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YEMEN TIMES



• SANAA • May 12th thru 18th, 1997

Vol. VII, Issue No. 19 • Price 30 Riyals



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18th May First Sitting of New Parliament Sheikh Al-Ahmar to be Re-Elected Speaker

Next Sunday, May 18th, 1997, the new parliament will hold its first session. Order of the day: members will be sworn in, and then they will elect their speaker.

Informed sources tell the Yemen Times that Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Chairman of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), will retain his job as speaker. The People's General Congress (PGC) has agreed to vote for him, under an overall cooperation deal. According to the deal, the Islah will also join

the government, picking up three portfolios. These and other ministers out of the PGC party, will work under the understanding that they will implement a PGC program.

The people's deputies will also fill up a form which will determine the committees in which they wish to serve. There are 14 parliamentary committees which need to be formed immediately.

The new parliament is dominated by 170 freshmen who are new to the business of legislating. The minority of old-timers will help

ISLAH Accepts Election Results

The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) announced that it accepted the election results. At the end of three days of Al-Shura Council deliberations (7-9/5/1997) chaired by Sheikh Abdul-Majid Zindani, an Islah communique stated that the party accepts the results of the elections, but that it reserved the right to petition against any part of them.

The communique did criticize many of the "practices of intimidation, blackmail and abuse of public funds" in the elections. However, it called for forgiveness.

The Islah announced it will serve in the opposition. The communique states: "The Council sees that the election results have created a new political reality. The People's General Congress - which enjoys a majority - is able to form the new government. An Islah in the opposition will support the right decisions whoever takes them, and will object to mistakes, whoever makes them."

Resumption of Trial of List of 16

The trial of the 16 persons who led the secessionist government during the 1994 civil war was resumed in the North Sana'a Primary Court on Saturday, May 10th. The charge brought against them by the prosecutor's office is high treason.

Several lawyers were recruited to defend the accused who are neither present nor have they sent lawyers to represent them. The accused insist that there is no crime and that the whole affair is a theatrical show regarding political differences which led to bloodshed and a civil war.

The Government insists that the Group of 16 have committed major crimes leading to enormous burdens to Yemen and Yemenis. "Blind and illegitimate ambitions have led those men to commit atrocities against this country and its people," the charge sheet reads.

The court adjourned for more evidence.

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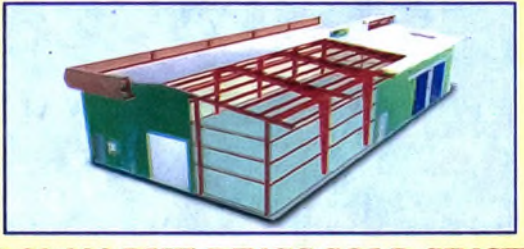
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OUR VIEWPOINT

What the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does with itself is its own business

As a Yemeni citizen, it is not up to me to comment on the fact that the King rules by divine providence. It is not up to me to comment on the fact that women in Saudi Arabia are treated as minors, whatever their age is. It is not up to me to comment on the fact that Saudi Arabia does not accept press freedom, a pluralist political system, due process of law, respect for human rights, etc. It is not up to me to comment on the fact that Saudi Arabia has financed and continues to finance most of the world's Islamic fundamentalist movements, many of which have turned to terrorism. It is not up to me to comment on the fact that Saudi Arabia is one of the main stumbling blocks in the transformation of the region, leading to peace - a transformation which could lead to harmony and internationally-acceptable values.

But as a Yemeni, it is my business that Saudi Arabia is trying to turn the wheel of change backwards in my country. It is my business that Saudi Arabia continues to be a source of headache for my country. Let us get out of generalities and talk specifics.

1. Saudi Arabia finances the tribal system and the tribal leaders, with the objective of reducing central government influence and control. That Saudi objective is now backfiring on the Western allies of Saudi Arabia because the lawless tribes are now kidnapping foreigners, mostly against Westerners.

2. Saudi Arabia is not happy with Yemen's political transformation, and wants to turn back the tides. That is a futile effort. Saudi Arabia resists worldwide transformation in values and technology in its own country. But, it is unacceptable it should try to stop others.

If Saudi Arabia is not ready to join the 21st century, that is its business. But it should not attempt to stop others from trying.

3. Saudi Arabia is affecting Yemen's fortunes by trying to play as a power-broker within the country. The refusal of the GCC countries to even consider Yemen's interest to join was instigated mainly by Saudi Arabia. Many Yemenis believe that Yemen's problems with Eritrea are, at least partially, affected by Saudi Arabia.

Most Yemenis are willing to accept the Saudis to play big brother and 'influence' their country. That is provided the Saudis do care about the interest and welfare of Yemenis. When this is not the case, the people of Yemen will resist any Saudi 'hegemony', and may even fight it, wherever and however, they can.

It is really simple. If the Saudi Arabian system treats Yemen as a foe, it should not expect us to take it lying low and exposed.

It would have been much better for all sides if, at the very least, Saudi Arabia can show that it means Yemen no harm.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز السقاف

YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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Advertisements/Classifieds: 268-276
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Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

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WFP Pushes on with More Success

Dali Belgasmi, Director of the World Food Program in Yemen, disclosed that projects in Yemen are now categorized under three main sectors - health, education and agriculture. The 1997 allocation for health is US\$ 4.0 million, for education US\$ 6.6 million, and agriculture US\$ 4 million. Over the Five-year period (1997-2001), WFP will have contributed nearly US\$ 100 million.

The health sector is carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. "We target health centers and MCH centers, mainly in the countryside, and try to provide them with food supplies which help increase the nutrition intake of the target population," Mr. Belgasmi said. With respect to the educational project, the WFP provides supplies to schools borders and female students in over 400 schools in the ROY. The idea is to bolster the food intake of the children.

"As you can see, we target vul-

nerable people. The idea is to bolster the nutritional intake of these needy sectors, and to assist in the overall development of the country," Dali added.

The total number of beneficiaries from the WFP projects is expanding rapidly. "We target rural and poor families and regions," he said. In 1997, the total number of beneficiaries is estimated at 141,500 persons, and this is expected to rise to 173,000 by the year 2001.

Mr. Belgasmi, who wants to leave his present post in the near future, was responsible for turning the WFP work around. When he took over, morale was low, and expenditures were not cost-effective. He has been able to achieve a visible turn-around. With corruption an ever-present problem in Yemen, it was necessary to weed out its sources. That was partly achieved.

Today, there is a new system in place, distribution is done according to very strict standards



and the program receives a lot of praise from the Yemeni authorities. Dali attributes the success to three reasons: "The strong com-

mitment from our head office, the support for the Yemeni authorities, and the excellent team of local and international staff.

Government Resigns

The Government of Abdulaziz Abdulghani has just tendered its resignation, as required by the law. The President of the Republic is expected to ask Mr. Abdulghani to remain as a caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed. This will happen over the next few days.

President Saleh Accepts Iranian Invitation

President Ali Abdullah Saleh received an invitation from Iranian President Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani to participate in the Islamic Summit scheduled for December in Iran. The invitation was hand-delivered by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. The Iranian Foreign Minister also held talks with Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, regarding bilateral relations.

EMC Issues Its Report on the Elections

The Elections Monitoring Committee issued its preliminary report on the elections. The report stated that the elections were generally successful. It then listed nine recommendations on how to improve the system. The EMC will issue its full report in the near future.

Ballet Shows in Sanaa

Mrs. Eara Al-Dhahery is organizing a ballet show of young boys and girls in Sanaa. The Russian instructor, married to a Yemeni man, has been teaching the 30-or so children on the skills of ballet dancing for weeks now. The residents of Sanaa can now enjoy ballet, too.

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Yahya Al-Habbari:

“Yemen looks forward to a prosperous future.”

Mr. Yahya Ali Al-Habbari is the General Manager of Al-Habbari company. He is one of the rising young stars of this country. With a solid grasp of the realities of Yemen and knowledge of the possibilities that exist out there - in the advanced technologic world - he is trying to serve as a bridge.

Born in Sana'a in 1959, Yahya worked with his father in trading in food commodities. With a degree in business administration from Britain, Yahya is a well established businessman and a prominent figure in his community. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Popular Charity Association and the People's General Congress. Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times interviewed Yahya Al-Habbari.

Excerpts:

Q: What kind of investments does your company undertake?

A: We have silos and flour mills under construction in Al-Saleef in Hodeida. Poultry farming and fodder production are some of our many interests. The International Company for Food Industries is one of several prospering companies in Al-Habbari group. We are also share holders in many local and international investment companies.

Q: How do you see the economic and commercial future of Yemen?

A: There is no doubt that Yemen has a prosperous future provided the economic and administrative reform program is executed according to standards. The economic reforms are the cornerstone of any future economic policies in Yemen. The world today regards the success, or otherwise, of any economic or development program as the criterion for measuring the credibility and viability of any nation, irrespective of how poor or rich it is. The successful implementation of a reform program must rely on objective factors.

Q: Your company is very well known for its contribution to national well-being and charitable organizations. Can you elaborate?

A: I don't want to dwell on our modest contribution towards alle-

viating some of the hardships and suffering incurred by our less fortunate fellow Yemenis. We usually make financial or material donations within the limits of our available resources. I would like to use this opportunity to call upon all businessmen and benevolent persons to extend a helping hand to their disadvantaged brothers and sisters. The principles of true patriotism demand great solidarity and cohesion among the citizenry.

The main charitable projects undertaken by our company include the following:

- a- The College of Education in Arhab.
- b- The Arhab Health Center in Habbar.
- c- Participating in the establishment of an annex to Al-Hodeida Hospital.
- d- Founding a health center in Hodeida.
- e- Founding several schools in Al-Salakhana area in Hodeida.
- f- Establishing an annex to Al-Sabeen Hospital in Sana'a.
- g- Presenting several precision medical instruments and equipment to Al-Thawra Public Hospital in Sana'a.

There are many other more private charitable donations which I do not like to mention. Our only aim in all of this is to propitiate God, and acquire His long-lasting rewards.

Q: You were one of the people



who participating in managing the last parliamentary elections. What was your role?

A: The success of the elections is the responsibility of all Yemeni citizens. I was honored to participate in the preparation for the elections since its early stages. I worked in constituencies 2, 3, 4, and 17. My modest efforts were part of a major drive towards consolidating a great achievement. The landslide victory achieved by the PGC came as an expression of the honest patriotic

feelings and democratic awareness within the people of Yemen. I sincerely hope that the aspirations of all Yemenis materialize through the successful implementation of the reform programs. I highly praise the leadership of the PGC, headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh. I hope that they will rise up to the trust and confidence granted to them by the voters. Outbidding and political rhetoric will have to be abandoned forever. The next stage in the life of this nation demands that all people con-

centrate on honest and hard work.

During the elections campaign, I met the American Ambassador to Yemen and several international observers. They were all full of praise for this unique triumph of democracy in the Arabian Peninsula.

Q: What should be, in your opinion, the priorities of the next government?

A: This is a very good question. The top priority will have to be combating financial, administrative, and judicial corruption. Embezzlers and manipulators of public funds must be swiftly and justly dealt with by the appropriate authorities. Administrative re-structuring is a must. The over-staffed administrations must be downsized.

The eradication of illiteracy among both sexes is one of the essential building blocks of a better life in this country. The educational system cannot, and must not, remain as it is. It will have to be unified. This is in the interest of the students, teachers and the whole nation in general. The PGC with its overwhelming majority is well qualified to bear the responsibility for elevating the standards of the educational system.

In general, the full and correct implementation of the PGC program is going to bring much development and prosperity to our country.

Q: How do you see the future of investments in Yemen?

A: The larger the facilities and guarantees provided by the state for investors, the bigger the attractions for external capital to come in. Economic and political stability are very important factors in the equation. A stable

local currency is also a pre-requisite. As far as I know, the current investment law in Yemen provides good opportunities for local, Arab, and foreign investors. I largely advocate the participation of national capital in making bigger contributions to the overall development process. This will help to strengthen the local economy and reduce unemployment.

Q: What are the major obstacles you face in the course of your work?

A: As a matter of fact, all businesses, small and big, face all sorts of hindrances. The background of our country has imposed certain obstacles. A tedious and unnecessarily long-winded bureaucracy is but one of many such frustrating dampers. In this age of the Internet and the communication revolution, swifter procedures will have to be adopted. Corruption is another major factor keeping away potential investors and businessmen. A highly developed infrastructure of roads, electricity and communication networks is a crucial factor in removing many obstacles that are likely to face any aspiring businessman or woman.

Q: Do you have any last comment?

A: I sincerely hope that the new government will continue to carry out the economic, administrative and financial reform programs. I also hope that women will be given greater roles, and allowed to realize their full potential as worthy citizens. I call upon all businessmen and entrepreneurs to make their utmost efforts to serve this great nation of ours.

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On Wednesday, May 7, 1997, Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) and Jannah Hunt Oil Company (JHOC) held an outstanding Achievement Awards Luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel in conjunction with the Yemen Labor Day Holiday. During this luncheon, YHOC and JHOC recognized 29 employees who demonstrated outstanding performance and achievement during the past year. The occasion was attended by Mr. Mohammed Al-Anisi, Deputy Minister of Labor; Mr. Mohammed Al-Haj, General Manager of Yemen Investment Company; Mr. Zaid Zabarah, Secretary of the Supreme for Oil, Investment and Economic Council; Abdul-Rab Sinan Abu Luhum, Nabil Al-Qowsy, Ali Al-Aulaqi from the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, and key media personalities.

This special recognition program honored employees in two different categories, Outstanding Achievement and the General Manager's Special Recognition Award. Both awards were open to all YHOC/JHOC Yemen employees. Employees were nominated for the Outstanding Achievement Award by their respective department manager and selected by the General Manager and an Awards Committee.

Employees were selected for this award based on the following performance considerations:

- Contributions to the overall success of YHOC/JHOC.
- Leadership ability
- Initiative/Creativity
- Dependability/Reliability

A total of 28 Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented, with each recipient receiving a cash bonus and a certificate recognizing their selection.

Recipients of the 1997 Outstanding Achievement Awards are:



Abdo Ismail Al-Hamadi
Semir Basembahi
Awadh Mohamed Saedd Turki
Murad Abdulkader
Kasson Ahmed Mohamed
Yahya Mohamed Al-Shami
Qais Abdul-Ghani Mohamed
Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed
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Alawi Mohamed Abdullah
Abdo Ismail Othman
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In addition to the Outstanding Achievement Award recipients, another employee was chosen by YHOC's Vice President and General Manager, Mr. Ken Harbin, to receive the General Manager's Special Recognition Award. This award is given to recognize the employee who best exemplifies the performance criteria mentioned above. The recipient was given a special certificate and cash award recognizing his selection.

Recipient of 1997 General Manager's Special Recognition Award is:
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Personal Reflections on the Elections

I followed the April 27th elections rather closely. I would like to share below some interesting features that tell a lot.

A: Sa'atar and the Ismailis:

Mr. Abdullah Sa'atar is one of the puritanical ideologues of the Islah party. He uses his role as a preacher in a mosque to push his ideas.

One of the positions he had taken was to purify Yemen from 'heretics' and 'deviant' sects. The Ismaili Sect in Haraz was one of his targets. It is a place where his preachings were implemented. The Ismailis, a Shia sect, have been the subject of a lot of derogatory remarks. More recently, Islah zealots have destroyed many Ismaili shrines in Haraz.

Now, Mr. Sa'atar decides to run for parliament in constituency # 6 in Nuqum, Sanaa. He is an incumbent. A lot of the people from Haraz had voted for him last time.

This time, they made a point of pooling their votes in his constituency to make sure he doesn't win. Even those who had voted in Haraz last time, changed their registration so they'll vote in Sanaa. The Haraz people did not have a favorite candidate. They told the Yemen Times that they waited to see who was the most serious challenger to Mr. Sa'atar. Once they determined that, they all voted for the challenger.

Mr. Sa'atar narrowly lost. The Haraz residents of Nuqum effectively put him out of parliament.

B: He Is Handsome:

Mr. Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, in constituency # 11 in the Diplomatic-Quarter, Sanaa, won by a landslide.

Many people voted for him because he is the president's son. Many people also voted against him because he is the president's son.

A lot of the people who voted for him said that unlike the children of other big shots who have menaced society, nobody ever suffered at the hands of this young man. He is well-mannered.

But there was an interesting phenomenon. Many of the women in the constituency said they voted for him. Asked why, they openly answered, "He is handsome."

The nice color pictures did the job.

C: No Orders, Please:

Many politicians, especially in the opposition, have complained about how the votes of the military and security personnel were used to favor the candidates of the People's General Congress. In general, that is true.

However, there are signs that in many military camps, the soldiers did not exactly vote for the candidate preferred by their superiors. In one case, the ballot box (Center C) carrying the votes of the Marine Forces in Aden, Constituency # 20 showed that the PGC candidate did not get many of the votes.

D: Mature Voting:

In some governorates, everything went in one direction. This shows that people have no real issues that they hold in order to resist the onslaught. Hodeidah, Ibb and Dhamar are examples. In these governorates, the seats in parliament went almost exclusively to one party, the PGC.

In a few governorates, however, the votes were more diversified in spite of the pressures and the enticements. Taiz and Hadhramaut are examples. In these two governorates, the seats to parliament brought a variety. The PGC made a strong showing, but the Islah and even opposition parties proved they have a presence.

E: Social Evolution:

Female candidates stood for elections in a number of cities, notably Sanaa, Taiz, Aden and Hadhramaut. But it was only in Aden that they won.

Was that due to a higher level of socio-cultural evolution in Aden? That is quite possible. Or was it also due to the kind of patron (PGC) the female candidates in Aden got?

F: New Blood:

Yemen's last elections were not supposed to lead to a change in the power structure. That would be asking for too much. But they did lead to the infusion of a lot of new blood. 170 new members have joined the parliament.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

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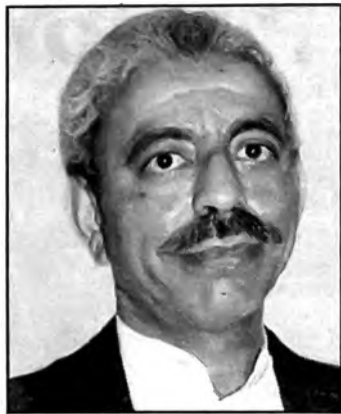
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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

THE HIJRA: The Flight That Gave Birth to a Nation



Exactly 1,375 (1,417 in the Muslim Lunar Calendar) years ago, on a then obscure little corner where arid rock and hot desert met to form a not too hospitable piece of the earth, a few kilometers off Mecca, a pivotal moment in the history of mankind was at hand. Two men, were sitting inside a small, cave worriedly looking at their pursuers - a few feet outside - and listening to the voices trying to figure out just where these two men could have gone. The best tracers have been used to find the paths they have taken since they fled from Mecca only a few hours earlier in the middle of the night, but they could not be found.

The pursuers realized the flight of these two men could mean a transformation of the area, but no one at the time could foresee just exactly how it would shape the world.

The pursuers represented the de facto authority that ruled the city of Mecca and controlled the vital trading routes that passed through it from the Southern part of the Arabian Peninsula to the North and hence linked the East with the West.

The two men were Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings of Allah upon him) and one of his earliest and most faithful disciples, Abubakar (Al-Siddiq), Abdulla Ibn Abi Guhaza.

Seeing the cave's entrance covered by spider webbing and bird nests, the pursuers concluded the two men could not have possibly entered the cave without breaking the spider web or disturbing the nesting birds. These miraculous work of nature (a little Divine assistance) saved the day as the pursuers decided to look elsewhere.

The two men bided the time for a while and took the trip across the desert to the town of Yathrib (Today's Medina).

A few hours before that pursuit, the Meccan aristocracy had carried out a plot to end their thirteen years of push and shove with their kinsman, Mohammed (P) by getting one member from each of the clans of the tribe of Quraish. The idea was to murder Mohammed (P), while he was sleeping. This way, responsibility for his blood will be shared by all Arab tribes, and thus block any chance of fighting back by the Prophet's tribe. Or so they thought, for Mohammed had learned of the plot and decided to make the flight out fast. His cousin, Ali had taken the Prophet's bed for the night, to give the potential attackers a make-believe target. When the assailants came to carry out their plot, they only found the young Ali, giving them one of his unabashed smiles, which signaled the first of many courageous feats of the young man whose role in the defense of Islam has gone beyond the legendary.

Mohammed and his companion had become almost the last two Muslims to sneak out of Mecca to join the hundreds who had trickled out of Mecca over the year, prior to the exit of their revered Prophet. Ali later followed them after returning all that Mohammed was holding, in trust, for many of the people of Mecca, in accordance with the instructions of Mohammed (P). Mohammed's arrival to Yathrib was the first real political and tactical triumph for Mohammed and his brave and patient followers. This signaled the end of the era of torture

and oppression that Muslims have been enduring for thirteen years in Mecca.

A triumph, indeed, it was as reflected by the joy that his followers had displayed upon seeing the Prophet and his companion Abubakar out in the desert horizon as they approached the city's outskirts.

Thus was born the Nation of Islam with a remarkable set of ordinances and declarations, that surely would have impressed any observer familiar with the world arena at the time. Mohammed's ordinances clearly showed that Islam was not just some token worship rites to relieve the conscience whenever the going gets tough or when one is trying to develop some cover-up, for one reason or another. Mohammed was topping off the Message he was asked to deliver, with dictates that were to change the course of world history and to signal the civilized and spiritual transformation of mankind.

From that day on, Yathrib had been renamed Madinat Rasul Allah (The City of the Messenger of Allah), or the City of the Prophet, or Al-Madinah, for short (The English version of the name has become shortened to just "Medina")

The year was 622 AD, and had Mohammed not been able to make the flight, there is no telling just what the world would be like today! For the Muslims of the world, the event is so important, that the Muslim Lunar Calendar is duly commenced from that time. The exact equivalent Gregorian date is not really known for the actual day that the flight occurred, as any parallel dating is hard to come by prior to that year. The best estimates have been around September or October. The commemoration of the flight itself takes place on the first day of the Muslim Year, i.e. the First of Muharram, to signal the beginning of the Muslim Calendar as well as the flight of the Prophet Mohammed accordingly.

The event's significance can only be appreciated if the circumstances and the situation in the area and the world at large, at the time is known to the reader. We can generally say is that the native city of Mohammed (Mecca) just did not take kindly to having a new religion kick off from there.

For thirteen years, the early Muslims had endured unspeakable torture, even for that age. Scores of Muslims were beheaded, crucified, buried in the sand - except for the head - under a scorching tropical desert sun, whipped, had their heads and beards burned, used for target practice by archers and spear-throwers, etc. Not only that, but those who managed to escape death were subjected to intimidation, prejudice, imprisonment, whippings and beatings, embargoes, boycotts, isolation and rock throwing and other forms of persecution, from time to time. For many, it was only the fear of setting off blood feuds that saved them from death, including the Prophet (P) himself, as mentioned earlier. All this persecution and agony, which could have filled volumes of reports by human rights activists, had they existed then, were meted out for the simple reason that these patient and almost masochistic believers refused to abandon the phrase: "There is no God, but Allah; and Mohammed is the Prophet of God", and their refusal to bow down to the idol gods that the Arabs were turning to, at the time, for their spiritual relief.

The Flight or Hijra, as it is called by the Muslims, to Medina was not the first. The first attempt at migrating was to Ethiopia, then called Abyssinian, whose king, the Head of the Coptic Church, was described by the Prophet to his followers as one "who never meted out oppression to anyone". The first wave went there early in the history of the religion, around year 5 or 6 after the call of Islam began. When the enemies of Islam found out, they tried to get there before the "fugitives", as they spoke negatively of them to the Abyssinian King (Al-Najashi). But when one of the Muslims recited some of the Quranic verses on Mary and Jesus and the story of the Nativity, the Najashi was extremely moved and agreed to the asylum request by the Muslims turning back the delegates sent by the Mecca's merchant lords. A couple of years later, another group followed to Ethiopia. These

early migrations to Ethiopia were to turn that country was the beginning of Islam in that country. Many of the locals, seeing the good example of those early Muslims began converting to Islam. That was the beginning of Christian-Muslim coexistence.

On the other hand, Mohammed tried to seek converts in the city of Taif, a city that lies some 200 km south of Mecca, to which he went to personally. The leaders of Quraish had beaten him to the city, however, and already arranged a stone throwing party upon the arrival of the persevering Messenger of Allah. It was again a Christian who relieved him from some of the agonies of the ordeal that he faced at Taif. The event represented the lowest point of morale for the Muslims and Mohammed, who had turned to Allah with one of the most moving prayers that has ever been uttered in history.

Mecca was the center of an annual pilgrimage, that goes back to the time of Ibrahim (Abraham) and his son Ismail, the father of the Arabs and the original Israelites. By the time of Mohammed, the Ka'aba, the cubicle, that was object of the pilgrimage, was housing 300 or so Gods that the Arabs were worshipping in deviation from the original cause d'être established by Ibrahim. Monotheism had given way to paganism.

About 2 years prior to the Hijra, twelve of the Medina notables had come to visit Mohammed (P), seeking clarifications on the new religion, which his own native city took no pleasure in welcoming. The city of Medina, at the time was settled by two tribes, called the Aws and the Khazraj. These two tribes originally had migrated from Yemen, some chroniclers say after the First Collapse of the Marib Dam some three hundred years earlier.

These were 2 of some twenty tribes called the Azd tribal confederation, that had established themselves throughout the Peninsula and beyond. Some of them established their own states in Oman, Syria and Mesopotamia. Still others later became the vanguard of the Muslim armies that fanned out throughout the known civilized world in the first two centuries of Islamic history. Those were the good old days when people could travel throughout the world without having to require a passport or a visa, let alone a guarantor!

The Aws and the Khazraj tribes were locked in rivalry, fighting ferocious blood feuds that have literally left the people of the two tribes living in perpetual fear of an eminent attack by any one of them against the other. The twelve men who visited the Prophet were impressed and returned a year later

with delegation of 75 leaders from the two tribes to give their allegiance to Allah as their Lord and to Mohammed (P) as the de facto political leader of the city. They urged Mohammed and his followers to come to Yathrib as their fraternal brothers and to regard them as their blood relatives.

It is worth noting that there were some Jewish tribes that have settled and thrived, around Yathrib also, and in the beginning they welcomed the Prophet of Islam as a more compatible neighbor than the polytheists that surrounded them. But the Aws and Khazraj proved exemplary in the application of the Islamic bonds of brotherhood and never once questioned Mohammed's authority over them. Mohammed had labeled the members of these two tribes as the Ansar, or "Champions" of the Cause. When the Muslims arrived in Medina, including the Prophet, a fraternal bond was established between the Migrants, who were Mohammed's closest relatives and other followers from Mecca and the Ansar, in which the latter had considered everything they owned as being equally the property of the Migrants.

Moreover, the early converts gave a perfect example of what Islam really meant to mankind, by removing all semblance of hatred, jealousy and greed from their lives, and instilling in their place a strong sense of allegiance to a cause that superseded all other allegiances and entailed the highest degree of sacrifice in a struggle for a faith that elevated them all.

It was faith that inspired this core of the Muslim community in its embryonic stage, in all their efforts. The Prophet's dictates could not have found better ears for the obedience. It was not just faith in God, for the sake of some later reward. It was faith and consciousness that created an almost utopian existence guided by the wisdom of the Prophet and the rhythmic verses of the Quran.

Islam, in Medina took on the status of a way of life that was regrettably not to pass the test of time, as the material and the mundane greed of the world corrupted and distorted the picture of the Muslim World and eventually led to the collapse of the Islamic state and civilization. The Medina community was a real democratic and platonic community which lived its ideals as stipulated in the religion. The community in Medina had represented under the leadership of Mohammed (P) and the first four Caliphs that followed him (Abubakar, Omar, Othman and Ali, God bless their souls), is a source of inspiration to all Muslims to this day. It all began in that flight.

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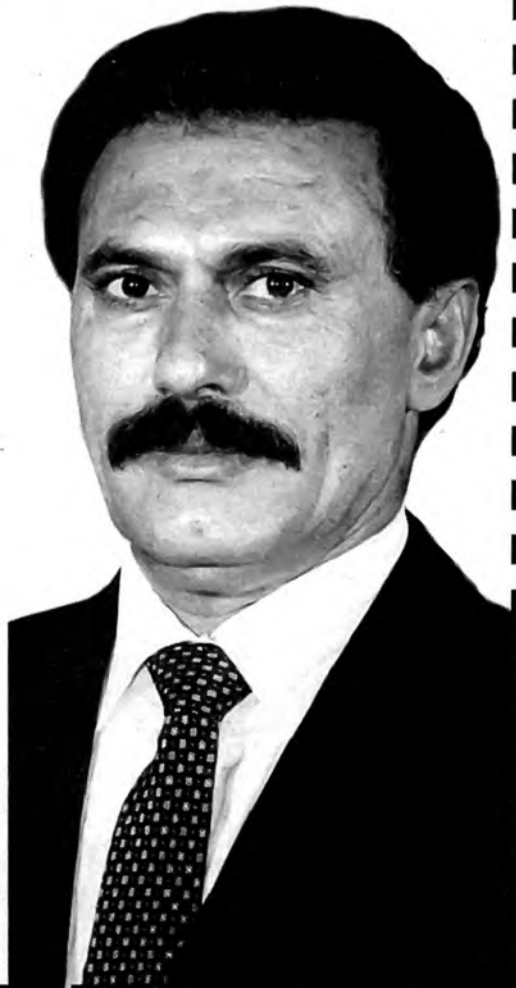
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and to the People of Yemen

on the success of election

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Attn: Mr. Sam Portelli

Trade Mission organized by METCO (Malta's national trade promotion organisation) with the support of the Federation of the Yemen Chambers of Commerce & Industry, the Sana'a Chamber of Commerce & Industry and AIR MALTA, Malta's national airline.

Brussels Hosts Yemen Donor Gathering Next Month

The Republic of Yemen and the European Union are getting along very well. Relations are improving steadily as understanding and cooperation on both sides grow.

One of the key persons to help in this process is Dr. Michael Kohler, the person in charge of Yemen at the EU. Mr. Kohler, who speaks Arabic fluently and a person visibly fond of Yemen, spoke to Yemen Times about a number of issues during his visit to Yemen on the elections.

Excerpts:

Q: You have participated in the elections. What do you think?

A: I am very happy to have been an eye witness to the elections. I was in Aden on elections day and I saw the people excited in exercising their constitutional rights. I can say they went very well.

I have seen 4 constituencies in Aden. I spoke to people from the PGC, Islah, Rabita, and the Socialist Party. I saw the counting of votes, and the reception of voters. I am deeply impressed. It is much better than I had expected. All my colleagues from the US, Russia, Sudan, etc., despite some deficiencies and problems, have the same impressions. They were really fairly good elections - much better than what I have seen in other Arab countries. I wish other Arab countries take this as an example and copy what you did.

The EU has been supporting the elections by modestly financing the Supreme Elections Committee, the Elections Monitoring Committee and the Arab Democratic Institute. Since last year we have a lot of trust and confidence in the electoral process. The elections of 1993, despite their many problems, were considered one of the best in the Arab World. This encouraged us to support this election, which were also exemplary.

At the same time, elections are only a part of democracy. Democracy is never finished. We have democracies in Europe, but we still work to improve them. In Yemen one should have the same spirit. There remains a lot of work to be done. Democratization does not stop here. This must be taken as a starting step. Having seen the spirits of voters, both male and female, I think many people are proud that Yemen has conducted such highly organized elections. If this spirit remains, then the EU will be happy to continue with cooperation.

Q: Speaking about cooperation, could you tell us a little bit more about the newly-signed agreement between the two sides?

A: On 21st April, 1997, a new cooperation agreement between Yemen and EU was signed. This is a new start for a broadened and extended relationship. One of the new aspects in this agreement is the drive to establish cooperation links between Yemen and EU along our so-called decentralized cooperation programs with the Mediterranean and AGCC countries.

For example, we have cooperation in the field of university training, media and journalism training, cooperation with NGOs and municipalities. Such programs are already in action with Mediterranean countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco and Palestine. I hope that similar programs will be conducted with AGCC countries. We would like to associate Yemen with that.



We have been preparing for this agreement for a couple of months. We agreed last September during our latest Joint Cooperation Committee meeting on having a new agreement. Due to the support of an overwhelming majority of EU member states, we have come to this agreement very quickly. There has hardly ever been any kind of cooperation agreement signed by the EC which has been negotiated in such a short period. This is due to the fact that we have a lot of support from our member state. We have now a global and comprehensive agreement which touches upon such diverse issues as more trade exchange, and increased economic cooperation involving very strongly the private sector.

This means that this cooperation does not involve only the government. New fields of cooperation will be explored such as environment, culture, media, communications, human resources developing with a special focus on women and girls. We would like cooperate in providing better chances for younger women in education programs and family planning. There will be cooperation in fighting crimes such as drug trafficking or money laundering. All that is in the agreement. It brings cooperation between the EU and Yemen to the most modern level.

Q: The EU is soon going to host the second donor meeting for Yemen.

A: Yes, there will be a very big gathering in Brussels during 19-20 June to which all the major donors are invited. The EU has a genuine interest in cooperating with Yemen. We are doing this in collaboration with the World Bank, IMF, and many bilateral donors.

We think Yemen deserves the support of the world community in its drive to develop and democratize.

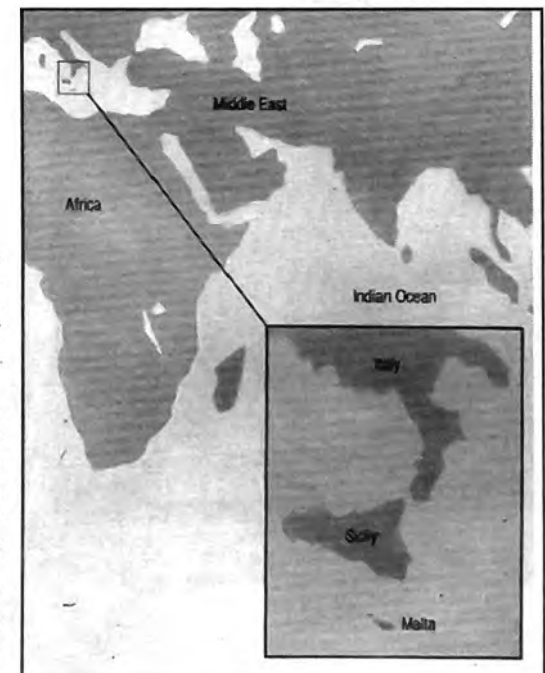
Q: What is your opinion about Yemen joining the AGCC?

A: The EU is very much in support of that. If this turns out to be difficult for Yemen or the AGCC at this time, there are many models of association such as granting Yemen a special observer status, giving Yemen the possibility of cooperating with AGCC.

Malta Expects 60% Increase in Exports to Yemen

"Malta is expected to post a 60% increase in its exports to Yemen," said Mr. Dennis Vella, Marketing Manager of the Malta External Trade Corporation. Whereas Malta's exports to the Gulf region reaches over US\$ 16 million annually, exports to Yemen are currently at very low levels. This is expected to get a further boost with the visit of 25 leading Maltese exporters and service providers to Sana'a. Products being offered include foodstuffs, paints, household goods, computers, information technology services, health and hygiene products, furniture, building materials, engineering services and other goods and services.

Encouraged by the keen interest already shown in Maltese products and services by the business people in Yemen, the Malta External Trade Corporation plans to intensify its promotional activities in the Gulf-region by means of similar activities in the future.



WHO Says No Country Is Safe from Threat of Infectious Diseases

There is no country in the world which is safe from the threat of infectious diseases, and the need of the hour is sustained effort to control these diseases effectively and prevent epidemics, warns the World Health Organization (WHO). The threat is even the more compelling in less developed countries. It is in preparation against such possibilities that WHO is developing a mechanism by improving its disease surveillance systems and remains ready to respond to control disease outbreaks.

"There is a growing concern at national and international levels about the problem of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and new diseases such as new strain of cholera and HIV infections which are the leading cause of death and morbidity," Dr. Rafei, the Southeast Asia regional director of WHO said. "As the countries move towards the 21st century, the need for comprehensive and appropriate strategies for controlling infectious diseases has become more urgent than ever before," he added.

Dr. Rafei indicated that rapid growth of population, unplanned urbanisation, disturbance of environmental balance and the increased speed and frequency of travel within and between countries are some of the important factors contributing to the emergence of these infectious diseases. The situation has worsened due to the growing phenomenon of resistance of micro-organisms to antimicrobial agents and of vectors of pesticides.

Dr. Rafei said the success achieved in small pox eradication and the considerable progress made in polio and guinea worm eradication should not create a sense of complacency since new and emerging diseases in the region pose daunting challenges. Diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, once thought to have been controlled, threaten the lives of millions of people in the region. Plague and kala-azar which were on the verge of eradication have resurfaced. New diseases such as a new strain of cholera and HIV infection are spreading rapidly in some countries in the region.

Replying to a question on mad cow disease, scientifically called bovine spongiform encephalopathy (MSE). This possibly links with a form of brain disease in humans. A new variant of creutzfeldt-jakob disease (CJD) has not been reported in south-east Asia.

Book Reviews

Atlas of Yemeni Eye Diseases

Dr. Li Jun's book "Atlas of Yemeni Eye Diseases" came out yesterday, May 11th. The type-setting and design was done by Yemen Times. The "Atlas" is the first ophthalmological book on Yemen.

The President of the Republic of Yemen, General Ali Abdullah Saleh, financed the publication. "We have to encourage serious scholars who produce useful work," he said.

Dr. Li Jun, one of the Chinese Medial Team (CMT) has worked in Yemen as an eye specialist in Aden General Hospital. He is the general director of Tongling Ophthalmology Research Institute, Anhui, China. He has many successful works in this field. He published 4 books and many academic articles. He was the first to finish WHO trachoma program in his city in 1992. He also had two special rights for eye vision table in China.

At present, there are no ophthalmology books which involve eye diseases in Yemen. In medical colleges and schools, students of ophthalmology do not have textbooks. They use books from other countries.

The book, 220 pages in all, presents more than 800 colorful illustrations about typical eye diseases in Yemen. Clear pictures display eye-parts such as lids, lacrimal, sclera, conjunctiva, iris, cornea, cataract, retina, orbit, etc., and diseases such as glaucoma, strabismus, amblyopia, tumors, refraction, diabetic eye diseases, and others.

In every one of the 17 chapters, an introduction describes the basic anatomy and physiology of one eye disease after another. Then, there is a description of the ocular anatomy parts of the eye systems. The easy to read book was revised by Yemeni, Chinese and other eye specialists.

The pictures, illustrations, and text can be used as a useful teaching guide in the medical colleges and health institutes. More importantly, it is a handy reference to doctors in their fight to prevent blindness. The book is introduced by Dr. A. Karim Al-Gunaid, Deputy-Minister of Public Health, Mr. Yu Xingzhi, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Yemen, and others.

"Atlas of Yemeni Eye Diseases" fills a visible vacuum in the ophthalmology of Yemen. It is a symbol of Chinese-Yemeni friendship. Above all, it is a manifestation of professional contribution and medical scientific exchange.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh is expected to receive the author and award him a medal in recognition of his effort. That honor is well deserved.

By: Yusuf Al-Sharif,
Yemen Times.

Atlas of Yemen Eye Diseases

Li Jun



Yemen Times®

May 8th is the international day for the humanitarian movement which aims to protect war victims and to provide shelter in disaster-stricken areas all over the world. All Red Crescent/Cross Societies worldwide celebrate the 8th of May as the Red Crescent/Cross Day for humanitarian movement.

Su'ad Al-Maghrabi is a researcher and health official in the women's ward in the Central Prison of Sana'a. Her duties include taking care of imprisoned women and making contact with the prosecutor's office and embassies to help these women.

On this occasion, Ms. Ahlam Al-Mutawakil of Yemen Times met Su'ad Al-Maghrabi and filed the following interview:

Q: What are the activities supported by the Sana'a Branch of the Red Crescent?

A: Our activities are numerous. 1- They distribute food to the prisoners, especially during Ramadhan. Last Ramadhan we were given a big amount of dates. 2- The branch also organizes training courses on first aid. Our motto is "an aidman or woman in every house". This has proved to be of practical use for houses and schools especially in times of emergencies and disasters. The branch also has a large number of trainees who help in such occasions.

3- There is also another program of rescue and relief training. We have held two rescue training courses. As for relief, we held many courses with the help of local and international experts. Human capital is the most important factor in the successful growth of nations. 4- Medicines are supplied by the Yemeni Red Crescent Society.

There is generally a shortage, and other organizations and charities do provide some supplies.

I hope that people who are able to help would do so. I specially appeal to the owners of medicine firms and pharmacies because large quantities of medicines remain in stores for a long time until they expire. Had such medicines been distributed to the needy, many people would have benefited from them.

Q: The 8th of May is the international day for the Red Crescent. What would you like to say on this occasion?

A: The main value in any civilized society is sympathy among members of society. We have to promote good will among human beings.

Yemen Red Crescent Society Appeals to the Kind-Hearted !



I hope that all the concerned people would help the poor and needy. I have now more than 400 families who are in a dire need of medicine and clothing. There are school children who need basics in life.

I also would like to advise young people to participate in rescue and relief training courses. The summer is approaching. It offer free time. By learning these skills, they will be helping themselves in the first place and their nation in general.

At the end, I would like to stress the importance of the media in taking care of the imprisoned women and other vulnerable people. People to know our conditions and how they can help.

VACANCY

The Embassy of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan announces for the following vacancies:

- 1- Female housekeeper with previous experience and ability to speak English.
- 2- Chef with previous experience in Arabic and Western cooking and dessert making.

Interested persons should contact the Embassy during working hours
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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT



United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is inviting applications for the following posts for its offices in Sana'a:

1. Senior Personnel Assistant: Undertake preparation for the recruitment of National Professional Project Personnel and administrative support staff, perform all the duties relevant to recruitment in accordance with Personnel Manual; brief and counsel project staff (locals) on personnel issues providing interpretation of personnel regulations, rules and procedures on extension, separation, entitlement to various allowances, disciplinary actions etc.; establishment of remuneration for national professional project personnel; issuance of contracts and Special Service Agreements for project staff including nationally executed projects and extension of contracts; draft correspondence on all personnel issues; maintain personnel records and files;

Qualification / Experience requirements:

- (1) Completion of secondary education supplemented by courses related to general administration. Ability to operate computer. Very good knowledge of English and Arabic;
- (2) Seven years' experience including progressively responsible work in general administration with emphasis in personnel.

2. Secretary (Bilingual): Perform secretarial duties, type and prepare correspondence, documents and reports in Arabic and English; file correspondence, reports and documents; arrange appointments both internal and external; draft correspondence of routine nature; receive visitors, place and screen telephone calls and attend to routine requests for information, etc.

Qualification / Experience requirements:

- (1) Completion of secondary education;
- (2) Proven typing/shorthand ability;
- (3) Thorough knowledge of computer/word processing and modern office procedures;
- (4) Minimum of 5 years of secretarial experience, preferably with UN/International Organizations and good knowledge of Arabic and English languages.

The above positions are open to **Yemeni nationals only**. Interested candidates are requested to send applications with detailed curriculum vitae to:

Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box 551, Sana'a.

Applications should be received **no later than 20 May 1997**.

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgment will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the posts.

Announcement for Vacant Jobs within UNDP-funded Program

Background

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is supporting the Government of Yemen in the implementation of the Sustainable Environmental Program (YEM/92/100) which aims at sustainable use of land, habitat and biodiversity resources of Yemen. Within this context, the Program would like to recruit the following Program Personnel.

1. NATIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER

The whole Program will be managed by especially established Program Management Unit (PMU) under the general supervision of the Environment Protection Council (EPC). The PMU will be headed by a *Program Manager* whose tasks and duties are the following:

- Manage the Program Management Unit applying administrative methods
- Coordinate, provide regular backstopping, establish and run reporting systems for all Sub-programs. Also coordinate Program activities with other national and international agencies involved in the implementation of the Program.
- Prepare and update regular work-plans and job descriptions, Terms of Reference for international and national staff and consultants, and assist in their identification.
- Assist implementing agencies in arranging training programs and in procurement of equipment as indicated in the Program Support Document
- Act as a liaison with national and international agencies involved in activities similar to or complementing those of the program and carry out any other duties concomitant with the position of Program Manager

Qualifications

The *Program Manager* shall have proven experience in the management of large and multi-disciplinary environmental programs. He/she must have a minimum degree of MSc. in a relevant subject and at least 15 years of relevant experience. Fluency in Spoken and written Arabic and English is essential.

Interested applicants should submit their CVs and other documents **NO LATER THAN 20 May 1997** to the Personnel Section of the UNDP Office, P. O. Box 551, Al-Sitteen Road (60-meter Road), Sana'a. Acknowledgment will be given only to applicants who strictly conform to the above requirement.

2. ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANTS (7)

The Program seeks to recruit seven well qualified Administrative Assistants to work with different units of the Program established in several governorates including Sana'a, Shabwa, Hadhramaut, Hudeidah, Taiz and Socotra Island.

Tasks

- Daily financial management of the project particularly monitoring the bank account and petty cash of the project. Preparation of monthly budget status reports.
- Provide update of work progress by selected contractors to the Program and facilitate local payment arrangements.
- Facilitate timely equipment procurement and delivery.
- Ensure timely customs clearance for project equipment and timely transport to Socotra.
- Secure travel; permits and security clearances in a timely manner for project staff and visiting experts, particularly those engaged in field surveys.
- Make travel arrangements (both local and international) for all project staff.
- Provide administrative assistance to the sub-programs in implementing activities to be carried out in remote areas.

Qualifications

- BA in Business Administration, with training in financial management. Proven experience in financial management, preferably of donor-funded projects; familiarity with the financial rules and regulations of UNDP a distinct advantage.
- Computer literate, particularly with respect to word processing and spreadsheets.
- Fluent in English and Arabic (spoken and written).

Interested applicants should submit their CVs and other documents **NO LATER THAN 30 May 1997** to:

The Personnel Section of the UNDP Office,
P. O. Box 551, Al Sitteen Ring Road (60-meter Road), Sana'a,
indicating the preferred duty station. Acknowledgment will be given only to applicants who strictly meet the above requirement.

3. NATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER (Socotra Project)

Background

The Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity of Socotra Archipelago aims at the conservation of the globally significant biodiversity of the Socotra Archipelago, through the integration of conservation measures with sustainable use and development efforts. The project is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) while the Environment Protection Council is the national implementing agency. Coordination of project activities and logistics support from the mainland will be provided by the Program Management Unit (PMU) of the UNDP Sustainable Environmental Management Program for Yemen. Actual implementation of all project activities falls within the responsibility of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to be established in Socotra.

The National Liaison Officer will carry out the following responsibilities:

- Communications and information flow between the PIU and the national and international agencies involved in the implementation of the project.
- Assist the PIU in the overall planning, management and logistic support of the Socotra Island project activities in Sana'a.
- Facilitate the PIU's public relations with mainland institutions and potential donors.
- Coordinate activities between this GEF project and UNDP Poverty Sub-program for Socotra through regular meetings with the Poverty sub-program team, joint planning of activities and sharing of reports and documentation.
- Advise selected contractors on their legal obligations to ensure timely delivery of services.
- Dissemination of project reports and documentation produced by the PIU to arouse awareness of the project.
- In addition, the National Office will participate in the establishment and update of the Socotra biodiversity and social databases (and subsequently GIS), and facilitate the transfer of technical skills in database and GIS management to junior counterparts.

Qualifications

- BA in Business Administration with background in Social or Environmental Sciences, with training in computer science and application, preferably database management. Must be Fluent in English and Arabic.

Duty Station:

Sana'a with occasional travel to Socotra Island.

THE HIJRA: Original Meaning and the Implication Today

Hijra is the emigration of the Prophet Mohammed (P) from Mecca to Medina in 622 A.D. Escaping from an attempt by the unbelievers on his life, the Prophet's going into Medina heralded the beginning of the Islamic state. The occasion was later chosen by the great caliph, Omar, as the start of the Muslim calendar. The lunar year consists of twelve months, each having 29-30 days. The beginning of every month is subject to the sighting of the crescent immediately after the new moon.

The Hijra is a watershed in the history of history and civilization. It was the beginning of the spiritual and earthly leadership of the Prophet Muhammad (P). The concept of Hijra is seen in Islamic theology as the duty to flee from persecution, and to better prepare for a fight against infidels.

Dr. Al-Murtadha Bin Zayd Al-Muhawari is a university professor specializing in Islamic studies. He had both formal university education and traditional theological studying. His main subjects of specialization are the Koran and its sciences; Hadith - the Prophet's (P) sayings and traditions; the fundamentals of the Islamic religion and jurisprudence; Arabic grammar, literature, poetry, prosody, eloquence, history, and lithography. Under supervision by professors from Al-Azhar - world famous Islamic university, Al-Muhawari, 43, received his Ph.D. from Cairo University. For his tremendous efforts, he received two awards: best Ph.D. thesis of the year and best doctoral candidate. On the occasion of the Islamic new year (1418), Ahlam Al-Mutawakil of Yemen Times made these brief interviews with Dr. Al-Muhawari and Sheikh Ahmed Al-Shami

A: AL-MUHAWARI:
Q: What does Hijra mean for the faithful?

A: It is the leaving of the homeland in a most lofty expression of subservience to Allah. The Prophet (P) left his beloved Mecca for the sake of a sublime motive, as did his family and disciples before him.

Q: Is there Hijra now?
A: According to the Prophet, no Hijra after the conquering of Mecca. Now is the time for faith and hard work.

Q: What is required of the Islamic nation on this occasion?
A: Muslims have to regain their past glories and their lost dignity. They will have to enlighten humanity with the gift of Islam, by words and deeds. A tolerant Islamic personality, as inspired by the teachings and views of Mohammed (P), must be presented to the world. Having accomplished this, humanity will be spared the evils of destruction and oblivion.

Q: What do you think about the observance and commemoration of such religious occasions?
A: Remembering such historical milestones serves as a motivation for harder work, a better understanding of the past, and a brighter outlook for the future. Those who oppose the commemoration of such religious events are ignorant people.

Q: Why didn't the Islamic calendar start with the birth of the Prophet (P)?



A: The birth and Hijra of Mohammed (p) are two extremely great occasions. The Hijra, however, bears the meanings of sacrifice and the upholding of Allah's word. It represents a turning point from the era of ignorance to that of Islam, the first Islamic state was born after Hijra. So the Hijra is in actual fact the birth of Islam in the form of a proper state.

Q: You are establishing a new mosque in the "26 of September" park in Sana'a. How will it benefit the community?

A: I like movement and activity, and hate stagnation. I hope the Islamic nation will soon wake up from its slumber. A mosque is a suitable place for reminding people of their religious and life duties. As the speaker at the mosque, I talk to the people at the Friday prayers about hygiene, health, agriculture, economy, creativity, civilization, and many other topics relevant to our daily life. I endeavor to promote virtue and curb vice. A mosque is the greatest gift to presented to the Muslims. It as important as a hospital. It helps cure the ailments of the soul.

B: AL-SHAMI:
Sheikh Ahmed Al-Shami is a theologian and a former head of the Taiz Court of Appeal.

Q: What were the reasons for Hijra?

A: Mohammed's own tribe, Quraish, took a very belligerent stance towards his calling for Islam, especially after the death of his revered uncle and guardian, Abu Talib. Mohammed's call reached an almost dead end due to Quraish's hostility. Matters reached a very serious stage when Quraish, in collusion with other tribes, conspired to kill the Prophet (P).

He had, therefore, to look for another, safer base to call for Islam and guarantee its freedom. The breakthrough came when delegations from Medina or Yathrib, as it was known then, came to pledge their support for Mohammed (P) and Islam. They became known as Ansar or supporters. The first to emigrate were the Prophet's family and disciples. Mohammed and his closest friend and ally, Abubakar, followed them later. The Prophet (P) left at night, leaving his cousin Imam Ali in his place as a decoy.

Q: What does the event of Hijra inspire?
A: It inspires strength, will power, and steadfastness in all of those who call for, and spread the word of Islam. It motivates the people to stand up to tyrants and to fight oppression. If defeated in one field, a Muslim should try another. Truth and justice must have their succors and protectors. Otherwise, they are lost. The early Muslims and the Prophet (P) had to fight fierce battles in order to carry forward the banner of their new religion.

Q: Is Hijra still acceptable from an Islamic viewpoint?
A: According to Quranic verses, Hijra is prescribed when a Muslim is not able to carry out his or her religious duty or rituals due to oppression or other similar external powers. It means that a Muslim is required to flee with his/her faith and dignity, and not to submit to the demands of the oppressors. There are many Quranic verses which demand this conduct of Muslims. As for the Prophet's saying that there must be no Hijra after the conquering of Mecca, it specifically means Hijra from Mecca.



YEMEN FESTIVAL in London

Coinciding with the Yemeni Revolutions - September/October, a YEMEN Festival will be kicked off in London on September 18th, 1997. The festival includes architectural exhibition, music, poetry, dance, crafts, photography, and cuisine. The whole lot will then move on to other UK cities, notably Cardiff, Birmingham, Liverpool, and Sheffield. The organizers are asking all those who can support the project to do so. Already, many private business, notably the Taiz-based businesses of Yemen such as the Hayel Saeed Anam and the Thabet Brothers, are chipping in. Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nasher, Chairman of the Yemeni-British Friendship Association, is urging businesses with UK connection to support the effort. Other sponsors include the British Council, British Yemeni Society (London), Yemeni-British Friendship Association (Sanaa), Department of Trade and Industry, Arts Council of England, Embassy of Yemen in the UK, London Arts Board, London Borough Grants Committee, Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust, and Visiting Arts.

Female Artists Exhibit Work

Two young aspiring female artists, one Yemeni (Bushra Al-Mutawakil) and the other Iraqi (Ruaa Hassan Ali Al-Bazakan), are going to display their latest products at the Al-Halqa office on Baghdad Street in Sanaa, on Thursday, May 15th. Bushra's interest in art developed as a side-line while she was pursuing her BA in International Business at the American University in Washington DC. Since then, she has come a long way in her black and white photography skills. She has a knack for catching those expressive moments in life. Ruaa has dug in deeper into her art. Painting commands a visible part of her life. On the 15th of May, she will display twenty pieces of work under the theme "Remains of a Woman". It is an expression of the pain endured by woman in our society, and what remains of her.



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Consultant plastic surgeon, MD, CFPC (France) this month from 15th to 27th to perform plastic operations:
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CORRECTING PATENT OWNER

In Yemen Times issue No 9 dated March 3 through 9, 1997, a cautionary notice was published. We herewith announce that the name of the owner has now been changed for the patent **AN IMPROVED CLOSED LOOP SINGLE MIXED REFRIGERANT** From **PRITCHARD CORPORATION** to the current owner of the said patent **Black & Veatch Pritchard, Inc.** And thereto, this correction is announced.

تهانينا

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نرفها
للأخ منصور مقبل فارغ
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولوداً جديداً أسماه

غدير

المهنيون
عصام عبده حسين الزريقي،
طارق مصطفى الزريقي،
خالد مقبل الزريقي، وسيم السقاف، حسام
ورضاء وعماد ووليد ونائف السقاف

عيد ميلاد سعيد

نرف تهانينا الحارة إلى الطفل
حسام عسكر الظاهري
بمناسبة احتفاله بعيد ميلاده

المهنيون
حمدي وأسامة عسكر الظاهري،
علي ومسعد وبكر وعسكر حسين الظاهري،
محمد وخالد الخولاني،
نزار ومحسن فريد الظاهري،
يونس وتامر وفارس
وحمادة محمد الشريف،
وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

إعلان

تعلن مصلحة الأحوال المدنية والسجل المدني عن رغبتها في إدخال نظام آلي متكامل (Software) لأعمال السجل المدني. فعلى الشركات المتخصصة الحضور إلى المصلحة (إدارة الحاسب الآلي) لأخذ نسخة من المواصفات الفنية المطلوبة لعمل النظام في موعد أقصاه اسبوع من تاريخ نشر الاعلان.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Civil Registry Authority is interested in a software package for data on civil registry. Companies which provide such services and products may kindly approach the Computer Department of the Authority to obtain full details on the requirements.

DEADLINE:

One Week from the Date of this Advertisement.

Israel Justifies Its Ways with Palestinians

Israel defended abusing human rights of Palestinians under the pretext of fighting terrorism. It said the methods used by its security forces in interrogating suspected Palestinians guerrillas were lawful and said investigators had foiled 90 terrorist attacks over the last two years.

In a special report to the UN Committee Against Torture, the Jewish State said a controversial High Court ruling last year was justified on the basis of classified information that a detainee probably knew about an imminent terrorist attack.

It was responding to an urgent appeal by the UN Committee, which last November expressed concern that the High Court ruling appeared to sanction police use of torture and physical force on detainees. Israel said it probed every allegation of maltreatment, and despite terrorism, tried to uphold the rights of all people under its jurisdiction. Detainees had "personal and political motives for fabricating claims", the ten page report added. Members of the UN Committee Against Torture feared the High Court ruling, which overturned an interim court order forbidding the Shin Bet secret police from using "physical forces against Muhammad Hamdan", a Palestinian detainee, might violate the pact, which Israel has ratified. "Since this decision was the subject of much controversy and was given an utterly mistaken interpretation in the world media, we found it necessary to submit this paper in order to clarify Israel's interrogation policies and practices. We would like to emphasise that Israeli law strictly forbids all forms of torture or maltreatment", the report adds. Israel applies a double set of rules - the first set of highly protective laws applies to the Jews, and the second set of near-emergency laws applies to the Palestinians.

Arabs To Rely On More Food Imports

Arab states are set to boost imports of wheat and sugar in the next few years as farm production will lag behind their population growth rates and their arable land is largely untapped. In a study on the agricultural sector in the 22-member Arab League, The Khartoum-based Arab Corporation for Agricultural Investment and Development, ACAID, said regional states already reeled under heavy import bills, although they have enough land to feed themselves and export surplus products.

Despite a steady increase in consumption, output has declined over the past few years because of adverse climatic conditions, failure to exploit arable areas and lack of investments and incentives. The report said wheat production dropped to 17.3 million tons in 1995 from 19.4 million tons in 1994 while imports increased to 12.7 million tons.

The Arab countries have made headway in achieving self-sufficiency in some products. But it remains low in wheat and sugar, standing at around 58% and 38% respectively.

The gap is expected to grow in the next few years due to higher consumption and population growth. The study showed the Arab states produced an average 2.01 million tons of sugar per year during the first half of 1990s but consumption was running at 5.33 million tons. The gap was valued at around 1.3 billion dollars a year and a steady rise in consumption will widen it to 2.2 billion dollars in 2000.

The import gap has created a drain of around 48 billion dollars between 1991 and 1995 and more than 160 billion dollars since 1980. The problem is exacerbated due to lack of investment and incentives, inadequate agricultural policies, non-exploitation of the arable areas and conflicts among some member states.

Tunisia Elected Member in the UN's Committee for Human Rights

In New York, Tunisia was elected unanimously a member in the UN Committee for Human Rights during the current session of the Economic & Social Council. This Universal Committee came to being in 1946 according to Item 68 of the UN League to tackle all issues related to human rights.

The committee has its fundamental role in developing human rights and laying down the mechanisms that guarantee a follow-up and application of the principles that were ratified and stated in the international accords regarding this field.

The election of Tunisia comes to signal appreciation for its improved record in human rights and its achievements in the field of personal and political freedoms.

Taliban Accuses Iran of Blocking Recognition

Iran is the biggest block to international recognition of the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan, a senior Taliban official said.

The Taliban Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs squarely accused Iran of conspiring to stem international acceptance of the movement. The senior official said Iran is blocking recognition in the 54-member Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, whilst giving military backing to rival forces. "In the beginning there were certain problems but the world especially the Muslim countries are recognising the Taliban as a reality," he said.

Taliban, an ultra-puritanical movement, is in control in most of south and central Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul - while rival forces control most of the north. Fighting continues to rage as ever.

The World Bank Urges Infrastructural Investment in India

"While China is attracting 40 billion dollars of foreign investment a year, India is getting only 2 billion," pointed out John Williamson, chief economist for the South Asia Region at the World Bank.

Infrastructure is a constraint but it is also an opportunity. If investment in infrastructure is welcomed, investment will come in. It has come in the power sector in Pakistan and indeed even in a limited way in India. If policies are right, one can expect to see the inflow increase over time. That can relieve the infrastructure constraints that are limiting, at least, some industries at present time."

The level of savings and investment in India is nearly 25% of the gross domestic product. In other countries of South Asia it varies between a low of 10% in Bangladesh to 20% or may be a little more in Sri Lanka. World Bank experts noted that when people first have higher incomes, one of the things they do with the extra income is to save more. The other thing is demographic one. As people stop having large families, some of the expenditure that went into raising children goes into savings.

Infrastructure is facing some constraints in South Asia and it has really become a bottleneck. Williamson pointed out. For instance, Hong Kong and Singapore ports can turn around a container ship in 17 or 18 hours while one is lucky if that is done in Karachi or Bombay in 17 days. Another example is communications. In many parts of India, telephone contact is almost impossible. So there is a big difference in efficiency of the infrastructure between East and South Asia. With the increasing role of the private sector, one hopes that the problem will be reduced.

Turkey's Role in Black Sea and Middle East Raises Eye-brows

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller opened talks between 11 members taking part in a Black Sea regional co-operation forum. Speaking to officials attending the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, BSEC, meeting, Ciller said the group was moving towards its long-term aim of establishing a free trade area.

"I consider it very important that we have an agreement in principle on creating a free trade zone," she said. "The infrastructure has been put in place to create a new trade area."

The talks were attended by the 11 members - Turkey, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. The Black Sea forum has unveiled plans for six regional cooperation projects focused on energy conservation, gas pipelines, development of small and medium enterprises, infrastructure, a project related to the use of the Danube River and another to speed border access in the region. The Group has a secretariat in Istanbul, a parliamentary assembly, a private-sector business council, an economic data centre and several working bodies. But Turkey's aspiration for a dominant role in this grouping is already creating uneasy feelings all around.

There is also another group of neighbors which is getting uneasy about Turkey's ambitions. The Arab countries are seeking appropriate counter-measures to Turkey's military alliance with Israel. Turkish defence minister has just concluded an official visit to Tel Aviv ending up with new 'arrangements'.

Turkish officials have been lying to us about their plans with Israel. They no longer have to lie and we now what is in the pipeline," said an Egyptian official.

Mubarak Urges Netanyahu to Respect Agreements

President Hosni Mubarak has launched a drive to mobilize the Arab World and overcome the deadlock in the Middle East Peace talks blamed on the policies of Israel's right wing government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Egyptian leader visit the Gulf region and is ready to host a mini-Arab summit grouping the governments directly involved in peace talks with Israel. This summit would discuss a possible Arab initiative towards Israel if the Jewish state makes positive moves. Mubarak and other Arab leaders have been highly critical of Israeli prime minister Netanyahu's drive to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem. The Egyptian leader called on Netanyahu to fully implement the autonomy agreements Israel's previous government signed with the Palestinians.

Iran Turning to Asia Amid Europe Row

Iran is turning to Asian countries for economic and trade relations as its political crisis with the European Union deepens. The deputy foreign minister Alaeddin Borujerdi held talks with the ambassadors of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei and the Philippines. He said the future of relations with members of the Association of South East Asian Nations, ASEAN, was bright and shiny. "International developments have shown that Asia will be a strong contender in future economic relations," Borujerdi said Europe was the main loser in the political row with Iran.

Iran is in a political crisis with the EU over accusations that Tehran was involved in the 1992 assassination of Kurdish dissidents in Germany.



يتقدم

الحاج محمد مبارك عذبان
رئيس مجموعة شركات عذبان

بخالص التهاني القلبية
لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

الفريق علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى الشعب اليمني العظيم
وذلك بمناسبة نجاح الانتخابات البرلمانية
وبمناسبة الذكرى السابعة للوحدة اليمنية في ٢٢ مايو.

Mr. Mohammed Mubarak Adhban

The President of Adhban Group of Companies

Presents his heartfelt congratulations to H. E.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and to the Yemeni People

on the success of the elections process.

and on the occasion of 7th anniversary of Unification Day, May 22nd.



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الفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى كافة أبناء اليمن

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بأحر التهاني الصادقة والتبريكات القلبية إلى

الفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى كافة أبناء اليمن

بمناسبة الذكرى السابعة لقيام الوحدة اليمنية في الثاني والعشرين من مايو ١٩٩٠م
وبمناسبة نجاح الإنتخابات البرلمانية اليمنية في ٢٧ ابريل ١٩٩٧

كنديان أوكسي:

شركاء اليمن في التنمية النفطية



Dr. Waleed Jazrawi, President/General Manager of

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen

presents

heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and the Yemeni people

on the occasion of 7th anniversary of Unification Day, May 22

and on the success of the parliamentary elections.

CanadianOxy:

Yemen's Partners in Oil Development



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly) 4-5-97
(Federation of Popular Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Muslim Brotherhood Represents Serious Challenge to President
- 2) International Observers Call for National Harmony in Yemen
- 3) Islah: Women's Rights were Violated During Elections

Article Summary:

Two Landslides... Different Outlooks - by Dr. Mohammed A. Al-Saqqaf.

This is only the second parliamentary election since the unification of Yemen. While Britain's democracy is many centuries old. Final outcome of the British general election was declared the next day, while Yemen's Supreme Elections Committee took far more than the 72 hours stipulated by the constitution.

Both the PGC and the Labor Party have won around 63% of the seats in their respective parliaments. The big difference, however, lies in the fact that the Labor party was in the opposition. It has, through the peaceful transference of authority, reached the position of leading the country. The PGC's big victory has, on the other hand, enabled it to strengthen its monopoly of power. In Britain, voting was based largely on an informed choice between two different elections programs. Election in this country was based more on political and financial influence than on real election programs.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 7-5-97

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Nasserite Supporters Brutally Tortured in Khalid Military Camp
- 2) Nasserite Secretary-General Meets Political

Advisor at American Embassy

3) Feverish Competition Between PGC and Islah to Enfold Independents

Article Summary:

Why Did Islah Fail in Ibb? - by Jamal Amer.

The Muslim Brotherhood has been able to establish a wide public support in Ibb and the surrounding rural areas since 1982. In the election of 1993, Islah was able to gain 14 seats in the center of the Ibb Governorate alone. Islahis, however, started to work for political and financial gains. The PGC succeeded in removing Islahis from key positions in the much contested education sector in Ibb.

Irregularities during the registrations for the election, the governor of Ibb's success in conducting the PGC election campaign, and Islah's over-confidence and arrogance were the main reasons behind its downfall. Islah was completely kicked out of all of Ibb's constituencies by an overwhelming PGC majority.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-weekly) 7-5-97

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Secret Contacts to Organize Visit of Israelis to Yemen
- 2) Four Prominent Figures Nominated for Premiership
- 3) Payment of Gulf War Compensations Delayed for a Year and an Half Due to Late Receiving of Forms
- 4) Clamp Down on Cars with Defaced Number Plates

Article Summary:

No More Coalitions - by Abdullah N. Ali.

The past experience of coalition government has proven that it is not suitable for our backward political reality. The absence of proper, independent

state establishments has also caused the experiment to fail. State mechanisms are still largely influenced by tribal structures. A big flaw in the outlook towards goals and the means of achieving them has come to light during the past six years. State resources were exploited and manipulated for the benefit of one party. With its large majority in par-

liament, the PGC does not need to form a coalition government. A 100% PGC government will clearly show the extent of the party's credibility in implementing its election program. Islah's joining of the opposition will enhance its image and widen its public base.



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Spotlight

The Success of Elections and the Youth Ambitions



Young Yemenis who have participated in the elections have high ambitions of transforming Yemen into a powerful democratic country. They hope that economic improvements will have an impact on their conditions.

Support and care for youth by providing the essentials of fulfilling their ambitions appeared as a priority in the programs of many parties, including the PGC and Islah. Elections were concluded 'peacefully' and in a very democratic way that surprised many international observers.

Yemeni youth supported the elections with a great enthusiasm since its beginning. For the young, democracy is the best choice and the means through which their ambitions of building the new Yemen can be achieved.

When we speak of the youth, I should make a special reference to the young women. There were great masses of women who participated in these elections and voted for the person of their choice. In addition to her participation side-by-side with the men in pushing Yemen forward, the Yemeni woman has been able to understand the importance of elections.

The result of the elections indicated that many distinguished sportsmen have won. These sportsmen have participated in the establishment of many sports games in Yemen and worked as possible as they could for the improvement of youth and sports situation. Now that they have become members of the new parliament, I hope they will not forget the youth who supported them.

The ambition of young people has increased after this event. There have been many talks in clubs, stadiums, universities, and training halls about the awaited support which is expected of the new government.

The Yemeni youth have great hopes and big ambitions and fulfilling them might be easy especially after the end of the first democratic lesson in whose success and continuation the youth play a major and an active role.

Uzbekistan Wins by a Penalty Goal Referee Blamed for Yemeni Team's Loss. Uzbek Coach: "Yemen is a strong opponent."

Thousands of spectators left Al-Thawra stadium greatly saddened by the loss of our national football team in the third match of the World Cup qualifiers. The Uzbek team scored its lone goal at the twenty-eighth minute of the match. Despite its great efforts and control during the second half of the match, our team had failed to invest some of the chances available.

The Yemeni fans, however, were pleased by the fact that the team presented a wonderful performance. The Uzbek team was a very powerful opponent. It is regarded as the strongest in the 5th Asian group. Many of its players are European professionals. For the first time in this match, the Yemeni team moved outside the defense area and attacked intensively. There were some shortcomings such as the absence of the center players. Valuable chances were also lost because of the absence of an able goal-scorer. But in the second half, the team was able to control the events of the match and force the Uzbek team to draw back in order to defend its goal.

Uzbeks Start

The match started with a strong Uzbek attack. It was faced by a great Yemeni resistance and a counter attack later. The Yemeni player Ba Shafii shot the ball weakly towards the goal-keeper who caught it very easily. That shot indicated that the Yemeni team was retreating in order to defend itself. At the 20th minute of the first half, a corner shot by Abdulrahman Saeed sent the ball directly to Jamal Khorabi's feet who was slow to take advantage of it. He kicked aimlessly and away from the goal. At the 28th minute, Mohammed Hamada, the defender of our team, made a big mistake by falling back to within the line-18 area. This gave much freedom for the opponent. Hamada clashed with an Uzbek player who entered into that region. The Jordanian referee announced a penalty for the Uzbek team. They scored.

Wonderful Performance and Lost Chances

In the second half, attacking was initiated by the Yemeni side under the leadership of Muneef Shayif. Another attack was led by Ahmed Al Bareed who passed the ball to his friend Jayyab Ba Shafii. Although Jayyab was facing the goal head-on, he could only manage to send the ball too high and out. By so-doing, a very valuable chance of equalizing was lost. Yemeni attacks were repeated many times. The Uzbek team decided to fall back, and re-group around goal in order to defend it. They resorted to the old method of time wasting. The Yemeni attackers were able to reach the goal for four successive times, but achieved nothing. This was due to the lack of an able goal-scorer. By this result, the Uzbek team gained the first three points of a match played outside its home-ground. A Yemeni-Cambodian match is scheduled for next Friday.

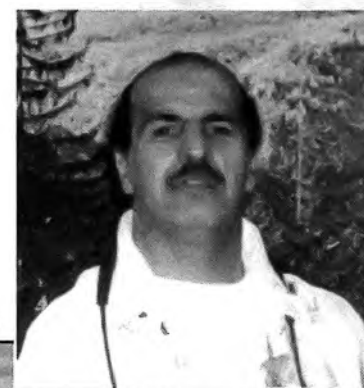
Snapshots From the Match

-- The Yemeni goal-keeper, Al Mattar, who was injured and couldn't play, cried a lot as the end of the match was approaching, with the guys losing many valuable chances which could have led to victory.

-- In a press conference held after the match, the Iraqi coach, Jassam, said we should not shift the blame to the referee because the Uzbek team was clever in dealing with him.

-- During half-time, Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, the Minister of Youth and Sports, and the Football Association officials visited the team. The visit gave the team strength and high spirits which enabled them to control the second half of the match.

-- In a press conference, the Uzbek coach said that his team played seriously against a worthy opponent, and according to previously well-



planned tactics. He said his team considered the Yemenis a strong opponent. This in itself is testimony to the high level of performance of our team.

Team	Point	Game Played			Goals	
		Won	Tie	Lost	For	Against
Indonesia	5	1	2	-	9	1
Yemen	4	1	1	1	1	1
Uzbekistan	3	1	1	2	1	-
Combodia	1	-	-	2	1	10

Rothmans' Support for Sports

Rothmans of Pall Mall Yemen is providing YR 500,000 towards the repairs, improvements and maintenance of Al-Tilal Football Stadium in Aden. The donation is the first of a series which will enable the upgrading of football stadiums in Abyan, Mukalla, Taiz and Sanaa.

According to Mr. Nicholas Maistre, Head of the Rothmans office in Yemen, the company is eager to support youth activities throughout the country. "We are also considering making donations to middle-size clubs in secondary cities in various

parts of the country," he added. At another level, Rothmans Royals is a key sponsor of the cricket tournament in Yemen. The matches of the new season have started last week. Six teams are competing, and the rivalry being limited to the Indian and Pakistani teams, as usual. Rothmans had provided a generous support to the Excellent Teams Tournament last season. Those games were played out in all the major cities of Yemen through the 22-week matches.

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هاسكو المحدودة

GIVENCHY

**Qadhafi's
New Tactic
in War on
the West**



Libyan leader Mu'amar Qadhafi adopted a new tactic in his war with the West. In a Friday sermon in Kano, Nigeria, on May 9th, he started a strategy of fomenting Arab and Muslim masses against the West. Sources told the Yemen Times that Colonel Qadhafi will sponsor similar efforts by public figures, preachers, and intellectuals. The masses in Pakistan, Indonesia, Black Africa, Central Asia, and the Arab World will be the target of an intensive anti-US campaign. "Since the US wants to push us off the cliff, we have to fight back. We will take our message to the public. And it helps that Muslim/Arab masses already harbor serious grudges against the US," a Libyan source said. Qadhafi's message received a warm reception among the Nigerians.

محلات للإيجار

توجد محلات تجارية في شارع الملكة أروى بكرية مساحتها (٣٠٠) متر مربع ، ولها ستة أبواب مثبتة بالزجاج والألمنيوم وأبواب حديدية وجاهزة بالطلاء وبها تلفون وحمام وبوفيه .

على الراغبين في الإستئجار الإتصال بالوكيل عبدالله سعيد العمودي (تلفون المنزل : ٢٥١٣٨٩) المحلات مفتوحة للمعاينة من الساعة ٨ إلى ١٢ صباحاً ، ومن ٤ إلى ٨ مساءً



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