babies Are Forced to Carry out the Sentences Together.

Najwa Meets the Person She Was Found Guilty of killing:

Haifa, 17, is a charming young woman. She was married off at an early age, and her husband's family have been hassling her. Fed up with this life, she ran away to her aunt in Aden, where she remained for nine months.

When her family could not trace Haifa, they accused one of her close friends, Najwa, 18, of having murdered her and done away with the body. Najwa was found guilty and sentenced to jail.

After some time, Haifa returned to Sanaa, and stayed in the house of an old woman, who was an old acquaintance of the family. The police, accidentally raided that house, because the old woman was suspected of opening a whore house. Haifa, who was found in the house at the time, was carried off to prison.

In prison, Haifa met her friend, Najwa. "I asked her, why are in for?" She replied, "I am guilty of having killed you."

Unbelievable as this story may sound, its full record are in the prison records. Najwa was quickly married off from prison by the authorities because, by accident, the person she was supposed to have killed, Haifa, showed up in person. A Sudanese teacher who learned about the case volunteered to marry her, and the prison officers arranged everything.

Do you think there is any compensation for her? She is just glad to be out of that hell house. As Haifa fought for her friend, and secured her release, she herself was framed with a charge that was originally labelled on the old woman. Haifa is now accused of running a whore house. She remains in prison for eight months, without trial, as yet.

Amina: The Longest Visitor of the Prison:

Mrs. Amina is a very old woman. She is a widower with a daughter and son.

Amina was fighting hard to get her daughter from prison. "I do not know why they took away my daughter. They simply put her in

prison. There are no charges. No court sentence," she cried.

One day, her son told her that he will take her to visit her daughter (his, sister). She was very happy. They went together. But, her son and some of his friends simply put her in jail with the daughter and left her there.

"Now I know why my daughter is here. Now I know who is behind it all. My son wants sole and full use of the family house. So he has gotten rid of me and my daughter," the mother says.

The daughter does not say a word. She is quiet and oblivious to everything and everybody. She simply looks into the horizon and sits for hours without saying anything.

F. Al-Haj: Did She Really Sell Her baby?

F. Al-Haj is in prison because she is accused of adultery. When she was apprehended, she was pregnant. Five months ago, she gave birth to a little boy. She could not care for the baby, and there was pressure on her to relinquish him to a parent who would care for him. The prison authorities brought a certain Mr. Al-Moshiky who wanted a baby. They told her she could use the proceeds from the deal to care for herself and even buy her way out of prison.

It is now three months since they collected the baby. She received nothing and does not know where the baby or Al-Moshiky are.

Interview with the Prison General Manager: Colenel Abdullah Ali Rabih:

Q1: Why can't you do anything about the rash and other skin diseases that prevail in the prison?
A: Oh this is a temporary thing, and we will address it immediately.

Q2: Why do you beat up the female inmates?
A: Oh we only beat them up when these women do not do as they are told.

Q3: Why do you accept prisoners deposited by relatives or influential persons? Of the 87 female inmates, for example, only 18 have come to you through the proper channels (courts)?
A: We have decided to stop this practice. I hope we can bring an end to this phenomenon.

Q4: Night-time interrogations are a weird phenomenon?
A: We are trying to stop this needless exercise.

Q5: Why are the children here?
A: There are not asylums for children. So what do we do? There is not alternative. Actually, some children have died because of malnutrition and various diseases.

Q6: The food is bad?
A: We are working under the limitation of the resources.



Fatma: He Pushed Me into Killing Him:

At one of the corners of the prison stood Fatma, a thin, badly undernourished woman, who is barely 20 years old. She was another victim of crazy social values.

The story started when Fatma's mother was consistently rebuking a neighboring family whose young daughter became pregnant, and ran away to avoid the shame.

The neighbors wanted to get even,

OUR GENERATION 'X'

The idea of naming a decade after a mood, an ideal, or an attitude it represented is not a novelty: The Roaring Twenties really did roar, and the Swinging Sixties most definitely did swing. The Eighties (or rather the Materialistic Eighties), was a time where visions of an economic utopia promoted the idea that money was everything. Nobody put it better or more eloquently than Madonna when she stopped working on her chocolate soup briefly enough to shrug her shoulders and sigh "Hey, living in a material world and I am a material girl."

Yes, so it is not very intellectual but intellect wasn't exactly a characteristic of the Eighties, was it? Now we are in the Nineties. A decade characterized by an unpredictably poised world political scene. It is the end of a polarity that kept the world's balance of power intact due to the fall of Communism. The Cold War is over, but the world atmosphere is still cold, dreary, and elusive. Whether it is called the Nihilistic Nineties, the New Middle Ages, or the Age of Endarkment, the epithets are all words describing the same thing. The moodboard is obviously negative and gloomy. The palette, a variation of the color grey. The philosophy: Nothing matters, never mind, who cares. As the gap between the richer and the poorer grows, so does the increased feeling of alienation and mistrust towards world governments. The Nineties also witnessed the fall of the ideal, as symbolized by the End of Communism. This was followed by civil wars, famines, and acts of ethnic cleansing.

Add to that recession, unemployment, a bit of Neo-Nazism and a little terrorism and you wonder, why, just why is everybody depressed. These are all factors that have sculptured the present generation in the West. And not just the West but the rest of the world as commented upon by the media, the press, the politicians, the musicians, and even fashion designers. It is a big deal and it does deserve the attention and coverage it received (in the West) because we are talking about a generation. Whether you look at them as humans, an investment, or even as an asset you can't argue with the concept that, at the national level, implementation of reform doesn't depend solely on political and economic issues. You also have to give serious thought to whom you'll be passing this on to. The most effective method of reform, and the quickest, is by bringing up an educated, progressive youth that'll pick up where the others left off and improve on the shortcomings.

So just how is the present generation in Yemen progressing, or is it? Naturally, the first clue is to look at the environment that surrounds this age group. It must be said that this age group was born during an age of economic and political boom. A time when Yemen was still a raw, fresh frontier yet to be discovered and exploited. Hopes and expectations were very high. Yemen was supported and encouraged, not only by Western nations, but by all neighboring Arab countries, particularly Kuwait, which participated in building hospitals, schools, uni-

versities, roads, cinemas, and complexes. Saudis gave Yemeni immigrant laborers in Saudi Arabia the privilege of working there permit-free. Foreign interest in the region was tremendous. Houses and gas-stations mushroomed all over the country. At that moment in time, everything seemed great and things could only get better. So it seemed.

Today, it appears to be a period of Yemeni history very much removed and detached from the present day's reality. Inflation, scarcity, and 50% unemployment are the realities of today. Resignation, despair and numbness are the words du jour. These are just the indirect factors that exist.

What about the more direct influences such as education, hobbies, sports, extracurricular activities, freedom of expression (in all forms and guises, whether it is how they choose to dress or spend their free time), and the availability of alternatives? These are things that all come together in the making of wholesome, constructive citizens with varied abilities and accomplishments, so what about them? Well, the answer is simple: There is hardly anything on offer to make anything out of. "From home to school and back again," said one student recently completed high school. On an enquiry about what he got out of high school, he shrewdly said, "We learned to read and write." "So are you going on to Sana'a University?" I asked. "I already told you I can read and write," he replied with a straight face.

So much for the educational system. I guess. Already a fundamental flaw that stunts the growth and development of the Yemeni youth is noted: Yemen's education policy is faulty. Quality isn't the only issue - it seems that there isn't room for all students in the first place. Rumor has it that starting with the class of 1994, high school graduates won't be needed to do military service or join University, and above all, they will not be guaranteed jobs in the public sector.

In a country where there is nothing else to do, things could get rather boring after a while. Things do look dismal for the young Yemenis. However, they seem to take it well, callously well, almost with a pinch of salt. Or are they? The problem seems to be one of expression. Maybe because freedom of expression is something new, or maybe it is just sheer paranoia. "What? You want me to criticize the government? We are talking about the government here." I wanted to explain that it wasn't my intent to hang up the government's dirty laundry, I am trying to find out how the land lies, and maybe see if we could do something for ourselves instead of waiting for someone to do it for us. They laughed me out of the cafeteria. Many could not see any point to what I was doing. Some were almost worried that I was taking myself seriously. They were funny, very funny.

Jokes and laughter punctuated every sentence. It was a sarcastic, cynical kind of jest used by people trying to escape reality, but one can sense bitterness



and pain in between the lines. One group I met was a bunch of young men in their early twenties doing their final stretch of the military service. I was interested to know what they will do when the are done. It wasn't easy. They were all very hungry, and weren't up to talking. As we ate, I asked one of them of his aspirations. "I would like a good future or something." I couldn't argue with that. Another one said, "I would like to have lunch everyday, and Qat every Thursday." That is the plan of the future. Qat, it seems, is the solution to everything. Largely because there is nothing else and they probably can't think of anything else. Free time is completely occupied by qat sessions, as a means of ventilating anger and frustration in the safety of the homes. Another said, almost apologetically, "We are not stupid. We need guidance to bring out what is in us. Give us a chance. Give us options." I had a final question. A person lives only once and he/she has one shot at being happy. If they are not happy what are they going to do about it. I wasn't necessarily asking them to overthrow the government or anything. I was thinking more in terms of small changes in everyday life. Changes that are possible in this reality (and about overthrowing governments, well, where is the alternative? The Devil you know...). Anyway, their replies were simple and representative of the lower income bracket of the Yemeni social strata. The large low-income class that is getting bigger and poorer. Just look some of their answers:

"Nothing." "One hand does not clap." "I eat, I sleep, and I'll marry into my father's house. What

more can I want?" "No connections, no future." That was the general picture. They are poor, they are unaware, and they don't care. So I guess everybody is happy. The only option, however dismal, is to flee the country to live abroad, even if they work for peanuts.

What is distressing is that these are the majority of the Yemeni population. The ones who never went to private schools, never drove fourwheel cars, nor watched satellite TV, or went abroad. What am I saying? They even don't have a basic education. It is a tremendous resource laid utterly to putrid waste. So who of the present generation could lead Yemen into the 21st century? The answer is simple. I don't know.

Three-quarters (if not more) are already rendered incapable. The majority is void of visionaries, of people who care and want to make a difference. The only sentiment it seems, besides nihilism, is that of survival, and of that there are two varieties: those who want to barely make it and those who want to stay on top. So if one can reach conclusion based on what is deducted from the situation one can say: there doesn't seem to be much help for these generation or this country in the foreseeable future. It seems that this generation will wear itself out trying to etch a day to day existence. So what to do? I don't know. How do we solve it and where do we begin? I don't know. It's like a sinking ship and every one seems to be on his own.

By: Shafee' Taher,
Intern at Yemen Times.



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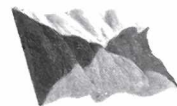
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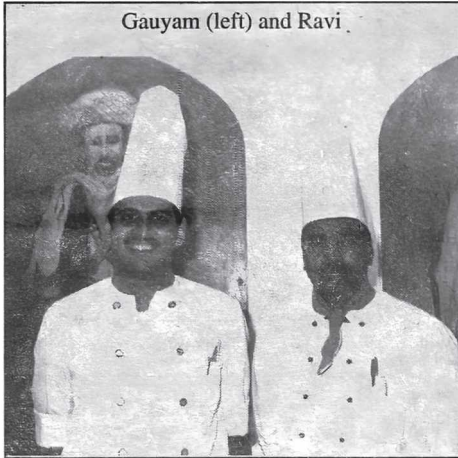
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Taj Sheba: A New Chef Takes Over

Many people have come to know Ravindran, or at least they have known his cooking. Ravi, as his friends call him, has been at it since 1973. The Taj Sheba Hotel management is very happy for the contribution he made to the hotel's cuisine. He is leaving behind a legacy.



Gauyam (left) and Ravi

The new Executive Chef at the Taj is Gauyam Narayan. He too is an old hand in the business. But Gauyam brings with him a special touch - he specializes in south-east Asian dishes. In addition to the Indian cuisine, he is well versed with the Thai, Singaporean, Malay, Indonesian, Vietnamese and Burmese food.

Then he spread his wings to cover Mexican, Scandinavian and German cuisines. Now he is eager to learn about Middle East cooking. "I would like to start with the traditional Yemeni dishes, and expand to cover the region," he said.

So what is new at the Taj Sheba cuisine itself. Gauyam promises sumptuous meals, first from south and south-east Asia, and then moving to other dishes.

The Ethiopian economy is gradually getting back to full gear, following years of deterioration. Investment levels have picked up as the GDP started showing signs of recovery. Similar signs of recovery are also visible in the export sector.

Both in terms of volume and value, total exports have bounced back to the levels of the earlier part of this decade - as the table below indicates.

According to observers, the recent elections and the subsequent relative stability and the highly decentralized system of government will allow output to increase and help export potential. "At the very least, the trade balance will improve because local production will replace imports. But we also look forward to increased exports over the next few years," explained a government official.

At the mineral excavation and oil exploration level, the results, so far, have been disappointing. From the preliminary results, it does not look that this sector will play a major role in the near future. That may just be as well. It will motivate the population to focus on the traditional sectors in which the country enjoys comparative advantage.

Ethiopian Exports Bounce Back

Ethiopian Exports in US Dollars

Commodity	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
A. TRADITIONAL EXPORTS					
- Coffee	131,508	116,231	137,621	107,740	165,488
- Hides & Skins	60,775	25,067	41,407	27,066	50,833
- Chat (qat/kat)	8,893	3,773	15,039	15,641	24,993
- Oilseeds	2,476	1,157	386	235	9,854
- Pulses	20,897	1,755	1,204	1,620	10,639
- Live Animals	4,825	690	50	810	1,675
- Meat & Meat Products	393	256	9	77	1,400
- Spices	1,359	915	685	172	5,223
Total	231,129	149,849	196,404	153,364	270,108
B. NON-TRADITIONAL					
- Fruit & Vegetables	6,339	5,472	2,721	2,543	1,797
- Natural Gums	799	676	241	600	2,048
- Civet	454	7	335	74	350
- Beeswax	704	0	642	675	852
- Sugar	1,765	1,772	2,079	4,136	2,477
- Oleoresins	6,956	5,314	2,318	560	2,288
- Leather Prodsusts	588	385	464	44	450
- Textile	4,087	2,485	1,395	537	640
Total	37,583	16,111	10,195	9,169	10,788
C. OTHER EXPORTS					
- Petroleum & Products	20,504	1,277	16,879	6,683	15,470
- Others	7,309	21,978	29,217	1,624	3,672
GRAND TOTAL	296,526	189,215	252,695	170,840	300,038

Source: Export Technical Committee Report, Addis Ababa, 1995.

CONQUERING LEPROSY - THE REGION MAKES PROGRESS

Just one year after the historic Declaration of Hanoi, when the international community pledged to eliminate leprosy as a public health problem by the year 2000, the world is still on track to achieve this goal. The WHO Leprosy Elimination Advisory Group (LEAG), which met at WHO's Geneva headquarters on 12 - 13 July 1995, did not underestimate the problems that still remain to be resolved but expressed confidence that - given the political will and financial resources - mankind can win this battle. The latest figures released by WHO show that the registered prevalence of leprosy worldwide has been reduced by a further 23% over the past year, thanks to steadily advancing coverage with multi-drug therapy (MDT).

The Chairman of the meeting, Professor M. F. Lechat of the Belgian Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, warned that although great progress had been made and all the necessary components were in place, "we cannot claim victory in advance". He went on: "I see dangers ahead as we reach cruising speed. There is a great risk that leprosy workers, governments, non governmental organizations and even a changing WHO will gradually lose interest. It needs a continual stimulus to keep and increase the momentum for some years to come". Ensuring that efforts were not relaxed

lay in the hands of this Advisory Group, he added.

The LEAG, with 15 members and 11 co-opted experts and institutions, considered the global leprosy situation and examined closely several of the countries where leprosy is endemic. Dr S. K. Noordeen, Director of the WHO Action Program for the Elimination of Leprosy, told the participants that the principal problems that lie ahead are: reaching difficult-to-access areas and populations; tackling very high endemic areas with "pockets" of leprosy cases; maintaining commitment - whether politically, professionally or in terms of resources; and maintaining sustainability and expertise in the field.

Supply of the drugs needed for making MDT available to those who need it is assured by funding from WHO through a donation from the Sasakiwa Foundation to a value of US\$ 10 million per annum up to the year 2000.

The progress that has been made towards the elimination goal - that is, a prevalence rate of below one case per 10,000 population worldwide - is reported in detail in two current issues of WHO's *Weekly Epidemiological Record* (WER 1995, 69, Nos. 25 and 26). The estimated total of leprosy cases in 1995 now stands at 1,834,000, which means an estimated prevalence rate of 3.3 per 10,000 population - still

well above the "elimination" goal. This current total reflects a reduction of 67% compared with the estimate of 5,500,000 as recently as 1991.

The Global Picture

As regards the global scene, WHO warns against complacency. The leprosy cases that still require treatment with MDT are becoming progressively harder to locate and to reach. Certainly MDT has already made huge inroads into the world's case-load of leprosy, while improvements in program coverage have led to improvements in case-detection; over the past year alone, MDT coverage has risen from 55% to 76%. This remarkable increase, even in countries facing difficult economic situations, is a result of the strong political commitment that was pledged in July 1994 during the first International Conference on the Elimination of Leprosy, held in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Of the global total of 1,834,000 estimated cases, the South-East Asia Region contributes an estimated 1,259,100, followed by Africa with 219,000, the Americas with 219,000, the Eastern Mediterranean 61,000. WHO makes a separate tally of registered prevalence - the numbers of cases actually logged in the records of health workers in the affected coun-

tries. In 1994, these totaled 1,671,497, but in 1995 they have fallen to 1,291,848 - a decrease of 23% in a single year. In Africa the numbers fell from 149,212 to 113,650, a decrease of 24%. In South-East Asia, the numbers have for the first time fallen below one million and stand at 913,664 (down 22%), while in the Western Pacific, the decrease from 56,824 to 40,508 amounted to 29%. The Americas showed a 26.7% decrease from 267,196 to 195,891, and the Eastern Mediterranean a slight increase (2.9%) from 22,575 to 23,219 cases.

The case-detection trend in leprosy, that is, the number of new cases coming to the attention of health services, is not yet showing any major decline. Slightly fewer new cases were detected in 1994 (560,646) compared to 1993 (590,933). Currently, a large proportion of "new cases" are really old cases which had remained without treatment for a long time due to lack of facilities; there is an urgent need to reach and treat all such cases and eventually reduce the new detection's.

The Situation in Yemen

The situation in Yemen has improved dramatically over the last few years, thanks to the efforts of the Al-Noor City Hospital in Taiz, and its

Director, Dr. Yassin Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubaty. According to Dr. Yassin, there are about 12,000 lepers in Yemen. "It is the socio-culture that is a major hurdle in addressing this problem in Yemen," he indicated. He also indicated that less than half the lepers receive medical care. "The rest are in seclusion or in hiding, waiting for death to come," he said in sorrow. "The concentration points of lepers in Yemen are in Hadhramaut, Taiz and Hajjah, although there are many all over the country," he added.

No Slackening of Effort

There are certain clouds on the horizon. In several of the major endemic countries there is a considerable gap between the estimated number of cases and those actually registered for treatment. Occasionally, according to the *Weekly Epidemiological Record*, this is due to a tendency to over-estimate the leprosy problem, sometimes in order to attract funds from international agencies. All the countries will have to make special efforts to reduce this gap, either by expanding coverage of MDT services if warranted or by revising their estimates to more realistic levels.

Even after the disease has been eliminated as a public health problem, the longer-term problem will remain of the

residual disabilities that it has caused over past decades. A proportion of leprosy patients who have been cured will still require care and rehabilitation for the rest of their lives. Strategies for solving the problem of the estimated one to two million individuals already severely disabled by leprosy still need to be developed. At the same time, activities aimed at preventing disabilities (including diagnosing and curing leprosy before never damage occurs) should be further intensified.

Dr. S. K. Noordeen remains guardedly optimistic. He says: "For the most part, our most recent statistics are very encouraging. On the other hand, none of the endemic countries can afford to slacken their efforts to detect cases and to extend MDT coverage. We have to remember that the cases we have found, treated and cured were the "easy" part of the task in hand. Now MDT has to reach much more remote areas and those individuals who have remained untreated within their community or their family because of the social stigma still attached to leprosy. It will take all the available human and financial resource, as well as unflagging political will at the highest level, if we are to bring the prevalence of leprosy in every country down below the projected level of one case per 10,000 population by the end of the century".

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

Research of Racism

Alas, my beloved YT what have you written in your volume 5 issue 24 on the letters to the editor pages. YT has been protecting these Akhdam people from isolation and discrimination, especially with the previous social editor, who has made it a cause to defend and to present the problems of those unfortunate and helpless people. Now the YT has gone astray.

You vowed to run a second part to the article of Anwar Al-Sarhi, but after many weeks, no second part of the article is to be seen.

I have been holding our breath and eager to read what will be written in the second part of the article. I must confess that I do not believe the second part will ever be written because you are in deep sleep better yet probably in hibernation.

Is Anwar racist? Please stop writing such stories and try to keep up with the times. These are not the times to write about color, sex, origin or cultural backgrounds. I would like to advise you to stop reading crazy books as they are the only ones which are talking and writing about classes and related matters.

In the first part of the article you stated "within the social class and strata, they (Akhdam) are considered the lowest members of the society." But you failed to mention the different social classes that exist in Yemen. And what type of benefits one obtains from his/her social class, skin color, origin or for being clean. Remember "stars shine when surrounded by darkness."

I would like to stress that there are no policies or laws that force these people to live in ghettos, but racist people have forced them to do so. Wearing rags or smelling bad has no relationship with humanity or social strata. Unfortunately your words were consciously and deliberately directed against humanity and social justice.

The Yemeni Constitution rejects discrimination. These people have a nationality and your ruthless, cruel and rude words will not change anything.

Finally, I would like to recommend that all of us should look for solutions to solve such problems instead of insulting and appraising these people. May god forgive you.

By: Adnan,
Sana'a.

Editor's Note:

YT has already published the second part of the Akhdam article in last week's issue. We hope it has clarified some of the above points and comments.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The World Health Organization (WHO), Sana'a, is pleased to announce, on behalf of the other donors in health sector, its willingness to recruit a qualified person to work as a Technical Secretariat (TS) for the joint Health Task Force (HTF) established in April 1995 between the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the Health Donors Committee(HDC).

The Secretariat will be responsible for routine administrative functions of the HTF, the organization and maintenance of a documentation center, communications, procurement and accountability.

The person will work full time and should have the following minimum qualifications:-

- Have a university degree in a health or health related area;
- Have native Arabic language ability, both spoken and written, and be fluent in both spoken and written English language;
- Have computer skills in English and Arabic typing, spread sheets and data base;
- Have demonstrated communication abilities that will allow the person to positively represent the HTF to the Ministry of Public Health, donors and other external organizations.

Those who are eligible and willing to be recruited are invited to apply as soon as possible either to WHO Office, in the Ministry of Public Health, Sana'a, or mailing address:

WHO Representative

P. O. Box 543, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

The deadline for receiving the application is 15 August 1995

Ignorant Teachers? What a Shame!

The standard of ignorance can sometimes be misleading. It does not necessarily mean the inability to read and write. In fact, it is an attitude. It means thinking that we know everything while we do not know anything.

Knowledge has a positive effect on changing our behavior and attitude. So many people who are viewed as learned people are in fact ignorant, because they do not believe in what they say. Many teachers, for example, who are supposed to teach values and manners in addition to knowledge are themselves ignorant because all that they teach does not apply to them. We teachers are the role models of our students and must behave in a manner compatible with that role.

We know we must be clean, but we are dirty - if not from outside then from inside. We know that bribery is against the law and the religion, but still we accept to be bribed. We know that time is very significant, important and precious, but we waste it in nonsensical ways, like chewing qat. Of course, qat is the main reason for our degradation and backwardness. We know that it is a sin to lie, but we lie and lie until our life has become a big lie. We know that we should be honest, fair and sincere in our work, but we always betray our people and duty. We are hypocrites as we help people who do not deserve help. We steal the rights of honest people and present them to be dishonest by using the dirtiest of ways and methods in violation of all values and principles.

So, how are we going to be teachers who guide the coming generations! What a shame!

By: Bu-Madyan Mohammed Abdul Hamid,
English Department, Taiz.

NO FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Each and every morning, I used to accompany my daughter Eman, 7, to her first year of school. I accompany her to the gate of the school, and leave her as she walks towards her class-mates. Every time I see that happening, I ask myself what kind of future awaits this child. My answer is it is a black future because this country does not plan for these pupils.

These days, you can see advertisements on TV of new private schools at all levels of education, including university level. These traders or inves-

tors are not really educators. Their main goal is to make money. So what kind of education is there for our children?

Abdulaziz Mohammed Saeed

Read with Me

"In my opinion," Tagore said, "infants have to taugh the benefits of amity besides those of electricity, and the benefits of goodness besides those of coal and iron. In other words, we have to join, in our children, eternal emotions to the acquisition of knowledge and their practical applications-last knowledge and its application might not arrive at the aim they are supposed to attain, in which case passions take hold of the person and take him back to his original bestiality."

This is what I was reading at my leisure one day. Instantly, I decided to share with the Yemen Times readers what I read.

It is not by chance, however, that I chose this topic. I found it suitable. That is because I attribute all kinds of suffering inflicted on human beings to the wide gap between matter and spirit. Luckily, I found this material which confirmed my belief to a great extent. Well let me go on.

"Scientific, social and economic reformation can polish the laws of nature or may moderate and refine them; but it can only make man an excellent animal. This in my opinion because spiritual perfection does not reside in material progress; it resides deep in our spirits, whether we are backward or well ahead in material advancement.

"Many of those who came before us realized this fact, and thus were able to strike high examples of spiritual perfection without having advanced culture or scientific/material progress.

Through discipline and training, they harnessed and mobilized their internal powers which thus flourished and brought forth their best abilities.

But what are these powers?

They are goodness, amity, altruism, sacrifice and all those values and feelings that make us feel we need no regulations or laws to establish peace in our hearts, besides justice and brotherhood between us and others.

By: Nasser Murshid Al-Rebie,
Sana'a University

تهانينا بالزواج الذي يجمع آل السقاف و آل الأديمي

نتقدم بأحر التهاني وأعلى الأمانى للشباب
عارف عبدالولي عبده الأديمي
بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف



المهنيون:

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أمين عبدالولي الأديمي ، عماد ووليد السقاف
طه محمد عوض الأديمي ، رمزي علوي السقاف
عبدالقادر علي الأديمي ، محمد عبدالله السقاف
وكافة أعضاء جمعية الحضارم الخيرية

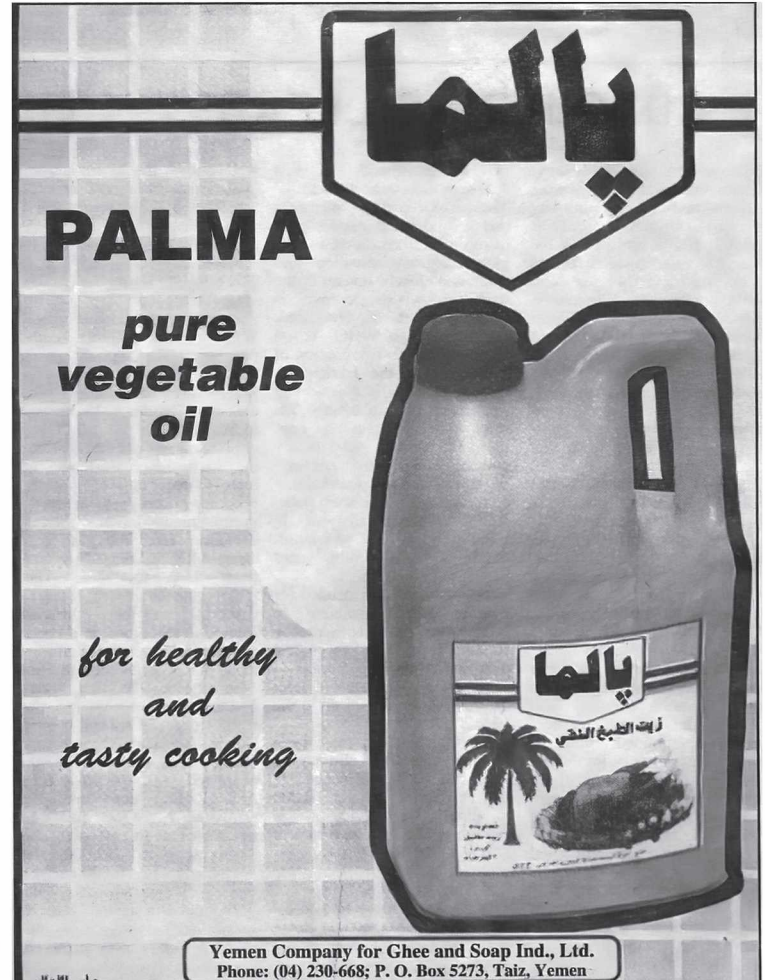
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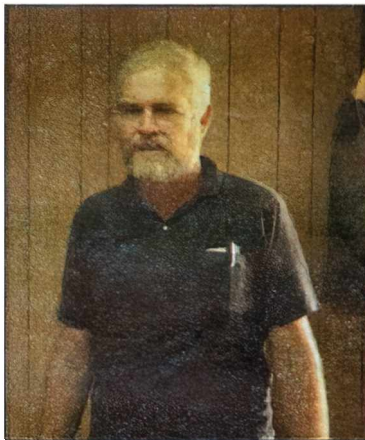


A Yemeni-Australian Joint Venture Opens the Door Wide in the Construction Industry

projects and in doing so, we train our local craft trades in the installation of styrocon panels. These trades personnel in turn with help from our company, will educate others of the new building techniques. Further to this, we have several export markets in place, one in South East Asia and the other here in the Middle East.

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which case any one of the Styrocon plants will be able to help and support that market. Yes we are looking forward to a bright future.

Conclusion

The Styrocon panel system is unique. Whereas the panel is lightweight, but it has structural strength, fire rates, acoustic rated, thermal rated, and already has a finished surface ready for painting. It is important to note that while the Styrocon panels are being erected, all electric and plumbing conduits are installed. The panels are rot-proof, water-proof, and impervious to termites. We are manufacturing Styrocon panels in sizes 50mm and 75mm thick and very shortly 35 mm and 100 mm thick. The dimensions to the panels are 600 mm wide heights are variations of 2.4 m, and 2.7m and 3.0 m.

For further information, we can be contacted in Aden, Republic of Yemen on:

Tel (9672) 343-639
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Building Technology of Yemen

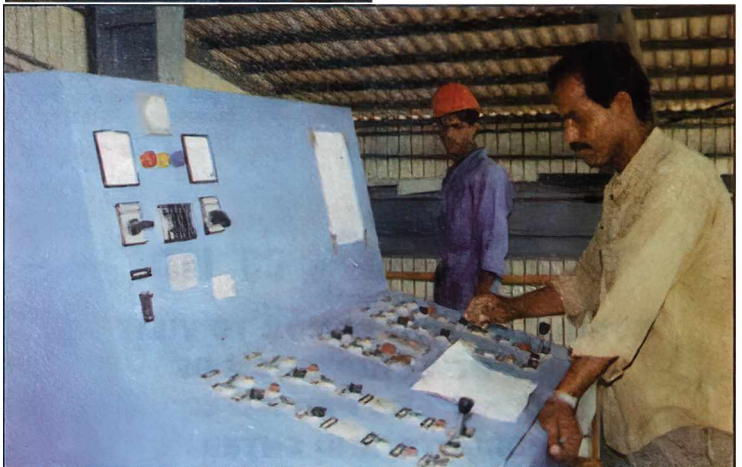
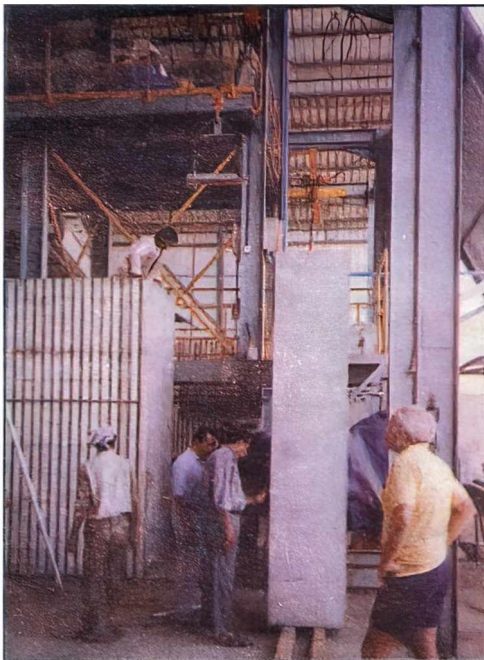
Company Background

The joint venture companies of White Plains Establishment of Yemen and Building Technologies of Australia were formulated in 1993 to form Building Technologies Yemen. After a few setbacks in 1994, Building Technologies Yemen was able to commence the construction of the Styrocon manufacturing plant in December of 1994 and commence manufacturing of Styrocon panels for the building industry as of March of 1995.

The joint venture partners observed back in 1993 a requirement for lightweight tilt up concrete panels for the building industry in Yemen.

Project Implementation

Serious marketing is now taking place not only here in Yemen, but also throughout the Middle East and South East Asia. From this, there will be excellent opportunities for another export product for Yemen. This is not to say that we will neglect our local market, because as in all cases, word of mouth from the local market has been a company's greatest marketing assets. We are implementing a few local



cannot be done here in the Middle East as everyone prefers a concrete roof slab. A more realistic time here would be three weeks.

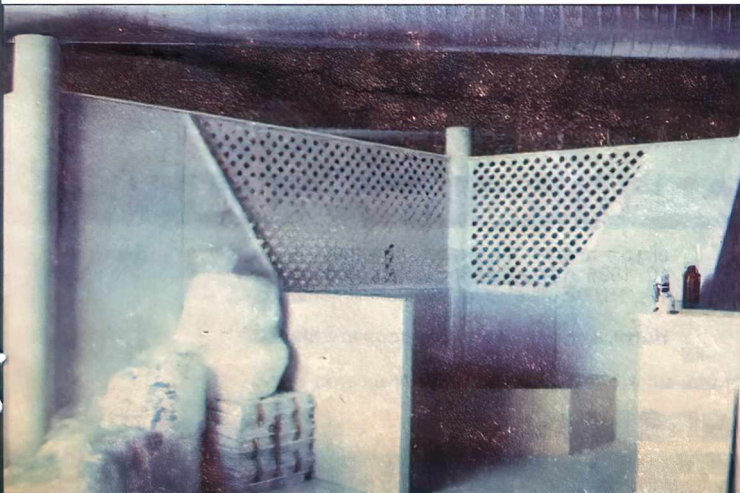
It is important to mention that the Styrocon panels are not only an infill wall panel but are a structural wall panel that will support concrete roof slabs and at the same time maintain its fire, acoustic, and thermal ratings.

Joint Venture Partners

Of course we would welcome prospective joint venture partnerships with others in their own country. We are more than willing to pass on the technology to others and meet their requirements.

Obstacles

There are no major obstacles to overcome, it is a matter of understanding the usage of styrocon panels. With the local building techniques so ingrained with the tradesmen, engineers, and developers, there is a requirement of education and understanding. Of course traditional construction will always be in place, but we feel this is more beneficial to the proposed partner. Some markets will always be too small to set up a Styrocon plant in



26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa: 27/7/1995;
(Mouthpiece Of The Armed Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1- International Call Rates Are Reduced
- 2- A Saudi Commercial Mission Visits Abyan To Discuss Investment Projects
- 3- Yemeni Businessmen in Kenya Arrive in Sana'a The Following Week

Article Summary:

Observations and Reflections From Iran. A Yemeni press delegation visited Iran and Abdul Munim Al-Tabiry, the representative of 26 September gave a detailed description of some of the sites visited there. The delegation visited a number of religious sites as well as historical and tourist sites, in addition to a number of the industrial and agricultural complexes and projects. The writer could not hide how very impressed he was by the tremendous activity he noticed in the government as well as with the people. In addition he contested all the "false" allegations put out by many on Iran, to which he pointed out evidence that belies these allegations. Among the important observations: the absence of a sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shia'a, the prominent role of women in every field, and the strides made towards self-sufficiency.

AL-SAHWA: Sanaa: 27/7/1995

(Mouthpiece of Yemeni Congregation For Reform)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Because of Tax Evasion, Billions of Rials Are Lost The State Treasury
- 2- More Than a Million Dollars Wasted by the Port Authority (Aden).
- 3- The Yemeni Rial Continues to Fluctuate.

Article Summary:

Within A Year All The Problems Of Electricity In All The Provinces Will Be Solved
In an interview with the paper (part 1/2), Mr. Abdulla Muhsin Al-Akwa discussed the problems and ambitions of the Ministry of Electricity and Water. Some of the highlights of the interview: The financial situation is the most difficult, as the price of electricity sold does not meet operating cost. The Public Electricity is in debt by YR 5 billion. The Generating Station in Ras Katenib and Mocha need overhauling. The inability of making use of an Italian Soft Term Loan of US\$ 5 million for urgently needed spare parts for the 2 major power stations. The Emergency Power Station at Dhahban (Sana'a) should start generating 80 additional Megawatt into the national grid within a year, which would decrease the load pressure on the existing generation plant. The absence of



Yemeni Press in a Week by: Hassan Al-Haifi

planning and coordination internally and externally presents a big problem for both utilities. The Dutch government promised US\$ 60 million in assistance to boost generation in Hadhramout.

AL-WAHDAWI: Sanaa: 1/8/1995:

(Mouthpiece of Nasserite Unionist Party) :

Main Headlines:

- 1- Parliament Looks at Violations at the Ministry Of Social Welfare and the Social Security Authority: 2 Cars For US\$ 92,000 And Doubts as to Fate Of Yr 7 Billion
- 2- Ali Mohammed (Former Pres. Of PDRY): The Absence Of Democracy Is The Cause Of Wars
- 3- Discovery of a Large Number of Looted Machinery and Equipment with Local Health Officials
- 4- Establishment Of Legal Aid Center

Article Summary:

The Opposition Meets Al-Ahmar

The speaker of Parliament, Sheikh Abdulla Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar met with representatives of the opposition bloc member parties on Tuesday to discuss the several problems of violations of human and constitutional rights by the Executive Branch of the government citing the following three cases as examples: Preprinting censorship and confiscation of newspapers, the attack on the Popular Forces Party (Itihad Al'Quwa) and the closing of its offices and the freezing of their bank accounts and their newspaper; the attack on Badr Scholastic Center and the detention of Dr. Al-Mirtadha Al-Muhathwari (Supervisor of the center and the Imam of the Mosque). The Parliament Speaker was very cordial and understanding of the concern of the opposition bloc vis a vis the apparent lack of seriousness by the Executive Branch in taking note of constitutional rights, and he promised his intervention through the concerned authorities to remedy the issues brought to him.

AL-WAHDAH: Sanaa : 2-8-95

(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Prime Minister Receives an Invitation to Attend the Middle East Economic Summit Conference

- 2- Dirhim Nu'uman (Chairman Aden Free Port Authority): "Operations Await The Approval of The Plans Of The Authority . . . The Performance Of The Port Has Become Outstanding . . . We Shall Overcome all the Difficulties
- 3- Dr. Raofah Hassan: The Yemeni Women Will Be Represented in the International Conference Women In Beijing.

Article Summary:

1) Why This Inflation?. . . And What Are The Solutions?

The article by Yahya Hussein Dha'agan explores the reason behind the uncontrollable rise in prices, especially in the period 1991-1993 (no available statistics for '94-'95 yet).

He notes that from 1977 to 1989, the accumulated inflation was 448%. By 1993 it had become 2012%. He also attributes the causes to the following: Chronic Trade Deficit. The Balance of payments deficit and the chronic budget deficit, which is financed by printing money without a balance existing between the amount of newly issued money and the increase in gross domestic production.

The solutions: To work on correction of all the deficits cited, beginning with the trade deficit through the encouragement of exporting of fruit and vegetable produce, fish, salt; through grain production on a large scale; through encouragement of private sector investment in cement production; through more attention to oil and gas exports and petroleum refined products; through limitation of imports through customs tax tariffs that discourage non-essential consumer goods; through an investigation of the reasons why exports fell from 1990 (YR 8.3 billion) to 1993 (YR 4.5 billion).

2) A Journalist To Subjected To An Attack
The article explains how the Editor-In-Chief of Al-Shuroq newspaper, at the office of the Prime Minister, was subjected to a beating and insults because of what the editor disclosed in his paper on the loss of files at the Prime Ministry and the bureaucracy which one faces there. The article considers such actions as violations of press freedom and represent a dangerous initiative towards violations of the right of opinion. The

paper requests remedial action and the apology and legal compensations due to the journalist victim.

AL-THAWRAH: Sanaa: Dates As Shown:

(Official)

- 1- Of 30-7-95: The National Or Popular Yemeni Committee Aid to the Bosnian Muslims Sponsors a Large Speaking Festival
- 2- Of 30-7-95: 1994: A Year of Large Scale Human Rights Violations in 151 Countries (Amnesty International 1990 Report)
- 3- Of 31-7-95: Statement by Parliamentary Spokesman on the Procedures for Lifting of Legal Immunity of Mohammed Najee Saeed, MP.
- 4- Of 2-8-95: Taiz: A Seminar On Aids

Article Summary: 2-8-95

Tasks That Must Be Accomplished

In its editorial, the paper insisted that the First Five Year Plans of the Republic of Yemen must include the continuation of serious efforts towards financial and administrative reforms. The five year plan must include a more equitable development program whereby expenditures and instruments and approaches should fall in line with the reform policy which should reflect for a development program that covers all of the Republic. Although much has been achieved to get rid of the consequences of the war against the secessionists, much is still needed to be done to assure that sound foundations are laid for the coming construction effort and this requires more seriousness and a greater sense of responsibility.

AL-AYYAM: Aden: 2/8/1995:

(Independent):

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Islam May Withdraw From The Coalition Before The End Of The Year
- 2) The Prime Minister Assures The Opposition Bloc Of His Government's Commitment To Democracy.
- 3) Investment of US\$ 600 Million In Aden Port

Article Summary:

Interview With UNDP's Awni Al-A'ani

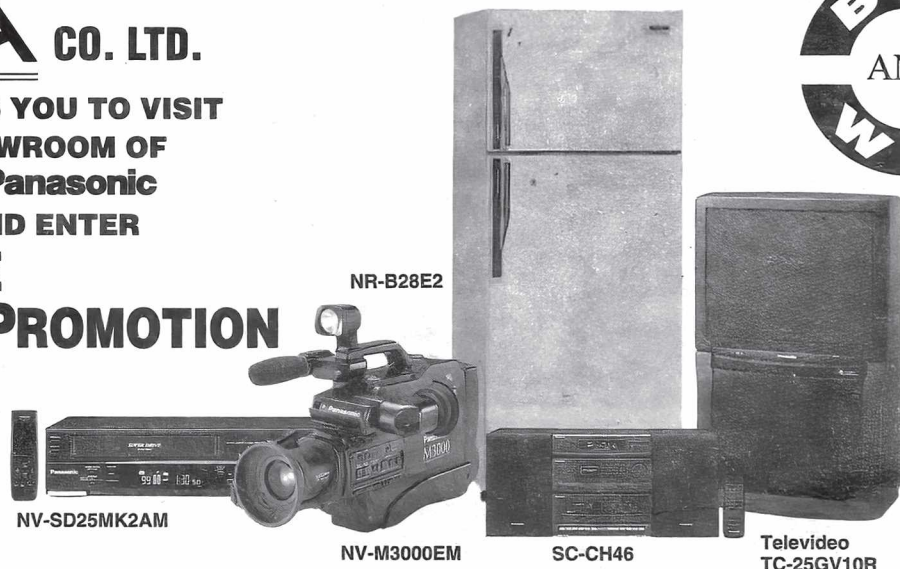
In the wake of the completion of his assignment to Yemen, Mr. Awni Al-A'ani, the Resident Representative of UNDP, the paper interviewed him. The UNDP helped to prepare and establish the economic and political strategies needed by the new unified Yemen. Privatization does not entail just selling the Private Sector. In Yemen there is a type of economic activity which just does enter the government records.

Yemen will face a serious water problem in the years to come.

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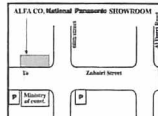
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 National Bank 275373
 YBRD 271623/4
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 Bank Indosuez 272801/3
 United Bank Ltd 272424
- Government Offices:**
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 Interior Affairs 252701/7
 Immigration 250761/3
 Tourism 271970/2
 Inter-City Bus Co. 262111/3
 TV Station 250001/03
 Radio Station 200060/61

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 Marib Insurance Sana'a 206112/4
 Aden: 255668
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 Hodeidah: 217370/1
 Yemen General Sana'a: 265191
 Aden: 243909
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 Alitalia 273655
 Alyemen (HO. Aden) 231339
 Alyemen (Sana'a) 203637
 Austrian Airlines 272432
 British Airways(Sana'a) 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
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 Bulgaria 217244
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 Cuba 217304/5
 Czech Republic 247946
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 Egypt 275848/9
 Eritrea 209422
 Ethiopia 208833
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 Hungary 248147
 India 241980/1/2
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 Korea (Dem) 232340
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 Kuwait 268887/8/9
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 Poland 248362
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U.K. 215630/33
U.S.A 238842/252
Vietnam 215985
- 2. Honorary Consulates:**
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 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

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 Ethiopia 231335
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 India 233131
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 FAO Branch 233722/232146

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 The Plaza Hotel 220224/26
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UK Ambassador Scrafton Addresses the HWA

British Ambassador Douglas Scrafton was the guest speaker at the Friday Afternoon (4th August) forum of the Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA). Accompanying him were Gregory Lusty and James Downer from the embassy. The ambassador notified the elders of the Sanaa Branch of the HWA of the decision of the embassy to co-finance the Agricultural Environmental Project (AgEP), which is presently under execution. "At first I had some reservations. Why should we pour in more resources to an association that is so able to raise funds - from its own members as well as from outside donors. Then the embassy's DCM, Mr. Hamish Daniel visited the region and reported on the HWA efforts. We found that not only was any money provided to the HWA used in a cost-effective way, but it also mobilizing matching funds

from the local population to further push the development effort in the region. Thus, we decided to chip in," Ambassador Scrafton explained. The project involves the construction of a small dam, the drilling, equipping and operation of a well with the pipe network, the establishment of a nursery, and the planting of trees in a greening effort. "This project will help achieve better use of water use, harness rain-water, help agriculture, introduce fruit trees, and increase environmental awareness and appreciation," explained Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the HWA. He also thanked the British Government for the assistance. Later on, there were some questions to the ambassador regarding the position of the British Government vis-a-vis various hot international issues of relevant to the Yemeni citizen. These

include the continuation of the sanctions of Iraq and Libya, the slackness in applying UN resolutions regarding Israel and Bosnia, the role of the UN and the need for changes within its structure, and Yemeni British relations. The ambassador successfully clarified his government's position on these issues and shed light on the other side's view point. Some aspiring singers from the region sang some of their songs to entertain the group. Some poets from the region also recited various forms of poetry which were appreciated. The qat chew was attended by many distinguished visitors including several key lawyers, contractors, engineers, and military officers. and many other individuals. Next week, the guest speaker of the HWA is Mr. Hani Shehadeh, Vice GM of CCC in Yemen.

Contest No.39

مسابقة رقم ٣٩

Prepared by:
Al-Farouq Institute of Languages & Computer

إعداد:
معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

P.O.Box 3637, Al-Raqqaq St., Near the Iranian Medical Center, Sana'a; Telephone (967-1) 209721, Fax 218 231
 هـ ب رقم (٢٣٧٧) ، صنعاء ، بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاص - صنعاء ، تليفون ٢٠٩٧٢١ ، فاكس ٢١٨٢٣١

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

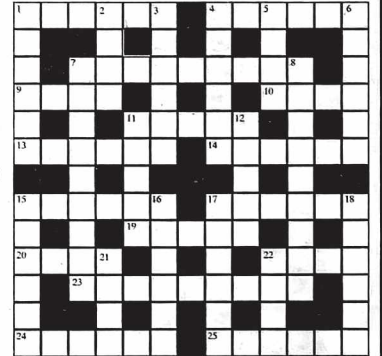
Thursday morning. The winner will be announced in next week's issue of Yemen Times.

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

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

Contest No. 39

- Across**
 1. Rough-edged like broken glass (6)
 4. Imagined while asleep (6)
 7. Working by itself (9)
 9. domesticated (4)
 10. Slim (4)
 11. Diagrams (5)
 13. Russia's currency unit (6)
 14. Stinky (6)
 15. Brags (6)
 17. Mother's husband! (6)
 19. Neither one thing nor the... (5)
 20. ___ upon a time (4)
 22. Dead as a __, well extinct (4)
 23. Went to live in another country (9)
 24. Overjoyed (6)
 25. Small (shopping?) task (6)
- Down**
 1. Clown from long ago (6)
 2. Sticky stuff! (4)
 3. Draw aimlessly (6)
 4. Water-grub in the gutter (6)
 5. Way out (4)
 6. Number at the top of a dart-board (6)
 7. Emergency vehicle (9)
 8. Your days as a calf! (9)
 11. Planet & Disney character (5)
 12. Smudged mark (5)
 15. Girl's shirt (6)
 16. Put on (a play, for instance) (6)
 17. Opposite of male (6)
 18. Firmly fixed (6)
 21. Give out (4)
 22. Bambi-like animal (4)



Correct answer for contest No. (38)

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

WINNER OF CONTEST NO 38:
 Ali Ahmed Al-Mosallami



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Establishment of the Center for Legal Assistance

On Thursday, August 3rd, the Centre for Legal Assistance (CLA) was officially established. In a circular distributed to the 100 or so political and human rights activists and public figures who attended the launching ceremony, it was indicated that the CLA objectives include the following:

1. To provide legal assistance and counseling for those individuals whose rights and liberties are violated.
2. To file law-suits in defence of individuals and groups.
3. To coordinate with the Lawyers' Syndicate in defence of general liberties.
4. To study the laws enacted by the state and check whether they conform with the constitution.
5. To collect data and document issues concerning human rights violations.
6. To establish a library for reference on issues concerning lib-

erties and rights.

7. To train lawyers and their support staff regarding the defence of human rights.
8. To present legal defence on issues such as:
 - a) Violations of freedom of the press, including censorship, confiscation, etc.
 - b) Issues related to prisoners of conscience and political prisoners and mounting a defence campaign on their behalf.
 - c) To expose and oppose all efforts that demean women and children, and violate their rights.
 - d) To address issues of illegal firing of employees and workers and ensure that full payment of compensation and dues.

The executive board of the CLA is made up of:

1. Yasseen Abdul-Razzaq, Secretary and CEO;
2. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Soufi, Head: Unit on Liberties;
3. Abdul-Kareem Qassim, Head:



Unit on Labor Disputes:
 4. Abdullah Al-Saqqaq, Head: Documentation Unit;
 5. Nadia Al-Khulaifi, Head: Women/Children's Unit;
 6. Sultan Al-Jeradi, Head: Constitutional/Legal Unit.

In addition, the CLA has a 22-person Consultative Board which includes the country's most outstanding lawyers. They are: Ahmed Al-Abiadh, Ahmed Al-Wadeyi, Badr Salimain Ba-Sinaid, Raqiya Humaidan, Saqqaq Al-Hadi, Saif Ahmed Badr, Shayif Hassa, Abdul-Majeed Yassin, Abdul-Rahman Al-Budajji, Abdulaziz Al-Baghdadi, Abdul-Fattah Al-Baseer, Abdulaziz Al-Samawi, Abdullah Noman, Abdulla Al-Muhayya, Ali Abdul-Khaliq, Aidaroos Mohsen Atroosh, Mohammed Mahmood Nasser, Mohammed Abdo Saeed, Mohammed Najj Allaw, Mohammed Nasser Al-Awlaqi.

In addition, Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaq of the Yemen Times is the Media Advisor of the CLA.

In the inauguration address, Dr. Abdulhadi Al-Hamdani, Head of the Political Department of the PGC, welcomed the CLA and said, "The country badly needs this centre and it is an important development in the political evolution of the nation." He assured PGC support for it.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi, Secretary-General of the YIDD, speaking on behalf of pro-democracy groups, pointed to the rising level of abuse and violation of human and political rights in Yemen. "I think the centre has its work cut out for it," he said. Dr. Mohammed Al-Mutawakkil, Vice Chairman of the Yemeni Organization for Defence of Rights and Liberties, speaking on behalf of NGOs, hailed the centre. "This centre comes to provide a meaningful addition to the institutions of civil society in our country," he said. Yasseen Abdul-Razzaq, Secretary and CEO of the CLA, promised to work together with everybody to ensure that the rights and liberties of all are honored. "We are not against or for any political party. We simply want to see the laws of Yemen respected."

Ramzy Al-Saqqaq, Yemen Times



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