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# YEMEN TIMES



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**THABET SON CORP.**

## In Exactly Forty Days: 4.6 m. Eligible Voters to Go to the Polls!

The countdown has started. In exactly 40 days, 4,646,914 eligible Yemeni voters - about one third of whom are women - are expected to go to the polls. Exactly 2019 balloting centers (each divided with two separate male and female sections) will be open to receive the voters in 301 constituencies.

The elections process is being managed by 33,000 persons recruited by the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC). Starting tomorrow, the SEC will start distributing the final voter registration cards to the eligible voters. In three days, on March 20th, the SEC will start receiving applications of candidates

who want to stand for elections. At final count, some 4000-5000 candidates are expected to compete for the 301 seats in parliament. These will represent twelve political parties as well as a large number of independents. The SEC has already issued guidelines for campaigning.

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*As the State Fights to Protect Elections Against Saboteurs:*

## Stop Repressive Measures

Yes, there are people who want to sabotage the elections. Yes, there are those - from within and without - who are already working to undermine the credibility and legitimacy of the coming parliamentary elections. Yes, there is need for the state authorities and the public to be alert in order to protect this important Yemeni achievement.

BUT, all this is no reason to break the laws of Yemen, and the human rights of the suspected saboteurs. The authorities, even when acting against sworn enemies of the elections, should remain within the law. They should retain the moral and legal upper hand in this fight.

A case in point is the people who have been imprisoned three weeks back in the Political Security Office, the Investigations Bureau, and the Ministry of Interior. These people, some of them are teenagers, are accused of having been lured into foreign-financed anti-elections activities.

The relatives of these prisoners, and even the prosecutor general's office have not been allowed to see them. This is wrong. It is against the law. It must not be tolerated, whatever the excuse. It is imperative that the state machinery should remain within the rule of law.

## First Substantive Session in Trial of Secessionist Leaders

On Saturday, March 15th, 1997, Judge Jassar Mohammed Al-Adoofi presided over a 3-judge panel in the first substantive session of the trial of the 16 leaders of the secession effort of 1994.

The North Sanaa Primary Court had held four earlier sessions - all of them dealt with procedural matters. In the last of the four previous sessions, the

court had accepted a 9-person panel of defence lawyers, made up of volunteers and 'draftees' who are going to represent the interests of the defendants. Four of them resigned in the this week's session.

The 16 defendants (At least one of them is dead) were leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party at the time (summer 1994). As push came to shove in the power struggle

that ensued the results of the 1993 parliamentary elections - which reduced the share of YSP in the power structure from 50% to 20% - the former YSP leaders decided to re-partition the country. That is the main crime filed against them plus the allegation of having started the war. Most of these people live in the Arab Gulf countries, notably in Saudi Arabia and

the United Arab Emirates. They are well-provided for financially. Saudi Arabia also uses them as a bargaining chip in its relationship with Sanaa. In the Saturday session, the attorney general read out the charges. The defence lawyers will present their response in the next session, scheduled for May 10th. The case is expected to drag on for a year.

## Boom of NGOs in Yemen

The number of Non-Governmental Organizations licensed by the Ministry of Social Affairs as of 1/1/1997 at 1,215 NGOs. According to Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, the year 1996 witnessed the birth and rejuvenation of many NGOs, espe-

cially the ones concerned with political and human rights "Of the total, 565 NGOs dealt with economic development, while the rest engaged in various kinds of right protection efforts, whether they are unions, or those dealing with rights," he said. Sanaa City is home to the

largest number of NGOs, with 280, followed by Aden (202), Taiz (140), Sanaa Governorate (90), Hadhramaut (77), Hodeidah (74), Lahej (72), and the rest distributed among the other governorates. NGOs have been victimized by the lack of volunteering culture among Yemenis. Politics has also hampered the proper functioning of NGOs.



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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### It Is a Sign of Confidence. It Is a Source of Prestige/Income

Sanaa is hosting these days various regional and international meetings and conferences. The number of such events is on the rise, leading to important conclusions for the nation. The choice of Sanaa as the venue for these meetings is an indicator of the confidence and prestige Yemen enjoys. As a fringe benefit, such gatherings are an important source of income.

Let us take a tally of the gatherings taking place in these few days:

1. There is the meeting of Presidents of Arab Universities, which was just concluded. This meeting brought together representatives of some 100 Arab universities, in addition to researchers and scholars.
2. There is the regional conference on technical and vocational training which brought together representatives from many countries and organizations in the region.
3. There is the regional meeting of the World Tourism Organization, which starts tomorrow, with the participation of delegates from 25 countries, in addition to various international organizations.
4. There is the symposium of Arab cities, in which mayors of many major cities in the region will discuss how to handle their problems, and how to strengthen cooperation.

The fact that so many people flock to Sanaa (and other Yemeni cities) is a firm indicator of the stature and prestige of the country, and the changing image of Yemen within the region and internationally. It shows that the country is perceived as safe and suitable for doing business. It shows that people worldwide are attracted to find out, first hand, what is happening here. It shows the potential observers worldwide see in rubbing shoulders with Yemenis.

In addition to the large meetings, the country received during the last few days several important official and private visitors. There is the European delegation which just concluded an official visit aimed at drafting a new agreement between the EU and Yemen. There is the German delegation which concluded a visit aimed at working out the parameters for bilateral cooperation. There is the international delegation of the National Democratic Institute which is looking at the preparations for the coming parliamentary elections.

Sanaa should expect more visitors and more meetings, especially if the economic reforms and political transformation continue to make progress. Our success in holding peaceful and credible elections will be a watershed in the way the world look at us.

Choosing Yemeni cities as the venue for regional and international meetings and conferences is an indicator of the rising stature and prestige of Yemen.

*The Publisher*  


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An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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## "Supposing all past violations were put aside, who will guarantee fairness in the future?"

The Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi An-Nasseri (Nasserite Unionist Party) is the largest opposition party which has decided to participate in the elections. Its affirmative decision came as a relief to the ruling parties, in the aftermath of the boycott of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

A key person leading to this decision has been Mr. Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlaflafi, Secretary-General of the NUP.

Abdul-Malik, 41, joined the Nasserite Unionist Party in 1974. He was elected secretary-general for the organization by its 8th General National Congress in 1993.

M. Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to him and filed the following report:

**Q: What were the most important issues discussed in your present congress?**

**A:** In addition to the usual organizational issues, there was an extremely important and exceptional issue, namely the April elections. It is a vital issue which we discussed from all angles including the legal and political guarantees needed by the opposition parties. We also discussed the political agreement signed on 7th March by a number of opposition parties, including the Nasserite Unionist, with the ruling coalition partners.

**Q: What was the outcome of your meeting?**

**A:** After two days of extensive and long deliberations, our party's central committee voted to participate in the elections, subject to the ruling coalition's commitment to upholding the terms of its agreement with some of the parties in the Opposition Coordination Council.

### Ten Political Parties Choose Symbols

As stipulated by the law, aimed at helping illiterate voters, many political parties have chosen the symbols that will represent their candidates in the coming parliamentary elections. The symbols registered so far, are as follows:

1. People's General Congress: Horse.
2. Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah): Crescent.
3. The Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi An-Nasseri: Crescent with Star.
4. The National Social Party: Pigeon.
5. The Arab Socialist Baath Party: Palm Tree.
6. The Nasserite Democratic Party: (Weighing) Scale.
7. Yemeni Rabitah Party: Jambiyah.
8. The Corrective Tanzeem Al-Sha'abi An-Nasseri: Lamb.
9. The National Democratic Front: Pigeon.
10. Hizbul Haq: Book.

While those are the parties who will have chosen their symbols, two more parties that will field candidates for elections, have yet to choose their symbols.

### Women Appointed to Decision-Making Posts

A Republican Decree was issued last week Ms. Amatal Aleem Al-Susuwah was appointed as Deputy Minister of Information. Another presidential decree appointed Dr. Fathiyah Yahia Buhran as Deputy Chairman of the General Board for Pensions and Social Security.

The appointment of the two women for senior government posts comes in light of the drive to give women a high profile in government, and to involve them in high-level decision-making.

**Q: How many members voted for the participation?**

**A:** The voting took place late in the night when some members had left the meeting. At final count, there were 39 votes in favor, 14 against, and a number of abstentions.

**Q: How do you assess these results?**

**A:** I think they reflect two matters.

First, the decision was taken democratically within our organization, after long and extensive discussions.

Second, it reflected the wishes of the members to stay within the political game, despite the negative aspects and violations that accompanied the registration phase.

The main factor that tipped the balance in favor of participation is the aforementioned political agreement. I think that the decision to participate would not have been taken were it not for that agreement.

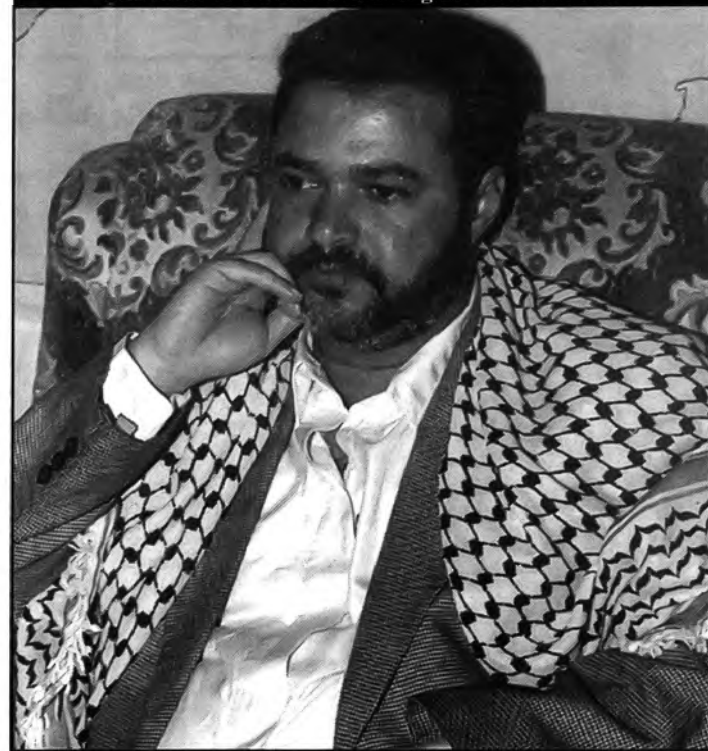
**Q: Have you worked out a strategy for the elections? How many constituencies do you hope to win?**

**A:** I cannot give an exact number. But the NUP will campaign in more than the 87 constituencies, in which it was active in the 1993 elections. In view of the great efforts made by the party's members, we expect the party to win in 15-to-20 constituencies, if the elections are free and fair and the ruling coalition partners honor their commitment.

**Q: What have you learned from your past experience?**

**A:** The elections of 1993 were a useful for us, but we cannot

Mikhlaflafi: The Burden of Being the Torch-Bearer



totally rely on them. We are also a resource short party. So we have learned to make up for that.

**Q: What is the main thrust of your party in the election campaigns?**

**A:** The Nasserite Unionist Party has its independent position on the national issues. We have a good record to of which we are confident and proud.

We are the largest opposition party to participate in elections.

**Q: What were the most difficulties you face during your deliberations?**

**A:** The major obstacles that faced

the party's members is the bitterness towards the many irregularities and violations committed by the ruling coalition parties during the registration phase. Many of our members are of the opinion that the violations foreshadowed the actual voting process.

The second difficulty is the profound suspicion toward the ruling parties in fulfilling their promises. Supposing that all past violations were put aside, who will guarantee fairness in future relations?

Even then, our party decided to take a positive attitude, give the rulers the benefit of the doubt, and move ahead with elections.

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## Surgeon Abla Obeid:

# “My take-home pay per month is about YR 8,000 (US\$ 63).”

There is a visible shortage in medical services in Yemen - both in terms of quality and quantity. This is especially more acute in the more advanced services, such as operations and surgery.

Yemen already has quite a few medical doctors - estimated at around 2,500, of whom some 10% are women. Most of the women work as pediatricians and gynecologists, or simply as general practitioners. There are few surgeons, located mainly in Aden. There is one female surgeon in Sanaa, Dr. Abla Obeid Awadh, however, herself hailing from the South (Hadhramaut).

Abla is a resident surgeon at Al-Thawra Modern General Hospital, where she has been working since 1993. She did her 'A' level in Uganda, and graduated as a medical doctor from Sana'a University in 1992.

Ms. Obeid is fully engulfed with her work, actually doing very little else outside the needs of her patients. This dedication, unfortunately, is not fully rewarded.

Anwar Al-Sayyid of Yemen Times talked to her and filed the following report.

**Q: Can you describe your work at Al-Thawra Hospital for us?**

**A:** We can compartmentalize my work into three responsibilities - the outpatient clinic, the theater (operations) and the in-patient follow-up.

**Q: I understand you are a surgeon. What kind of surgery do you do?**

**A:** General surgery at Al-Thawra Hospital involves almost everything from the face/neck down. Neurosurgical operations and other operations which either require sub-specialty are done in other departments.

We deal with lesions of the skin, starting from minor ones up to cancer of the skin, including skin grafting and other plastic reconstruction operations. We do sub-total thyroidectomy or near total thyroidectomy, vascular surgery, and parts of major operations such as oesophagectomies and gastro-oesophagectomies. There are also open-chest operations. Pneumonectomy and lobectomy, where parts of the lung are removed, is also done at the hospital. We operate on patients with Hydatid disease which is a parasitic infection, quite common in Yemen. The disease causes patients to have cysts in their lungs, liver, etc., which we have to open to remove.

We perform abdominal surgery which involves tumors or ulcers with internal bleeding.

In addition, we receive numerous cases of gunshot victims. This often leads to severe bleeding, and we have to open the chest to operate.

**Q: How many operations do you do per month?**

**A:** I cannot give you exact numbers, but, roughly, we do 150 cases a month. This also includes emergency surgeries. As I mentioned earlier, we operate on victims of gunshots and road-traffic accidents with internal bleeding.

About 50% or more of the cases we operate on are emergency ones. Gunshot victims alone account for about 30% of the total. This is only general surgery. Other departments such as orthopaedics receive a lot of cases of gunshot and traffic accident victims.

**Q: How many surgeons are there in your department?**

**A:** There are about 30. But not all of them are available for patient needs at the hospital. Many are on leave or in other services, and some go on rotation to the emergency department. I am the only woman surgeon at the hospital right now.

**Q: Are there any other female surgeons elsewhere in Sanaa?**

**A:** I do not know of any other female surgeon in Sanaa. I know there are a few female surgeons in Aden, but I don't know their exact number.

**Q: Do you have any trouble because you are a woman surgeon? How do your colleagues take it?**

**A:** Sometimes I feel there is some kind of a competition. The male surgeons want to be in charge,

and they usually want to do everything. But I think it depends on the person you are dealing with.

**Q: Do they let you do your work?**

**A:** Some do dominate, but I get my chance. There is ample work for everybody. I do a lot of work at the operating theater or the ward. We rotate our work on the basis of timetables.

Sometimes, I do more work than my (male) colleagues. I get called upon when there are women patients who do not want to be examined by a male doctor.

I also have some patients who are used to me so they keep coming back and do not let anybody else examine them.

**Q: There is a widespread belief among people that Yemeni doctors and hospitals are not good. What is the success rate of your surgeries?**

**A:** I know the general reputation is not good. I think it is not correct. We do many major surgeries such as vascular surgeries and big cancer cases successfully. Not many people know that we are doing all this work. The success rate is very high.

We do have complications. But considering that this is a Third-World country with very limited facilities, I think we are doing quite well. We have a success rate of 80% or more.

**Q: How do you explain so many people leaving for treatment abroad?**

**A:** In cancer cases, for instance, we do surgery and then advise patients to go abroad for radiotherapy, which we do not have here. That means there are services we cannot offer locally due to lack of equipment.

I think there people with adequate backing and financing who prefer to go abroad for treatment, because someone else is paying the bill. Some of these people want to go abroad even for simple maladies that can be successfully treated here.

**Q: How is the overall service in Yemeni hospitals?**

**A:** I don't know about other hospitals. But in ours, we have people with plenty of experience including doctors and nurses. The problem is that salaries are too low, and we do a lot of hard work.

**Q: How well do medical doctors get paid?**

**A:** You have touched on a big wound. This is really a big problem. For example, take a person like me. My take-home pay per month for the standard work I do is YR 8,000 (about US\$ 63).

I do an additional shift in the afternoons, for which I get around YR 12,000 (about US\$ 95). In other words, for a two-shift work all day long, I take home about YR. 20,000. This is ridiculous.

These salaries are given irrespective of the number of cases we do. There is no additional bonus or incentive. The hospital management had promised to pay us a certain percentage on every case and/or operation. So far, we have not seen it.

**Q: How about the patients. How do they interact?**

**A:** There is pressing need to educate the patients. Our people are not medically oriented. Let me give you examples of what I mean.

Patients come for medical help only when it is already too late. The illness is too advanced for us to make a real difference.



Then, they are impatient. They want to be cured quickly. It is as if we have a magical wand.

Then they keep no medical records of their illnesses. After operations, we give patients discharge papers in which we write what we have done and some medical history. When the patients come back for follow-up, say a week later, they do not have these papers. So either you have to remember, or dig into the files. So, there is really pressing need for educating the public.

**Q: Are you expecting more female surgeons to join you?**

**A:** I hope so. The work is very hard, and circumstances don't help at all.

So far, the experience has been for most of the female doctors to come for a month or two and then just give up. Working as a medical doctor means spending a lot of time caring for patients, and being cut off socially.

**Q: You sound frustrated. Is there a chance that you too will give up?**

**A:** I do not think I will give up. But I do have the desire to specialize in cardiology. Many colleagues have encouraged me to

do that. I can see that I can make a bigger contribution as a specialist. But the opportunities are very limited.

**Q: Do you plan to have your own clinic?**

**A:** I started a clinic 3 years back. I had a lot of patients. But the hospital started a new rule which forced me to make a choice between working in the clinic or the hospital. Since I wanted to gain experience, I had to stay with the hospital, where I now work in the morning and afternoon/evening.

I have kept the clinic but not as a source of income. I use it to help and follow-up on many of my patients.

You know, here in Yemen, patients track down their doctors, even at home. So, I see them in the mornings and afternoons at the hospital, in the evenings at my clinic, and I find them waiting for me at home.

**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** I have been working for a few years now. In other countries, after a certain time of service, often 3 years, you are allowed to resume your studies. I badly want this chance.

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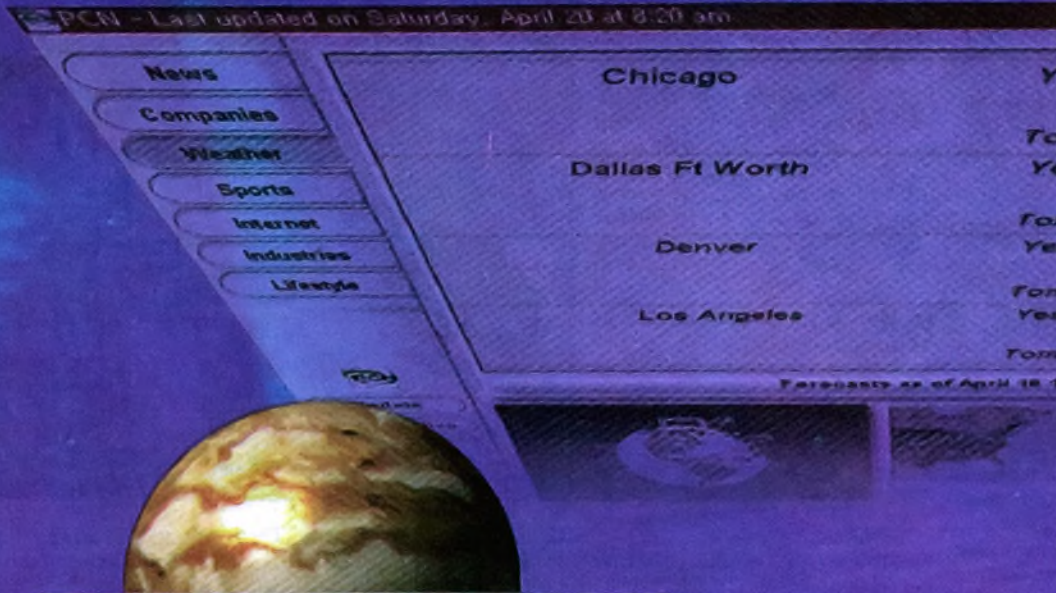
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Isra University Written Test	June 26, 1997
Short Listing	July 03, 1997
Personal Interviews	July 13-31, 1997
Announcement of Final Results	August 05, 1997
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# The EU & Yemen: Better Understanding, Closer Cooperation

"Since the (1994) civil war, relations with Yemen have greatly progressed. That is why we found it beneficial to negotiate an agreement between the European Union and Yemen in order to further enhance our cooperation." That is the way Dr. Michael Kohler of the EU explained the on-going preparations for a new bilateral agreement.

Yemen's Ambassador to the EU, Mr. Jazim Al-Aghbari, added, "A Yemeni delegation headed by Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Minister of Planning and Development, will be in Brussels for the signing ceremony which will take place on April 21st." Asked about the timing, the ambassador said that it reflected a vote of confidence in the performance of the government and a gesture of support for the parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 27th, 1997.

"The new agreement will transcend the traditional fields of cooperation, mostly focussed so far on development aid. The agreement will encourage trade, business relations, cultural exchange, and of course, development aid," stated Mr. Kohler. He said the EU had an exceptional interest in linking up with the private and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

There will be continued development aid to support such vital sectors as education, health, fisheries, and utilities. "But we also want to promote social cooperation and human-resources development. That means vocational training, promoting the role of women in society, cultural and communications cooperation - all of which have been incorporated in the new agreement," he said.

Ambassador Al-Aghbari stated that EU cooperation with Yemen is based, at the moment, on a cooperation agreement made in 1977 and renewed in 1984. "It was a limited agreement of two pages according to which, the EU provided humanitarian aid to Yemen. This new agreement covers all aspects of cooperation.

Kohler



It places Yemen as a partner with the EU, not just a recipient of aid," he said.

Dr. Kohler had nothing but praise for the economic reform performance. "We are very much impressed by the success of structural adjustment in Yemen. Those who remember the economic situation and public finances in Yemen in 1994 would never have dreamed that Yemen could so quickly change like this."

So the EU has decided to support Yemen, not only financially but technically also. That is because achieving conditions for sustainable growth is something which takes more effort. It is a long-term process.

"This kind of growth is better achieved through regional cooperation. We shall, therefore, involve Yemen in our regional effort. We would like to see Yemen associated with the cooperation framework in the region," he explained.

"Regional understanding and cooperation is important for all countries in the region and worldwide. We not only need stability within a country, but also stability between the country and its neighbors."

Another high mark for Yemen from the EU came regarding preparations for the elections. During the EU delegation's visit to the country, the Yemeni Socialist Party announced it will boycott the elections. Speaking on this issue, Dr. Kohler said, "It is not very important for the EU whether the YSP will participate or not. For us, it is more important that the elections are open for all parties to participate, and that they are organized in a transparent, democratic and credible way."

That is why the EU is making a contribution to the elections. We do not want to influence the outcome of the elections. "Judging from our experience in other countries, elections are not only a political event, but something that concerns the entire society. For this reason, we have structured our assistance to the elections to include the Supreme Election Committee and NGOs which contribute to the credibility of the elections, and which enable females to participate."

Additional dimensions of factors that affect the image of Yemen is the tolerance of the system towards press freedom and respect for human rights. In the immediate future, the elections are an embodiment of these new values and policies.

"I have been following elections and democratization in Arab and Islamic countries for almost 20 years. I think that there are more advanced Arab countries that should be jealous of how elections are being managed in Yemen."

If the international community - NGOs and governments - on 28th April have the impression that Yemen's elections were conducted in a transparent, credible and fair way, then this will open the door for a bright Yemeni future. If the case is the reverse, the attitude of the world towards Yemen will be different."

The Yemeni ambassador in Brussels also disclosed that inroads were also made in the bilateral relations between Yemen and European countries.

"The Belgian government, for

example, has agreed to support Yemeni and Belgian trade. Credit facilities are now available to finance Belgian/Yemeni trade. The British, French and Dutch governments are also considering similar arrangements," he said.

"The European Investment Bank has also promised to finalize arrangements to include Yemen with on its list. We submitted our official request for that purpose in December. Unfortunately, that was a bit too late to be considered by the European Council of Ministers which held its meeting on 27th January. So, our request is pending and will be taken up in the next meeting," ambassador Jazim said.

The issue of Yemen's image and its reputation abroad is of paramount concern to the ambassador. "The political in-fighting following the unity and the civil war of 1994 hurt us a lot. But since then, a lot of progress was made in Yemeni-European relations. Up to one year ago, the EU had doubts about the strength of Yemeni unity, and about Yemen's ability to overcome its



Jazim

political and economic problems. I can now say, with all confidence, that the EU's point of view is one of appreciation and admiration. The signing of this agreement is a vivid proof of that."

The EU, to further underline its support for Yemen's political transformation and economic reform, is sending another delegation to Yemen to participate in the parliamentary elections as observers.

"I am personally going to come here in about a month," said Dr. Kohler, who is going to be busy finalizing the text for the bilateral cooperation agreement to be signed on April 21st.

The young Arabist and orientalist from Germany, Michael Kohler, is probably one of Yemen's best friends at the EU.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Chief Editor,  
Yemen Times.

## In Order to Better Understand the World:

### 14 Years Around the World on Bicycles

A dental technician and an interior decorator, Claude and Francoise Herve' are a husband-and-wife team, going around the world on bicycles. Claude and Francoise, of France, started their epic journey in Lyon on the 1st of April, 1980.

In the 14 years journey covering 150,000 kilometers, they passed through 66 countries in five continents. They visited all kinds of places and cities such as Istanbul, New Delhi, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Beijing, Tokyo, Jakarta, Sydney, Los Angeles, Montreal, Mexico, Bogota, Lima, Dakar, Sabtu, Madrid, Paris and many more.

Their bicycle tyres had to be repaired 503 times, and changed 89 times. They have used the same bicycles specially made by a craftsman in Lyon.

Their daughter, Manou, was born en route, in New Zealand in September, 1980. When she reached seven weeks of age, she was moved from her parents' back to a special place made for her at the back of her mother's bicycle.

A little cat towed behind the mother's bicycle was added to the tiny convoy to accommodate Manou when she became 6 months old. The family had to return to France to get the little girl into school at the age of 5 1/2 years. The world cyclists are now in Yemen.

The International Women's Association will organize a presentation at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sana'a to introduce these world travelers to the public on 23rd March. Yemen Times was told the proceeds will go to the Society for Helping Yemeni Families with Limited Resources.



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• **Registration: Tuesday 18th March - Thursday 20th March.**

9:00AM - 12:00AM and 3:00PM - 6:00PM

• The session consists of 80 hours of classroom instruction.

• The cost of the session is 7000 Yemeni Riyals.

• The cost for textbooks is 2500 Yemeni Riyals.

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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## Yemen and Tourism: Only Your Kidnapper Knows For Sure



One of them was an employee of the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The other was an administrative assistant with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Sana'a. In the mid-1970s, Mr. Abdulkarim Abu Talib and Mr. Ibrahim Abu Talib got together and formed a travel and tourism agency.

The two cousins had come to this writer as a bank officer and required short term financing to get their firm off the ground. The two men were quick to convince the bank officer of their entrepreneurship and of the feasibility of their idea.

The small amount they required was disbursed accordingly. Within a couple of months, the firm was generating revenue that became testimony to initiative, determination and hard work - all vehicles for true success.

The firm still ranks as an important tour operator in Yemen, despite the fact that more than 200 travel and tour agencies have been set up. This writer learned later that when the government tried to enter the tourism business with its own tourism company, efforts were made to convince some of the external partners of YATA to deal with them rather than with the experienced private concern. The external tour organizers wisely refused, assuring the government entity that their relationship and experience was

more than satisfactory. The company's successful nonsense business philosophy and their successful organization, in addition to their sharp arrangement of several small independent operations (hotels, restaurants, drivers, etc.) has given the firm an unbeatable reputation in the trade among those who deal with them, inside and outside of Yemen.

The tourism industry in Yemen is far from having advanced beyond the embryonic stage despite the unending efforts of many firms in the trade, like Universal Tours and Travel, AZ.ABM Tours, Arabian Horizons Travel, and others who are contributing to the increase in the number of tourists yearly. The peak volume of tourists coming to Yemen never exceeded 60,000 per year. If we assume that the statistics of the General Tourism Authority are reasonably accurate, the contribution of tourism to the balance of payments position of the country is around US \$ 25,000,000, which is relatively minuscule, in terms of the potential numbers that could be reached.

There is no question that Yemen, with its diversified landscape and climate, and with its historical heritage, and traditional cultural folklore offers much that tourists can look for. This potential needs to be given much more attention by the government, rather than to be left to the ill-resourced

General Tourism Authority, or to the uncoordinated efforts of some 200 travel and tour agents, most of whom have yet to gain any influential foothold in the trade. It is not that the efforts mentioned, by the GTA and the tour operators are not needed. But, to reach maximum potentials, the government needs to raise tourism to an equal footing with some of the other economic sectors that bite off a bigger chunk of the government's time (petroleum, gas, Aden Free Port), at the expense of other sectors, which need much attention.

A growing tourism industry in Yemen will be able to alleviate some of the unemployment and bring about new skills to the labor market in the areas of hospitality service, lodging, feeding, sight-seeing, boating, camping, etc., all of which have yet to be molded into modern productive economic activities. What is also important is that tourism will employ people on a widespread basis throughout the country, especially in the tourist destinations, such as the coastlines of Tihama, Marib, al-Mahweet, Hajjah, Shabwa, the Arabian Sea coastline, the fascinating island of Socotra and other areas.

One must bear in mind that tourists are not just going to run to their airlines the moment they hear the name Yemen hit their eardrums. Tourists are going to

turn the matter in their head a hundred times before they decide to make the big jump to Yemen. Of course the first issue to be considered by any potential visitor to Yemen is: "Is it safe?" In order to make the domicile of the Queen of Sheba a viable tourist attraction, law and order must be enforced. The state must address the periodic kidnapping of foreigners.

We all realize that nobody has ever been harmed, and that the hostages are merely used as pawns to pressure the government, but a kidnapping is a kidnapping.

The problem with our kidnappers is not tourism, itself, since apparently the captives of most of the kidnappings that have occurred attest to the fact their captors have, so far, given a remarkable display of good treatment and hospitality. In addition, many captives have pointed out their captors have taken them to sites that were going to be missed, had they not been kidnapped. Therefore, the kidnapping might have added a little spice to their journey to Yemen.

But, even with all the lauding that the kidnappers have received and the effort of the government to play down the mischief and evil that is associated with this crime, there is no escape from the final conclusion that kidnapping is a threat to the peace and stability. It is a destructive method of trying to bring some monetary gains to a few wild bandits or people with a grudge.

In other words, the government will have to deal firmly with this matter, so that the last kidnapping of the 7 German tourists must be the last one that Yemen will witness. This will entail that the government will have to act firmly by issuing a strict warning that any further kidnapping will be dealt with, without any mercy. This also means that kidnapping will have to be dealt with as a crime of treason, since it jeopardizes a strategic economic sector.

The government should work hard to turn this sector into a gainful one to all: tour operators, hotels, restaurants, airlines, drivers, and the government through sales and tourist taxes. There are quite a few linkage effects, or fringe benefits to a lot of people: people caring for places of interest to tourists, those who work in the coast, assuring that the tourists can find clean and safe beaches to swim in or waters to dive in... etc. The list can go on and on.

Of course, there are going to be a

lot of preconditions before we can get the number of tourists to climb to 500,000 tourists per year as the GTA hopes to achieve, by the end of this century. These conditions include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. The infrastructure of the country must be upgraded. That means power blackouts must be a thing of the past. That means that the main roads must be free from highway bandits, road blocks and must be well maintained. That means that feeder roads must be well laid, if not paved or asphalted. This is especially so, for the roads leading to attractive tourist destinations. Dangerous roads must have warning signs to prevent accidents. That means that the roads should have signs showing distances and names of the places that the roads pass by or lead to. That means that people must be able to call anywhere in the world by phone from any habitable place in Yemen. That means that acceptable health services can be found in at least the major population centers.

2. The climate for investment in the tourism sector must be encouraging and inviting to the Yemeni emigrant overseas, to the Arab investor and to the international companies in the tourist industry. That means very few and trouble free procedures to process licenses. That means the end of embezzlement in tourism related projects, whereby the investor does not have to pay more than twice the real cost of the project, in market terms. That means customs and tax breaks equal to petroleum and other strategic sectors. That means red carpet treatment to those investors who really bring in productive projects that create jobs and feed other investments that encourage the growth of tourism, or help feed the growth of other economic sectors.

3. Facilitating visa and other requirements for coming to, and leaving the country, such as expatriate staff working on tourism related projects, in the areas they are really needed and where there is a deficiency of skilled Yemenis to carry out the job. That means that the required apparatus is there by all the relevant government authority to deal with any questions and justified requests and to handle complaints.

4. Cleaning our cities and countryside is part of attracting visitors. That means undertaking serious attempts to make sure that our streets are not full of garbage and other trash and are

not the riverbeds for three quarters of the city's sewage waste, as is the case now with, of all places, Sana'a. That means running crash awareness programs on cleanliness, so that the Yemeni, people cease to become the subject of ridicule by visitors to the country, because of disregard for cleanliness on such a large scale by so many people. Many of these people simply do not know any better and many of them simply cannot afford the required amenities which lead to cleanliness.

5. That means caring about the environment, clean air, clean water, protecting whatever remains of flora and fauna and whatever is necessary for maintaining an ecological balance. This should be done, not just for the sake of tourism, but for the continuity of life itself, for those for whom Yemen is home.

6. That means designating areas for leisure, entertainment and relaxation. That means encouraging cultural activities and protecting innovative or creative talents through patents, copyrights and other legal instruments.

7. That means encouraging the handicraft industry to preserve the old handicraft, by encouraging the revival of handicraft skills to produce souvenirs. That means to have all trades governed by standards that upgrade quality and workmanship and reject cheap exploitation, frauds, etc.

8. That means the availability of widespread training facilities for the training of Yemenis in the service skills needed to provide all the necessary services required by tourists.

9. That means the development of a tourism culture in Yemen. These are just broad issues, which I believe are worth the attention of the government which is going to come after the national elections, next month.

It is hoped that the Conference on Tourism to start tomorrow, and which is sponsored by the GTA will address some of these issues, as well.

As for the kidnappers who have proven themselves capable of extending hospitable service to their 'victims', it might be worthwhile to consider reforming them to become tourist agents, or owners of some of the facilities that tourists would require.

Thus, the government should encourage the development of tour guide agencies at the level of local communities, in which these people can find a more legal channel for exercising their hospitality talents.

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## EMC Prepares for 2nd & 3rd Training Workshops

Salwa Ahmed Qassim Dammaj, Administrative Assistant Secretary-General of the Elections Monitoring Committee, has just concluded a several-day field visit to the EMC branches in Dhamar, Yarim, Ibb, Al-Qayidah, and Taiz. Ms. Salwa was doing the final touches on the 2nd round of training workshop that will involve those branches.

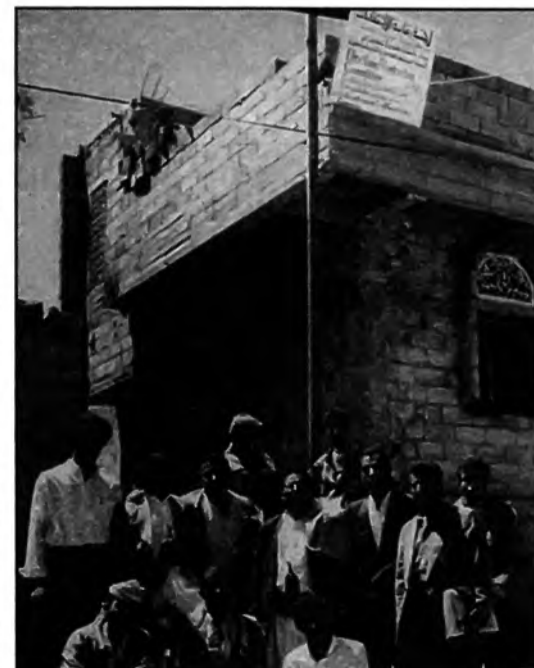
"Before the end of this month, the workshop should be completed. We hope to train about a thousand persons in two groups," she said.

Sultan Abdo Al-Shammari, the Qayidah Coordinator of the EMC, was joyful with the response of the female volunteers. "We thought we will get some 20 to 30 volunteers. At final count, we have over a hundred," he said.

Mohammed Saleh Al-Muntasser, Coordinator for Dhamar, reflected the enthusiasm among the people who have applied to help in the EMC effort. "Many of them tell me this is a national duty. We want the opportunity to be involved," he said.

Ali Qassim Al-Aliyi, Coordinator for Yarim, came up a list of 250 volunteers for his region. "We can get more, but there is a ceiling in terms of number of observers per ballot casting center," he said. Abdullah Hashem Al-Junaid, Coordinator for Taiz, has the biggest of all tasks, because he is in charge of the largest governorate. "It is like participating in making history. We are happy to be part of it, and so are the volunteers. We now have over a thousand persons on our list. We are going to screen these and reduce the number to half," he said.

At another level, Ms. Shada Mohammed Nasser, Technical Assistant Secretary-General of the EMC,



starts tomorrow, a field visit that will take her to the EMC branches in Lahej, Aden and Abyan. "I am charged with preparations for the Third Round of training for our volunteers. This will be based in Aden, and we hope to train about 800 male and female volunteers," she stated.



**Projects Financed (Co-Financed) by Germany, Presently Under Implementation**

Project Name/Title	Value in DM
Water Loss Reduction Program	15.0 million
Secondary Towns Water/Sanitation Project	80.0 million
Aden Sewerage	75.0 million
Arhab Water Supply Project	8.0 million
Commodity Aid 15 (Water/Sanitation)	10.0 million
Bajil & Zabid Sanitation Systems	8.3 million
Al-Hisva Power Plant	11.8 million
Shibam-Al-Mahweet Road Construction	66.7 million
Educational Printing Press	7.0 million
Studies and Experts	8.0 million
School Book Printing Press	10.0 million
Essential Drugs and Medical Equip.	8.0 million
Emergency Aid	2.0 million
Ibb and Abyan School Repairs/maintenance	12.0 million
Marib and Mukalla Power Plants	8.0 million
Plant Protection Project	29.0 million
Bee-Keeping Promotion Project	4.5 million
Agricultural Innovation Project	9.5 million
Advisory to NWSA Services	7.3 million
Health/Environmental Education in primary Schools	5.5 million
Follow-up Support for Vocational Training	8.3 million
Advisory Vocational Training	3.0 million
Advisory for Medicaments Distribution	5.0 million
Advisory to Ministry of Health	4.3 million
GTZ Studies and Experts	13.0 million
Advisory to Ministry of Planning	19.3 million
Planning Assistance to Urban Development	14.3 million
Ibb/Abyan Family Planning/Health	6.0 million
National Institute for Technicians & Instructors/Aden	20.0 million
Advisory Services in Waste Management	4.3 million
Technical Support for Water/Sanitation	3.0 million
Technical Support to Presidential Office	5.0 million
Promotion of Small/Micro Enterprises	4.0 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>704 million</b>

**Germany Continues to Pump in Generous Assistance: Are Yemenis Able to Maximize Benefits ?**

Over the last few days, the Republic of Yemen and the Federal Republic of Germany held official talks regarding bilateral cooperation. The German team, headed by Dr. Gerhard Adamek, also visited several governorates to witness the implementation of the projects, financed and/or co-financed with German assistance.

"In general, we are very pleased with the progress of cooperation and the pace of project implementation," Adamek said.

"The main emphasis of our talks was the water and sanitation sector. The reforms introduced in this sector are important for future success," he added.

German assistance covers six of the capitals of the governorates throughout the Republic. In addition to these, there are projects in many secondary cities. "We are interested in decentralization. We see that it is important to give more decision-making power to the local offices of the National Water and Sanitation Authority (NWSA), whether in the administration or in finance. We have all agreed that no new aid commitment will be made before substantial steps in this regard are taken."

Dr. Mohammed Al-Saeedi, Chairman of NWSA has already introduced several measures to delegate authority to the regional offices. "We have already pushed ahead in this regard, and it all falls within the



decentralization approach of the government," he said.

The local bodies can now retain a big part of their earnings for local repairs and expansion, and can hire/fire personnel. The head office gets involved in the major investment needs and in laying down general policies.

A similar demand has been put on the vocational training programs, being assisted by Germany. "We felt there is good cooperation from the bodies concerned in Hodeidah. We understood that there is a local council for vocational training. We also understood that the high committee of training in Sana'a pursues the policy of decentralization. In this respect, we said that we are open to cooperate and that we are ready to continue supporting the

committee in all the technical and training field," Adamek said.

The German mission included a Representative of the German volunteers. The idea is to stress the importance of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in the development process. "I think this point was appreciated by the Yemeni side."

At the moment, there are more than thirty German volunteers working in the various fields in Yemen.

The talks aim to prepare for the second round of talks to be held in Bonn in June. The Bonn talks are vital because they will allocate new funds for the development projects proposed by the Yemeni authorities and approved by the German side.

At the moment, the total value of

projects under execution is in excess of DM 700 million

(Please refer to adjacent table.) Germany is stressing human resource development projects, especially vocational training.

"We are convinced that manpower training is critical for the future development of Yemen," Adamek insisted.

Agricultural projects are also a priority. Visible effort is also exerted in the fields of health and family planning.

"Unlike in previous years, there is a strong participation from the Yemeni side in all projects. This creates a sense of togetherness." "The democratization process is appreciated. Preparation is now underway for President Saleh's arrival in Germany on September 8th, 1997," he concluded.

**Canada Fund Development Program: Little Money that Goes So Far**

The Canada Fund Development Program in Yemen (CFDP-Y) is financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and managed by the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh.

The Program has been actively involved in providing support to small grass-roots level development projects. The focus has been on vocational training, women in development, rehabilitation projects for disabled persons, and equipping centers for juvenile delinquents and orphans and health institutions.

Yemen Times went to visit some of the beneficiaries. The main conclusion we reached is that the limited funds available through the CFDP-Y are efficiently used, and do not involve fanfare. In addition, the supported projects touch directly on the lives of the targeted people, who are often disadvantaged groups in society in various parts of the country.

The program took a step forward in a more effective manner in the year 1996. CFDP-Y moved to provide assistance to Yemeni Non Governmental Organizations and Centers, which are accredited by the Government.

"Our aim is to provide the most needed support directly to the vulnerable sectors in Yemen, rather than allocating funds for studies that might end up shelved," said Mr. Abdul-



Malik Zabarrah, Canada's Honorary Consul in Yemen. CFDP-Y has worked to encourage the participation of women in the development process, through several vocational programs, such as sewing, dress making, handicrafts, secretarial skills, etc. "The purpose is to enable women generate an independent source of income, and it is working," Fouad added.

"We provide and will continue to support socially-oriented projects such as centers for juvenile delinquents, orphanages, etc. This is done by training them to acquire employable skills such as welding, carpentry, typing and other vocational activities, for which there is demand in the local market," he said.

In the health field, CFDP-Y provided support and assistance to:

- Primary health care units in Zabid / Abs regions
- The Taiz Health Center in Taiz
- Al-Jumhour (Republican) Hospital in Sa'ada
- Al-Thawrah General Hospital in Sana'a.
- Al-Saba'a Maternity and Paediatric Hospital in Sana'a.
- The Friendship Education Hospital for Maternity and Pediatrics in Aden
- Dr. Amin Nasher Higher Institute for Health Sciences.

During 1996, CFDP-Y distributed 100 wheelchairs as a gift to the physically handicapped and disabled persons in Yemen. The support for grass-roots level projects is small. The ceiling on such financing often does not exceed US\$10,000-15,000.



"As limited as these funds are, we feel they make a difference and they are useful," Fouad said. "We will continue to assess all requests for funding of projects, and set priorities as the need arises," he added pointing to the fact that applicants can directly approach

his office for funding. In a much larger scale, the Canadian Government - mainly through Canadian International Development Assistance - participates in several projects in Yemen, particularly in the field of water resource exploration in Hadhramaut, fish wealth research projects, and humanitarian relief assistance. Most recently, CIDA is cooperating with the Supreme Elections Committee in Yemen by providing technical experts from Canada, and the supply of Voter Ink/Sealing Wax for the parliamentary elections next month. An amount of approximately US\$ 250,000.00 has been earmarked as Canada's contribution to the democratic process in the Republic of Yemen.



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## Working to Integrate the Handicapped into Society:

# Aden Rehabilitation Center Calls on Philanthropists to Extend a Helping Hand

The lot of handicapped persons in Yemen is indeed difficult. The situation is further complicated when one realizes that traditional bonds and support through kinship are gradually giving way without being replaced by modern or state-organized support mechanisms. The main loser in this development are those who need support.

To shed light on this situation, Ms. Ibtisam Qudar of Yemen Times Aden Bureau talked to Ms. Layla Abubakar Ba-Shumail, Director of the Center for Handicapped Persons in Aden.

Excerpts:

**Q:** Could you give us an overview of the activities of the center?

**A:** The Handicapped Rehabilitation Centre in Aden was established according to an agreement between the Yemeni Government represented in the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs and the International Labor Organization.

The Center aims to train and rehabilitate/qualify the disabled members of society. We are now in the second phase of the project which includes installing workshops to train our people to make garments, shoes, embroidery and other products.

In all these activities, we take into consideration the needs of the local market and the special needs and abilities of the handicapped themselves.

We are awaiting the arrival of three foreign experts who volunteered to help train the disabled at our center.



**Q:** How are the appropriate vocations chosen for the disabled people?

**A:** Both men and women are involved in our programs. There is a unit which assesses abilities and interests of the handicapped persons. Then they are examined so as to determine their qualification.

The handicapped person remains under assessment for two or three months in order to find the vocation suitable for him or her. The family of the disabled also take part in choosing the suitable career.

After the assessment process, the handicapped is introduced to the workshop.

**Q:** What other programs do you have?

**A:** There are classes for eradication of illiteracy. About 70% of the handicapped persons are illiterate. In our society, a handicapped person is isolated during childhood, which deprives him/her of many things, including going to school.

We try to equip the handicapped person to live a normal life, as our objective is to integrate him/her back into society.

**Q:** What are the main professions or vocations that you train the handicapped to engage in?

**A:** The vocations include sewing, embroidery, shoe making, carpentry, pottery and porcelain, making various walking aids such as belts, crutches and wheel chairs, etc.

**Q:** How many disabled persons are being trained currently at the center?

**A:** Currently they are 80 handicapped persons (26 females and 64 males) aged between 16 and 32 years.

**Q:** Is the center staffed by Yemeni personnel?

**A:** All the teachers and instructors are Yemenis. They are usually very experienced people who used to work in factories and workshops.

**Q:** What are the major sources of support and finance for the center?

**A:** The center is supported in a small way by the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs, Aden Bureau. The cost of raw materials, staff salaries, internal and external courses, training equipment, technical advice and sending voluntary workers are all funded by the ILO in accordance with the agreement.

**Q:** How do you market the goods produced at the center? And how do you distribute the revenue?

**A:** The products are usually put on sale in exhibitions. As you know, numerous charities and other organizations organize bazars and exhibitions. We participate by putting on sale the products of our members. The proceeds are distributed among the handicapped people after deducting the cost of raw materials according to the number of pieces sold.

**Q:** What sort of problems do you face?

**A:** The biggest problem is the lack of a fixed budget for the center. This is a hindrance to planning our activities.

Due to this, some delays occur in buying raw materials, medicines or even in paying transportation costs for staff and trainees. We rely on the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs which provides us with a grand total monthly sum of YR. 29000.

Another problem is the attitude of society towards handicapped persons. Handicapped people are either shunned or pitied, both of which are wrong. We need to work together to educate the public on this matter.

**Q:** Any last comment?

**A:** I Use this occasion like to call upon philanthropists, benevolent and charitable persons to extend a helping hand to their handicapped brethren.

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over his sudden and tragic  
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Farook's contribution to  
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YBFA will never be forgotten.



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تتقدم

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وانا لله وانا إليه راجعون



## MAHA AL-KHULAIIDI: Yemen's First Female Fashion Designer

**“My aim is to integrate traditional Yemeni style with modern international concepts.”**

Fashion styling is something that many people would consider as a bit remote in Yemen. A country, whose priorities are to find basic sustenance, fashion showroom, one would guess, is a bit on the low side of the consumer list of priorities.

While that is true for the general public, a small class of expatriates and well-to-do Yemenis do represent a demand that needs to be met. Maha A. Al-Khulaidi - of a Yemeni father hailing from Taiz and an Italian mother - is trying to meet that demand. Demand is there. That is why a fashion showroom displaying modern styles and fabric influenced by Yemeni tradition is an economic success.

Maha received her specialized training in Turkey and Greece, and practiced in Egypt before setting up shop at Al-Bowniyah in Sanaa in 1995. With an inquisitive mind, she travels a lot around the country, especially in the Tihama (Zabid and Wadi Mawr) and in Hadhramaut. “I go there to learn about traditional Yemeni wear and folklore, and actually to buy some of the local hand-made fabric.”

Of course she also travels to Europe where to get insight into the main fashion trends. Recently, she linked up with Italy's Benetton, for which she now serves as the local agent. “We are going to formally exhibit Benetton styles in Yemen very soon,” she said.

Maha is a bridge person. She is as Yemeni as anyone can be. “And proud of it too.” Yet, she feels comfortable with other cultures. “Every society has something to give. We should be



able to combine these contributions into something every one of us can see as his/her own.”

Yemen, even more the world, needs such bridge persons. People who are proud of their origin, and yet, can transcend the ethnocentricity and extend an open arm to the world.

That combination - at least in terms of fashion designs - you can find at her shop. It is not just dresses. Maha also produces various accessories such as bags, hats, pendants and other optionals. Also these are a mixture of modern/international ideas with a Yemeni flare.

As a result of Maha's efforts, certain Yemeni handicrafts have found a new market. The artisans were also able to improve their

products. It goes without saying that there is an additional benefit which is the preservation and continuation of old Yemeni traditions. “I see myself a crafts-person,” she says.

And who are the customers? At the moment the majority are foreigners, mainly from the expatriate community in Yemen. But increasingly, there is a growing number of Yemen women who are visiting the shop. “We even have a few Yemeni male visitors, nowadays.”

“I do not plan to go commercial on these products,” Maha says implying that her shop is not likely to carry large quantities. Of each design, she produces a maximum of 2-to-3 sets or even pieces.



This issue of a harmonious mix between the local traditions and international styles features visibly in her work. “It is the strong point in my work.”

Maha is not the first Yemeni fashion designer. A few male designers have already come into the picture. But, she is definitely

the first female fashion stylist, and she is obviously the first Yemeni designer with a strong local-international mix.

By: Aneesa Ghanim,  
Yemen Times.



« كل نفس ذائقة الموت »

## تتقدم مجموعة شركات العالمية

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بمصابهم الجلل بوفاة الشهداء الأخوة

فاروق محمد الحروي، زيد عبدالرحمن محمد، عارف عبدالخالق الحريقي

وجميع الذين جرحوا في الإعتداء الآثم الذي تعرضت له الجمعية

وإننا لله وإننا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

علوان سعيد الشيباني

عمر محمد عمر وجميع موظفي ومنتسبي شركات العالمية



### Election to End Algerian Chaos

Algerian President Liamine Zeroual called on the Algerian public for a massive turnout in general elections scheduled on June 5 to end "institutional instability". Algeria's last elections, which were held more than five years, were cancelled out of fear Islamicists were poised to win, thus sparking a vicious civil war.

Speaking on television, he pledged to respect the choice of voters, which has been circumscribed by new laws on political parties since Zeroual came to power with the backing of the military. The Algerian leader said a large turnout would re-establish confidence and hope, inaugurating a new stage in pluralist democracy.

The banned radical Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which was poised to win the 1992 polls before the authorities stepped in and canceled them, will not be allowed to contest June's elections.

Parties are now banned from having any religious, linguistic, regional or ethnic bias.

The main contestants will include the National Democratic Rally, founded recently to support Zeroual, and the former ruling National Liberation Front.

Zeroual has set up an independent national commission to manage the elections and officially invited international observers from the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity to monitor the polls.

He has also pledged that the elections will take place in total security, despite the fighting between government forces and radical Islamic armed groups. The in-fighting started, the total number of victims is estimated at 60,000 people killed.

### Erbakan Signs NSC Statement

Turkey's military dominated National Security Council (NSC) said the Islamic prime minister Erbakan had signed a council statement demanding a crackdown on religious activism. The powerful NSC demanded in a statement last week that Erbakan's coalition crack down on religious activism, which the NSC said was largely fostered by his Islamic-based Welfare party. The statement demanded that the government promote respect for the basic secular tenets of the constitution.

Erbakan had initially refused, arguing that democracy meant his government answered only to parliament and not to the army, in comments which exacerbated the dispute. The apparent deadlock with the army had put strains on Erbakan's coalition with deputy prime minister and sent shares tumbling 15 percent in Istanbul.

Even now, Erbakan's supporters say, "Only those demands which are compatible with the government's program, according to which it got the vote of confidence of parliament, will be implemented."

### India Will Join Asian Tiger Pack in Four Years

Indian Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram predicted that his country would be as combative as the rest of Asia's 'tiger' economies within the next 4 years. Chidambaram addressing an international conference of businessmen and politicians last week, added he was aiming to accelerate the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth from seven to eight percent.

The minister was widely applauded for unveiling a tax-cutting budget in his address to the Asia Society conference-entitled "Moving to the Market". "India will Asianize itself and I vow that it will become as combative as any other Asian country. India is an Asian country. We are proud that Japan is an economic giant. If India is left behind, one-sixth of humanity is left behind. It is time that we pull ourselves up to raise productivity, competitiveness and demanded our rightful place in the world," he said.

The finance minister added, "We aim to achieve an 8% growth rate annually by 2000. Our economic growth has averaged 7% during the last three years which was unimaginable during the 1950's, 60's and 70's. We can sustain 7%, but I am not satisfied with that. India has the potential to achieve 8%."

His upbeat message, however, was countered by Martin Feldstein president of the National Bureau of Economic Research in the United States. He told the meeting, "India had to increase its domestic savings to pay for an improved infrastructure arguing the current rate of 25% was 'insufficient when compared to the 40% of the other Asian tigers such as South Korea, Taiwan and China.' He said India's export growth was also lagging behind its Asian neighbors.

The minister also said the public sector will be restructured, but there will not be a wholesale privatization. Functioning will be improved. We have identified where government will walk out of certain sectors or will hold a minority position. We will move from a protected to an open economy and will have tariffs matching Asian levels by the turn of the century.

Some 600 delegates from all over the world, including leading businessmen, were in New Delhi for the gathering.

### MISSILES LEAVE IRAQ FOR US INSPECTION

Iraqi missiles parts have been shipped out of Iraq and are en route to the United States for inspection. Roger Knight, a UN spokesman in Baghdad, said the components which had been stored at the UN headquarters in the Iraqi capital set sail for Bahrain, last week.

By this, Iraq ended a dispute with the UN inspectors who must verify whether Iraq destroyed its long-range missiles after the 1991 Gulf War. The parts are to be analyzed by a team of international experts. Chief UN inspector Ekeus says Iraq may have removed the engines or the engine parts and replaced them with useless Iraqi made pieces before destroying the missiles and burying them in 1991.

Iraq, although repeatedly announcing its fulfillment of UN requirements, was discovered time and again of shortcomings.

### Egypt's Plans for Religious Control

The Egyptian government, fighting what it calls religious extremism, plans to control the country's 55,000 mosques and all Muslim preachers within five years, the minister of Islamic affairs said.

In its first 14 months, the present government has taken over 9,000 private mosques and the process will continue at a rate of 6,000 a year, Religious Endowments Minister Mahomoud Hamdi Zakzouk told a news conference recently.

The people who run the remaining 30,000 private mosques have started applying for licenses for their preachers under a law passed earlier this year, he indicated.

The attempt to impose orthodoxy is a reaction to a violent campaign by militant Islamists fighting for the over-throw the government and to make Egypt a strict Islamic state.

More than 1,000 people, mainly militants and police, have been killed in the violence, now largely confined to a few provinces in the upper Nile valley, south of Cairo.

"Perhaps one reason which moved us to the plan to bring the mosques under ministry control was to put an end to all forms of extremism which use mosques as a base," Zakzouk said.

The minister made clear there would be no place in mosques for preachers who hold unorthodox doctrines or engage in political activity hostile to the government.

### Qatar & Bahrain Agree to Ties

Qatar and Bahrain agreed to set aside their long-standing territorial dispute and establish diplomatic ties.

The decision was announced in Manama after talks between Bahrain's foreign minister, Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, and Qatar's foreign minister, Hamad Bin Jassem Al-Thani.

"The two ministers agreed to establish embassies for each country, for the sake of continuing coordination and cooperation between them, and to guard their joint interests," it was reported.

The two, who have never before exchange ambassadors, agreed to "clear the atmosphere and improve bilateral relations, as well as returning these relations to their previous level, which are based on the ties linking the two peoples of close and inherited family bonds."

The Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, met Qatar's foreign minister to discuss relations which began to improve following a flare-up in the dispute. Bahrain and Qatar have competing claims to the Hawar Islands. The dispute has been referred to the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Bahrain boycotted the Gulf Co-operation Council Summit in December because it was being held in the Qatari capital Doha. But Bahrain agreed to attend the GCC meeting last month with the European Union in a gesture of reconciliation. The other GCC nations set up the mediating committee following the December summit in a bid to end the 60-year old territorial dispute.

The GCC committee proposed a compromise calling on both sides to stop their war of words through their news media and to pledge not to support opposition members from the other country.

### Israel's Insensitivity towards Its Peace Partners Fuels Public Anger

Israeli decision to build new settlements including 6,500 residential units has been the source of new tension in the region. A UN Security Council proposal calling on Israel to avoid moves that threaten the final status talks on occupied Jerusalem was vetoed by the US. European diplomats said the construction project risks destroying the positive atmosphere between the Arab and Israeli sides.

The Israeli plan to build new settlements around East Jerusalem is aimed at judaizing it in order to confirm its occupation by Israel. This action comes after the opening of the tunnel surrounding Al-Aqsa Mosque.

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## Opening the Door Wide for Tourists!

# Is Yemen Biting More Than It Can Chew ?

By: Ahlam Al-Mutawakkel,  
Social Editor,  
Yemen Times.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 18th, the Regional Conference of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) starts in Sanaa. In addition to representatives of the international organization, delegates from countries of the Middle East and North Africa, have already started arriving for the 3-day gathering.

"This is going to be an important occasion to highlight the various excellent tourist destinations," said Mr. Iskander Al-Asbahi, Director-General of External Media Coverage at the Ministry of Information and Media Coordinator for the Conference. Some of the important destinations Mr. Al-Asbahi is talking about, include the following:

1) Important archaeological and civilizational sites such as Marib,

Shabwah, Hadhramaut, etc., all witnesses to an impressive era of history which dates back to several thousand years, including the fabled Queen of Sheba.

2) Important living 'museums' such as the Old City of Sanaa, Shibam in Hadhramaut, etc.

3) Long clean beaches which extend to over 2,500 kilometers along the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea. This offers ample opportunities to exercise water hobbies and sports such as swimming, fishing, scuba diving and other activities.

4) Lush valleys and wadis contrasting visibly with majestic mountain peaks. For hikers, this is ideal territory.

5) A desert interior which lends itself to various kinds of 'hardship' activities.

6) A traditional setting rich in folklore and traditions.

7) A friendly and highly hospitable social population.

Mr. Abdul-Rahman Mahyoob,

Chairman of the General Tourism Authority (GTA), was upbeat about the possibilities and the outcome of the conference. "We seek to put Yemen on the world tourist map. While we are not rushing into the mass tourism phenomenon, we do want to increase our intake of tourists," he said.

Mr. Mahyoob was referring to the GTC plan to increase the number of visitors to Yemen from the roughly 80,000 persons at the moment, to almost half a million by the early years of the next century. "We hope that the necessary infrastructure and facilities to accommodate this number of visitors will be in place over the next few years," he indicated. Mr. Omar M. Omar, General Manager of the UNIVERSAL Group of Companies, the leading tourism company in the country, expressed confidence in Yemen's ability to attract more tourists. "The problem is not attracting



tourists. The country sells itself. The issue is to care for them once they arrive," he said.

Mr. Ali Abu Munassar, Chairman and Owner of AZ.ABM Travel & Tourism and Vice Chairman of the Yemeni Association of Tour Operators and Tourism Agencies, expressed similar sentiments. "From our participation in tourism exhibitions and meetings, I can say there is strong interest in Yemen as a tourist destination. It is a matter of channelling and organizing this interest," he added.

Mr. Iyad Al-Ayoubi, General Manager of Arabian Horizons, another pioneering company, notably in the French market, called on the authorities to execute the necessary infrastructure projects. "At the same time, the private sector will push ahead with lodging and other facilities."

Along the same lines, Mr. Omar Al-Sayyid, General Manager of International Travel & Tourism, pointed to the major efforts

exerted by his company in introducing Yemen in the international tourism markets. "There is a lot of interest and good will towards Yemen. All we have to do is work out appropriate ways to tap this," he said.

The number of airlines serving Yemen is already on the rise. Market leaders in this regard are the two world carriers KLM and Lufthansa, both with an excellent international reputation and diverse connection options to various European and American markets.

Mr. Abdullah Okasha, in charge of KLM in Yemen, indicated that his company is working on introducing, alongwith its partner Northwest, code-sharing reservation systems. "This will enable us to list Yemen as a destination in all the Northwest/KLM counters in the USA and all over the world," he indicated.

One of the policy measures taken by the Civil Aviation Authority is to entice many more airlines to service Yemeni cities. So far, several international and regional airlines already fly into Yemen. These include KLM, Lufthansa,

Royal Jordanian (ALIA), Gulf Air, Emirates Airlines, Egyptair, Air Tanzania, Ethiopian Airlines, and Saudia.

Both British Airways and Air France are considering a resumption of service during 1997. Their service was interrupted during the hardship years of 1993/95. If conditions improve further, both PIA of Pakistan and Air India are also contemplating returning to Yemen.

The 500,000 target number for the year 2001 seems to be on the high side. Of course, infrastructure will be developed, and new facilities will be built. But considering the present volume of tourist flow, it may be more appropriate to work towards a doubling or even tripling of volume. According to many sources, half a million is just too big a volume to handle.

Over the last two years, service at airports, especially at Sanaa International Airport, was much improved. New equipment has also been installed. Similar improvements have also been witnessed at seaports.

Mr. Mahyoob

## SONY-Led Consortium Conquers More of ME Market

A UK-based consortium led by Sony Broadcast & Professional Europe, partnered with Kvaerner Construction is now carrying out technical design review of a \$314 million contract in Egypt. The group is building a digital 4.2 million square meters production studio complex, known as the Media Production City and unofficially dubbed as 'Hollywood on the Nile'.

Sited at 25 kilometers to the south of Cairo, the multi-million dollar investment represents an effort to retain Egypt's status as the center of media production in the Middle East. Work is presently underway to prepare the site for the construction of six digital production studios, workshops, multiple fully-equipped television edit suites, outside

broadcast and support vehicles, and the supply of Sony Digitabl Betacam television production equipment. Once the three-year project is completed, Egyptian authorities are contemplating a second phase involving seven studios and equipment.

The agreement was signed in Cairo on January 22nd, 1997. It was signed by Mr. Abdul-Rahman Hafiz, Chairman of the state broadcaster, ERTU, Sony senior managing director Kiyoshi Yamakawa, who has world-wide responsibility for Sony Corporation's Image Creation & Communications Group, and Mr. Mike Napier, Senior Vice President of Kvaerner Construction. The occasion was attended by Egyptian Information Minister and the ambassadors Japan and Britain in Egypt.

Egypt is playing a major role as producer and supplier of the Arab region's television program needs. Most of the Arab television stations fill at least 50% of their air time with material produced in Cairo.

As demand increases, quality programs are also on the rise. That is why the new Media Production City at the outskirts of Cairo is going to come in handy as the industry launches efforts in the 21st century.

ERTU Chairman Hafiz said, "Sony and its partners provided the most credible, technically feasible proposal and demonstrated all of the essential skills necessary to implement a successful project, based on our needs."

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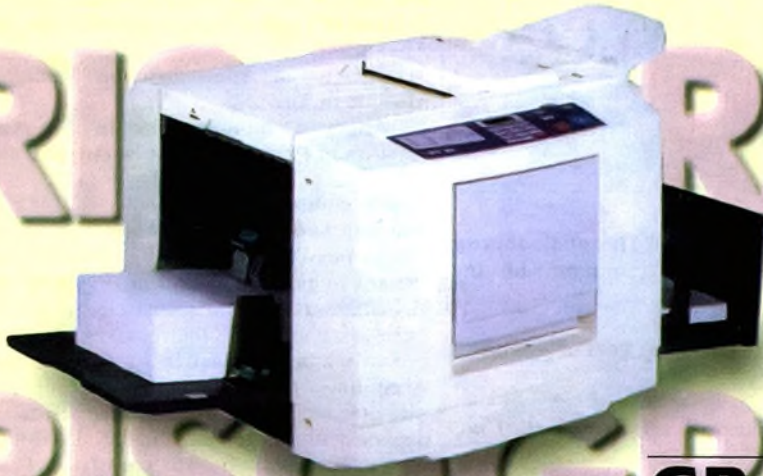
### What is WTO? What Services Does It Provide?

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) is the leading inter-governmental organization in tourism. Headquartered in Madrid, WTO is entrusted by 135 countries and territories with the promotion and development of tourism worldwide. WTO's mission is to develop tourism as a significant means of fostering international peace and understanding, economic development and international trade.

WTO activities include:

1. Cooperation for Development: WTO offers advice and assistance to governments on a wide-range of tourism issues including master plans, feasibility studies, investment needs, and technology transfer to marketing and promotion.
2. Education and Training: WTO offers a strategic framework for organizing the tourism sector through education and training.
3. Environment and Planning: WTO works for a sustainable tourism development through the translation of environmental concerns into practical measures.
4. Quality of Tourism Services: Liberal travel regulations, health and safety standards are among the key issues promoted by WTO. Through such standards, WTO promotes quality tourism services.
5. Statistics and Market Research: WTO is the foremost center for the collection, analysis and dissemination of tourism data covering 180 countries and territories. A comprehensive series of publications is produced for member-states and the industry.





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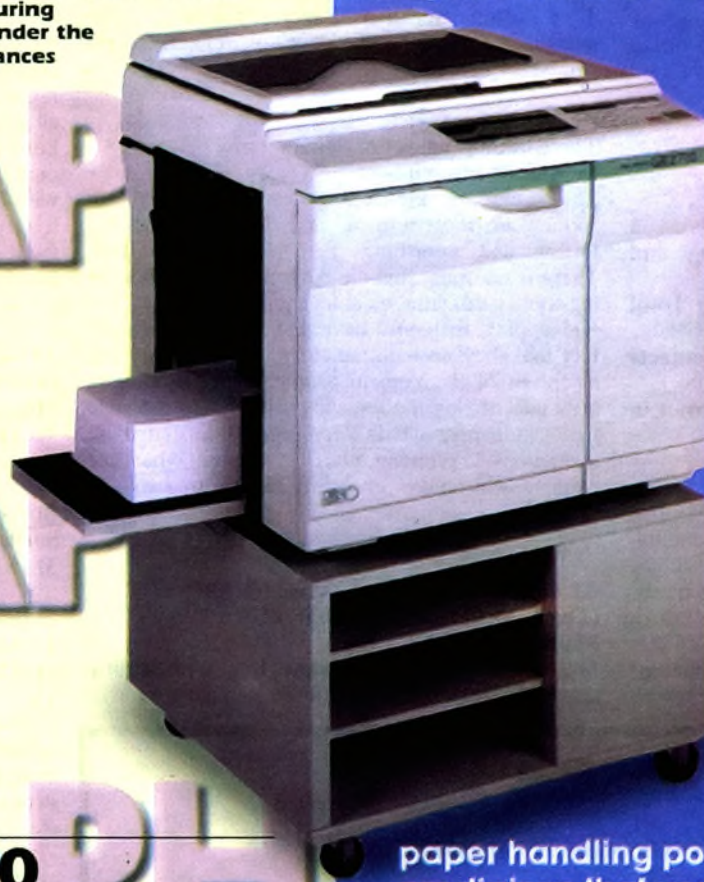
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(The Federation of Popular Forces)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Socialist Party's Boycotting of Elections Disturbs Balance in Political Life.
- 2) Dialogue Continues Among Ruling Coalition and Some Opposition Parties.
- 3) Yemeni and Foreign Merchants Sue Governor of Aden for Damages.

**Article Summary:**

**Is Democracy in Yemen a Political Luxury?**  
by Ahmed Al-Sharaaby

The democracy that comes from a political decision can be easily cancelled with a stroke of a pen. The bewildering aspect in the Yemeni experience is that the ruling coalition presents models and examples of near commitment to democratic principles. The opposition, on the other hand, seems to be practicing dictatorship within its internal structures. The political regime's commitment to political pluralism emanates not from faith in democracy, but from a feeling of safety from any dangers that are likely to threaten its existence.

Democracy in a country where the conditions and basis of the state's establishments are not fully in place is a political luxury. How can democracy attain the momentum to continue when 80% of the people are below the level of subsistence?

**AL-UROUBA: Sana'a, (Weekly), 9-3-97**  
(The Nasserite Democratic Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Criminal-Investigation Personnel Arrest a Number of Pharmacists for Preparing and Selling Dud Drugs.
- 2) Yemen Denies Allegations of Storing Iraqi Weapons.
- 3) Deputy Foreign Minister Denies Contacts with Israel.
- 4) 17 People Died and 11 Houses Destroyed in an Avalanche in Taiz.

**Article Summary:**

**Corruption in a Public Establishment**

The general manager of a state-owned production establishment has been abstaining from work for two months. All his attempts to reform the establishment and cleanse it of corruption have failed. Founded in Sana'a in 1967, the products of this public enterprise are marketed in almost all governorates. The general manager was threatened with



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

death by the treasurer at the establishment. All sorts of corrupt activities go on at this establishment without any punishments. More than YR. 13 million were embezzled from its funds. The fate of \$ 35 million to be used for buying new machinery is still unknown.

**AL-WAHDA: Sana'a, (Weekly), 12-3-97**  
(Official)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Under the Auspices of the President of the Republic, the 17th Conference of the Arab Association for Technical Training is Held in Sana'a.
- 2) The Foreign Minister, "The border issue with Saudi Arabia is very complicated."
- 3) Leading Socialist Party Member, "The decision to boycott the elections reflects secessionist tendencies."

**Article Summary:**

**The Kidnapping of Foreigners**  
by Ahmed Muhyildeen

The events of kidnapping foreign nationals in Yemen are most horrible and dangerous for distorting and tarnishing Yemen's image abroad. There is no doubt that the perpetrators, or whoever is behind them, aim to achieve just that.

Kidnapping incidents have increased despite the fact that they are contradictory to the morals and traditions of the Yemeni people. Many people are now questioning the leniency with which the state treats kidnappers. It is very regrettable that these abductions are taking place at a time when the country is aiming to attracting foreign tourists and investors.

**AL-TAJAMMU': Aden, (Weekly), 10-3-97**  
(The Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Splinter Baath Group Signs Deal with Ruling Coalition in Return for Official Recognition.

2) Deputy Interior Minister, "The abductors of German tourists are the remnants of the Socialist Party."

3) Yeminvest to Start Dredging Port of Aden.

**Article Summary:**

**Threatening to Strike with an "Iron Fist" Contradicts Democracy**

As soon as the decision by the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) to boycott the elections was declared, the people were disturbed by the President's call on the military and security organs to "strike with an iron fist whoever disrupts the safety and stability of the country."

Could it be that the President targeted the kidnappers and highwaymen in his speech. But the publicly funded newspapers referred instead to those who decided to boycott the elections. It is regrettable that Al-Thawra came out with an article attacking the YSP's decision in this regard.

Let it be known to the rulers that the road to democracy does not begin with the muzzle of a gun, nor with bone-crashing and head-rolling tactic. Instead, it starts with admitting one's mistakes, rectifying them, and tolerating the other side's opinion, however contrary it runs to one's own views.

**AL-MITHAQ: Sana'a, (Weekly), 10-3-97**  
(The People's General Congress)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President Urges Elections Supervisory Committees to Work as One National Team.
- 2) PGC Denounces Socialist Party's Decision to Boycott Elections as Undemocratic and Does Not Serve the Country.
- 3) 15 Political Parties are Now Active in Yemen.

**Article Summary:**

**Yemen and the Gulf... One Future**  
by Khalid Al-Qassim

The strong historical ties among the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula make it necessary to re-investigate the brotherly bonds among them and their governments. Yemen continued to have very strong links with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, until the outbreak of the Gulf War. There is no doubt that the GCC countries realize very well the gross error of marginalizing Yemen's role in the region.

For the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen represents an unlimited investment opportunity, huge political and military potential, and a source of civilizational and cultural values. All honest believers in Arab unity must make great efforts to eradicate the negative repercussions of the past.

**AL-THAWRY: Sana'a, (Weekly), 13-3-97**  
(The Yemeni Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) YSP Secretary-General, "Our party is stronger and more united after the decision to boycott the elections."
- 2) The Opposition Describes Ruling Coalition's Stance as Ploy to Gain Time.
- 3) Elections Monitoring Committee Concludes Training of 812 Volunteer Poll Watchers.

**Article Summary:**

**A Decrease in Number of Women Working in the Judiciary** by Ali Al-Moqry

A study conducted by the Center for Feminists' Applied Research and Studies has indicated that the number of Yemeni women working in the judiciary, advocacy, public prosecution and police has markedly decreased. According to the study, the number of women working in the judicial system at the establishment of Yemeni unity in 1990 was 35, compared to 244 men. In 1995, the number of women dropped to 14 only, while that of men rose to 598.

Most of the female judges and court members were appointed in the southern and eastern governorates, especially in Aden. There are 53 female lawyers compared to 650 males registered at the Lawyers' Syndicate. Women appointed at prosecutors' offices number 25 out of a total of 382. The police force has 89 women only.

**AL-SAHWA: Sana'a, (Weekly), 13-3-97**

[The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Political Agreement Between Ruling Coalition and Parties in Opposition Coordination Council.
- 2) Head of Islah's Shura Council Visits Aden and Abyan.
- 3) Citizens of Aden Demand Saving Largest Mosque in Town.
- 4) Angry Demonstrations in Egyptian Universities in Protest Against Netanyahu's visit.

**Article summary:**

**Teacher Assaulted in Hodeida**

After a beastly attack with sticks and the threat of a firearm in broad daylight, an Egyptian teacher in Hodeida was taken unconscious to hospital. The three assailants were the relatives of an influential person whose daughter is a student at the school. According to preliminary investigations, the assaulted teacher had an ordinary student-teacher dispute with his female student. The attackers are now under arrest. The student's father has publicly apologized to the teacher, and slaughtered an ox at the school in his honor. Some sources said that YR. 100,000 will be paid to the teacher, and the student who caused the trouble will be expelled from school.

**AL-AYYAM: Sana'a (Bi-Weekly) 16-3-97**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Nasserite Unionist Party will Participate in Elections.
- 2) Agreement for Explorations is Signed with American Company.
- 3) Two British Advisors Arrive in Sana'a.
- 4) Aviation Engineers in Aden End their Strike.

**Article Summary:**

**Save Aden's Beaches by Munawar Abdulkhalik**

The beaches and water in Aden suffer from severe pollution. Piles of rubbish are left rotting near the beaches. Foul odors emanate from the remains of fish left to rot near on the shore by fishmongers. The environmental health authorities do not do their job adequately. The sad sight at Aden's once idyllic beaches is driving away locals and tourists alike. Deterrent measures must be taken by the relevant authorities to prevent any such disgraceful tarnishing of Aden's image.

**AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a, (Weekly), 11-3-97**  
(The Nasserite Unionist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Political Agreement Between Ruling Coalition and Some Opposition Parties.
- 2) Dud Medicines Prepared and Sold Locally.
- 3) American Ambassador Conducts Tour to Encourage Participation in Elections.

**Article Summary:**

**Will Privatization Succeed in Yemen?**

by Abdulkareem Al-Souswa.

Privatization must rely on the existence of a capitalist class with a civilized outlook, aiming to establish a new economic structure. Yemen does not yet have such a type of capitalism. Unlike Western capitalism which relies mainly on production projects, the mercantile and financial groups in Yemen depend in their earnings on marginal, and sometimes dubious, sources.

Many such capitalists have helped destroy the cycle of production in the country. They are still motivated by narrow tribal considerations. Developing countries, including Yemen, cannot completely do away with state participation in helping the private sector. In order to perform its role effectively, the public sector must be given larger flexibility and room for maneuver.

**AL-BALAGH: Sana'a, (Weekly), 11-3-97**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Report by Central Organization for Audit and Control Uncovers Serious Financial and Administrative Violations.
- 2) Speaker of Parliament: "Al-Quds is the responsibility of Arab rulers."
- 3) Al-Thawra Chief Editor Escapes Assassination Attempt.

**Article Summary:**

**Director Forms Robbery Gangs**

Despite the many pledges made by the governor of Hajja to prevent the return of the director of Al-Mahabsha Directorate, the people there are still heavily armed in case of any eventuality. The director is accused by the people of creating divisions among them and forming gangs to attack the citizens and robbing their properties. The director's chief hoodlum, according to the people, is an ex-PSO officer. Rumor has it that the director has divided the local prison into "tourist" classes, to be occupied according to the amount of money paid by the prisoners.



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**End of Last Week of Excellent Football Tournament:****Al-Wahda is Champion, Second Time Round, Al-Tilal is Runner-up**

The last week of the Rothmans Excellent Football Tournament ended with Al-Wahda on top. Al-Tilal remained in first position during the last 21 weeks. The whole tournament was dominated by the competition between these two powerful teams. The rest of the teams battled round the third and lower positions.

**The Victory Match:**

Special importance was attached to the match between Al-Wahda of Sana'a and Al-Itihad of Ibb which took place on the latter's home ground in Al-Kibsy stadium on Friday 14 March. The outcome would decide the tournament's champion. The governor of Ibb had announced an award of YR. 400,000 for winner.

The beginning of the match was very tense. Al-Itihad achieved initial control by scoring an early goal, scored by Ahmed Al-Bareed. Starting with a nice pass by Mohammed Dammaj in the 3rd minute of the game, Al-Bareed was able to skillfully break into the line of Al-Wahda defenders. He scored the goal by cleverly out-manuevered the goalkeeper. Al-Itihad remained in control until the 25th minute of the game, and exerted an appreciable pressure on

its opponent. Every new attack by Al-Itihad came on stronger and fiercer. These enthusiastic attacks, however, showed considerable lack of experience on Al-Itihad's part. Hence, Al-Wahda's more seasoned players were able to respond effectively, and score the equalizer goal in the 25th minute of the game.

Thus, Al-Wahda was on top of the situation during the rest of the first half of the match.

In the 62nd minute of the match, Fouad Inkad of Al-Wahda was able to score the victory goal which ignited the enthusiasm of the two teams.

Al-Wahda resorted then to preserve its win by forming a strong "fortress" in the back lines to ward off any attacks by Al-Itihad. Thus the match ended with this 2-1 victory, putting Al-Wahda in the tournament's first position and allowing it to keep its previous title.

As for Al-Tilal which was widely expected to win the golden medal, it was left with a runner-up status. This came as result of Al-Tilal's defeat by Al-Zuhra 1-nil on 14th March.

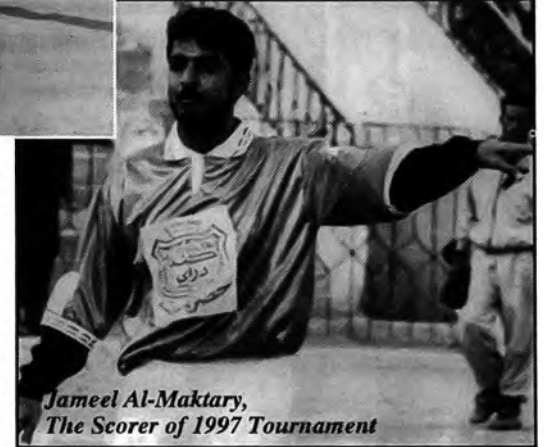
One game is left to be played between Al-Wahda of Aden and Al-Ahly of Hodieda to decide who will occupy third position. This game will be played on 21st March (see table).

This tournament witnessed the decline of previously strong teams which were subjected to very cruel defeats. Some of them had to struggle to keep from dropping from the excellent league altogether. Al-Ahly of Sana'a is one case in point. It was defeated by Al-Ahly of Hodeida 1-nil last Thursday.



Generally, the tournament was characterized, up until the last moment, by unclarity and the difficulty of specifying the competing teams' advanced positions.

Finally, Al-Wahda of Sana'a competently won the golden title. Congratulations to the golden team.



Jameel Al-Maktary,  
The Scorer of 1997 Tournament

**RESULTS OF THE LAST WEEK OF TOURNAMENT**

TEAM	NO. OF MATCHES	RESULTS			GOALS		PTS
		Won	Tie	Lost	For	Against	
Wahdah Sana'a	22	12	6	4	34	17	42
Tilal	22	11	6	5	42	24	39
Shulla	22	11	2	9	42	25	35
Ahli Hodeidah	21	10	4	7	25	28	34
Hassan	22	8	9	5	32	26	33
Zohra	22	10	2	10	28	28	32
Itihad	22	8	4	10	38	37	28
Ahli Sana'a	22	7	7	8	23	26	28
Shamsan	22	6	8	8	32	51	26
Shab Mukalla	22	6	6	10	17	24	24
Shab Sana'a	22	5	6	11	21	39	21
Wahdah Aden	21	4	6	11	30	39	18

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تغمده الله بواسع رحمته وألهم أهله الصبر والسلوان،  
وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

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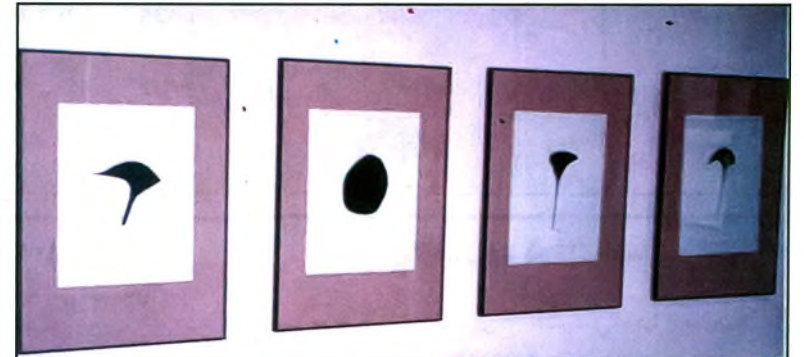
## German Artist Displays Paintings



An exhibition by the German artist, Daniel Hess, was opened at Al-Afif Cultural Foundation on Wednesday 12th March. Due to last until the 20th of March, the exhibition includes several paintings and engravings. The shapes and impressions were different. Individuals from various walks of life who saw the pictures were puzzled. They said they were "interesting". Daniel Hess, born in 1939 in Dusseldorf,

Germany, studied art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Dusseldorf and in Rome, Italy. From 1976 to 1981, Mr. Hess lectured on printmaking at the Dusseldorf Academy. He is now a professor of drawing and printmaking at the University of Siegen in Germany, a post which he holds since 1983. In 1991, Prof. Hess was awarded the prestigious Joseph Fassbender Award for his drawing and printmaking work. Hess who is now on a

tour of Yemen, had served as a visiting professor at the University of Arstywyth in Britain and the University of Florida in Gainesville, USA. He now lives in Cologne, Germany. Most art critics agree Daniel Hess has developed his own style, which heavily depends on the abstract. "You need to do much conceptualization and much imagination," said one of the Yemeni artists who visited the exhibition.



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