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YEMEN TIMES

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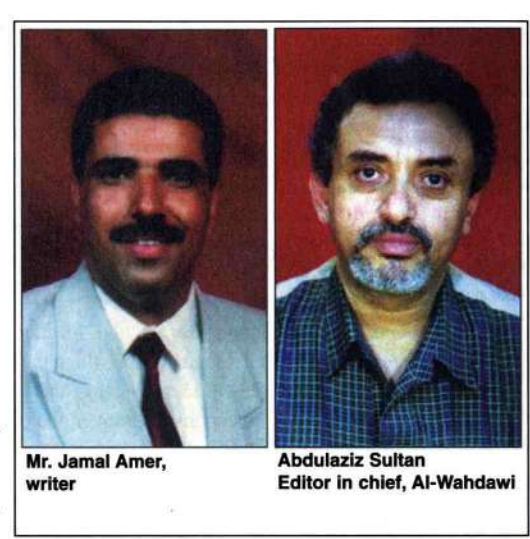
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Al-Wahdawi Suspended for one month and Jamal Amer sentenced to stop writing forever

The Press Continues to Face Hassles

A sentence was passed last Tuesday February 22, 2000 against Al-Wahdawi newspaper and the journalist Jamal Amer ordering closure of the newspaper for a month and forbidding the journalist to writing for ever. Besides, he has been ordered to pay a fine of YR 5,000. In a report issued by the People's Nasserite Unionist Party and Al-Wahdawi newspaper (the Mouthpiece of the Party) it was mentioned that the sentence passed against the newspaper is a dark spot in the Yemeni judiciary system and that it will not be the last one against freedom of expression and press as long as the Ministry of Information adheres to its outrageous policy of suppression and plays the role of the policeman throttling freedom of expres-

sion. The PNUP and the newspaper condemn and denounce any sentence passed by courts or government that limits freedom of the expression. They also request all the political parties, mass organizations, and the organizations supporting rights and freedoms to stand by the newspaper which has committed itself to the pursue its mission of defending its press rights. Al-Wahdawi newspaper has published an opinion article by Mr. Jamal Amer in which he has dealt with the current boarders crisis between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. This has been viewed as a slander for the Saudi leaders and very much damaging to the public interests.



Continued on page 14

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US Aircraft Carrier Cruises The Red Sea

Yemeni Staff Brigadier General Abdul Aziz Thehab, Deputy Chief of Staff for Planning and Armament and Staff Brigadier General Abdulla Ahmed Al-Basha, Deputy Commander of the Airforce, and other high-ranking military officials paid a visit to the USS John F. Kennedy, now cruising the Red Sea. The Yemeni army officers were accompanied by Mr. Douglas Neumann, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, and LTC Robert B. Newman, the Defense and Army Attache.



The visiting delegation listened to briefings on air operations, radar and

ship operations. They had also observed the daily air exercises, including take-offs and landings. RADM "Carlos" Johnson, Commander of Carrier Group Six hosted a lunch in their honor. The Kennedy aircraft carrier has just finished a tour of duty in the Arabian Gulf, where it has contributed to regional security and stability, and is now returning to its home base in the US. On the other hand Aden Sea port on Saturday morning, February 26 received a Dutch warship for fuelling and left the port before sunset. Western and U.S. warships' visits come within the military facilities which Yemen is offering to these countries.

Sheikh Abu Luhood Calls Upon Tribes To Stand By Him

More than 30 Sheikhs met Sunday morning in Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhood's house to discuss the issue of his sons kidnapped by Al-Heima tribes. In the meeting, Abu Luhood said that he had called the sheikhs to judge if he had done something wrong to Al-Heima tribes to make them kidnap his sons without reasons. He further said that he harbouring no hatred against anybody. The second meeting will be on Tuesday waiting for other sheikhs to sound out their reaction to the incident.



More about the problem on page 2

Yemen Welcomes US Mediation to Solve Yemeni-Saudi Border Dispute

A Yemeni official welcomed the initiative of the USA and other brotherly and friendly countries to mediate between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to bring closer their points of view in order to reach a fair solution to the border dispute either through negotiations or International Arbitration. "Sheikh Al-Ahmar's objection to the American mediation affects the efforts of the two countries to reach a solution," he said. He further added that Al-Ahmar expressed his own point of view and not necessarily the state's.

Apologies

Due to the rush of getting the paper out on time there were some errors in the article on Tawfiq Al-Kahmiry in the last issue. The son-in-law of Sheikh Adulla Al-Ahmar is Nabil Al-Khamiry. The previous kidnapping was only an attempt. The corrections were made at the time, but due to computer error were not saved. Apologies to all those concerned.

New Rise in Oil Products Expected Soon

Prime Minister Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Eryani warned opposition parties against any running riot, confirming that his government would go ahead in implementing the price increase on oil products in two months time. He said it was an important move within the framework of economic reforms and in response to a commitment Yemen had made to Paris Club.

All opposition parties refused to attend the meeting held at the house of Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Eryani last Tuesday. An opposition leader who attended that meeting said that the Ministry of Finance, Civil Service, and Ministry of oil gave justifications about the new increase. For example, they said that the rise will help tackle the deficit in the state budget.

Opposition leaderships considered those measures as would help increase inflation to which Al-Eryani responded that the government could only explain its justifications and the opposition has the right to express its opinions in a peaceful way. The new rise in prices includes oil products such as diesel, gas, jet fuel and kerosene.

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Yemen Times Today celebrates its entry to its 2nd decade..
CANADIAN OXY TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SANA'A, YEMEN
PIZZA HUT

Today, Monday the 28th of February, the Yemen Times celebrates its entry to the second decade. It will celebrate its 9th anniversary since the very first edition of the newspaper on the 27th of February 1991 and the start of its 10th year of publication. Ambassadors, Ministers, Businessmen, Intellectuals, and friends of Yemen Times have been invited to the celebration which will be held at 19:00 at the Taj Sheba Hotel. On this great occasion, we have the right to feel proud that we were able to reach this level of performance and strength, and we ever so thankful to all the ones who stood with us all the way, especially during and after the death of the founder of Yemen Times, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. As this is the first time we celebrate the anniversary without the founder, we still feel ourselves obliged to show the world, that Yemen Times is as strong, and as popular as ever. One of the most significant parts of the ceremony will be the handing of the first 6 awards to the winners of the Millennium Competition.

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"This country will work and can offer its people a good life. And as our system evolves, it will offer countries a good partner and a positive contributor in creating a peaceful and harmonious world."



Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1999)
Founder of the Yemen Times

Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor

Survival of Yemen Times was not by Chance

Just as we enter the second decade since the establishment of Yemen Times, we are faced with so many question marks. One of the most common questions that we are asked: How were you able to go over the disaster of the death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the founder and first Chief Editor of the newspaper which was his own invention and own idea, and the backbone of Yemen Times. ?"

The question sometimes comes in another form, such as: "How were you able to get your newspaper back on track and continue to progress despite the death of Dr. Al-Saqqaf? You even increased your sales 100%. How did that happen?" These questions are normal as many thought that Yemen Times wouldn't live to celebrate its 9th anniversary.

It is a question that is asked now and then, and on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of Yemen Times, I feel myself obliged to answer it yet again, this time in depth.

Ever since the time Yemen Times was founded, Dr. Al-Saqqaf knew that it would have a great future. He understood that it is going to be a milestone for journalism in Yemen. His keen vision enabled him to see that he should build it not as some other newspapers, of one or two computers, with a weak temporary infrastructure. He realized that if he wishes the newspaper to continue, he must have it on solid grounds that require investment and spending of money and getting loans. He also understood that he must strengthen his already strong relations and links - not as Dr. Al-Saqqaf, but as the Editor of Yemen Times- with other international institutions, with the foreign sector, and with intellectuals who care for the future of Yemen. From the point of public relations, the newspaper began to become popular. It sought its way in the dark, and managed to reach the end of the tunnel through continuous hard work and patience. Dr. Saqqaf lost a lot of money when he started the project. He had to spend money on equipment, on expertise, on marketing, and on distribution. He continued to lose until he managed to break even in 1992, 1 year after the newspaper was founded.

Dr. Saqqaf did not spare the modest amounts of money he got from advertisement revenues. He used that money for further investment. As soon as he got enough money, he decided to change the location of the newspaper. When he was able to, he bought new machines, and hired more employees. Every time Dr. Saqqaf saw the number of readers increase, he realized that his project is indeed a successful one.

I remember after 3 years since establishing the newspaper I asked him, "Dad, do you think that the project of Yemen Times is a successful one?" He answered "Of course it is, and I am happy I took the courageous step and started the project." This confident statement of his had triggered an immediate sense of pride. I told him that whether he thinks that Yemen Times could one day, reach the level of Arab News, or Gulf Times with the limited resources we had. I just feel his words ringing in my ears until now. He said, "It would even surpass them!" Now that Yemen Times has moved to its next decade, I say to myself, "Why not? Why can't Yemen Times grow to be a daily, and become a competitor against the largest newspapers in the region?"

Why was Dr. Saqqaf so confident that the newspaper would continue and develop? The answer is simple: He institutionalized it. Today, you could enter to the Yemen Times premises and see how organized and well structured the process of producing the issues of Yemen Times is. You can feel the pace, the quality, and the professionalism. All this did not come from space, it came from 9 years of continuously hard working on the infrastructure of the paper. Today, we can confidently tell you that Yemen Times is the most organized newspaper in Yemen.

The death of the founder was the true test of the infrastructure and the ground that the newspaper was built upon. I would happily like to tell you that it passed the test successfully.

Even though the backbone of the newspaper had gone, the newspaper did not collapse or even weaken. There was something else that replaced the backbone, it now has the backbone of its own. It is like taking care of a child. A child cannot survive without the assistance of his parents. However, just as soon as he grows strong and reaches an age of 20, you can let him go and depend on himself. Dr Saqqaf's role was the parents. He built a system that he knew would last after he is gone. He built an institution that is stronger than many ministries we know. Today, the structure is too strong, too solid, and is an example for other newspapers to follow in institutionalized press.

I have replaced the founder and became the editor in chief. Although some think I am the one behind the continuation of the newspaper, but actually I am not. I am the person who took charge of it, but I could assert to you that if I weren't there, there would be others to take over. All of them are the students of Dr. Saqqaf. I only took the position of Editor-in-Chief in the newspaper I loved and worked in for so long. I believe that if I leave one day, another would take over and absolutely nothing would change. After all, the newspaper continued after Dr. Saqqaf himself left, how in earth wouldn't it be able to continue if I did.

I myself have been traveling for almost two consecutive weeks, and yet the newspaper is out, as beautiful as can be. Why? Because Yemen Times is no more a child, it is a grown up institution with a strong structure that challenges any ups and downs, and what one of the advertisers was a good example, "You not only gave us confidence in the strength of your institution. But you also helped us in realizing that whatever a person like Dr. Saqqaf builds is not a simple thing. It is a huge gigantic establishment, which he knew would last forever."

Congratulations to us, Yemen Times staff, and to all our readers, and may your soul, Dr. Saqqaf rest in peace and trust in your foundation that you made eternal.

The YR 1,000,000 winner in the Millennium Competition:

"I participated by chance, and couldn't believe I won!"

Salem Mohamed Salem Kuraf is the winner of the first prize (YR 1,000,000) of the grand millennium competition organized by Yemen Times. Salem is from Shabwa governorate, Habban region. He is 36 years old and is currently working at the Mihadar Company for Medical Equipment and Medicine in Sana'a. He graduated from the Languages Institute in Riyadh - Saudi Arabia, which he lived in until 1991.

After announcing the winners of the competition, we called Salem at home

to tell him the good news. However, we couldn't find him so we left a note saying that he had won the first prize. The next day he came to the Yemen Times premises and met the Editor-in-Chief. On the occasion of the 9th anniversary of Yemen Times, we asked Salem to write us a short article expressing his feelings in that particular moment when he learned about his win, and tell us about the bond that was generated between him and Yemen Times.

Salem's statement on P 14

In Brief

Six Yemenis and 2 Saudis On Trial For Plotting Kidnappings

The Court assigned to looking into cases of kidnapping and highway banditry incidents holds today its second session to try eight persons, six Yemenis and two Saudis, accused of leading an organized gang for kidnapping foreigners in Yemen and obtaining money by fraud and forging Yemeni and foreign documents. Among the accused, only 4 Yemenis and one Saudi are to be tried in presence while the other are to stand trial in absentia.

The Court of first instance for examining cases of kidnapping and highway robbery incidents, chaired by Justice Shaif Al-Hammadi and in the presence of defense lawyer Khalid Al-Aanisi held its first sitting on Saturday. The defendants were brought in shackles before the court. The Saudi defendants are Abdul Aziz Mohammed Saleh Ben Atash, 21 and Mustafa Abdul Kadir Abid Al-Zail'ai 26.

The prosecution says that the charges against the Saudi and Yemeni defendants are the forging of official Yemeni and Saudi documents by which the Saudis were able to obtain Yemeni identity cards and passports and licenses to carry weapons. Moreover, the court accused 26-year-old Abdul Rab Al-Dhabi, Yemeni national working in the personal status authority of illegally facilitating issuance of Yemeni identity cards to the Saudis.

The accused had refused to answer the questions directed to them by the Justice, requesting that their defense lawyer should get acquainted with the case. On his part, the defense lawyer asked to move his clients from their solitary confinement and to unchain them.

Attorney Al-Aanisi told Yemen Times that after he had studied the case he found out that it should be referred to a civil court and that its being examined by a court specialized in kidnapping and highway robbery cases was illegal. "Until now I have not received the case file. The court has given me only some papers. Anyhow, the case was entrusted with a court that has nothing to do with the nature of the actual charges."

The prosecution has arrested 3 men from the suspects' relatives to force them not to follow up the case. It has even prevented any visits to the them. Moreover, the defendants have been in detention for more than a year, and this is an legal action," he said.

The suspects had been arrested in the border town of Saada, May last year.

Israelis Allowed to Visit Yemen, Israeli TV Reported

According to the Middle East newspaper dated February 25, Channel 2 of the Israeli TV reported that Yemen would allow Israelis to visit Yemen in the near future. The same source also mentioned that steps were being taken in the same direction for Algeria. Israeli TV political correspondent said that an agreement had been reached in Sana'a following a secret visit to Yemen by Bros Keshern, Head of the Gulf Countries File in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He added that there had been contacts with Algeria for the same purpose. However, Algerian official sources have denied any such move.

Tensions Between Islah and PGC accelerate

As the tensions between the PGC and Islah are accelerating, a number of fights are reported in different governorates of Yemen; In Shara'ab disputes have resulted 19/2/2000 in attacking the Scholastic Institute by an unidentified armed group. The attack according to a statement issued by the Executive Office of Islah, Taiz office resulted in injuring a teacher, two students and frightening the people residing the area. Upon the attack military forces conducted an arrest campaign aiming the people residing the area and their possessions instead of the attackers.

Tensions over the position of chairman of the Education Office in Toor Al-Baha, Lahj governorate led last January to fights resulting in deaths and injuries.

Again, fights between students belonging to PGC and those of Islah took place yesterday at Sana'a University, Faculty of Education.

New Historical Discoveries In Zabid

Canadian archaeological team currently carrying out surveys and excavations in Al-Modmin, Zabid governorate near Al-Fazah historical port on the Red Sea has attained positive discoveries expected to be of significant historical value for human history. The new discoveries unearthed last week are now under study and examination by the 11-member experts and geologists of the team. Dense volcanic ashes believed to be drifted by winds coming from Zaqr and Hanish islands have also been discovered at the same location. The Canadian team began excavation in 1997. In addition, it has also discovered a historical city full of huge stones, swords and daggers made of stone dating back to the Bronze Age.

Mediation To Free Ben Nagid's Hostages Failed

Sheikh Mojahid Abu Shwarib's and a number of Yemeni sheikhs mediation efforts to free a group of people from Al-Heimah taken hostage by Ben Nagid from Al-Geda'an tribe were doomed to failure. As a

result, Al-Heimah tribes blocked Hodeidah-Sana'a highway and arrested Sheikh Saba Abu Luhood, Sheikh Ghassan Mohammed Abu Luhood, Feisal Ahmad Abu Luhood, sons of Saleh Abu Luhood, along with their companions and retained them as hostages. They insist that they would not release them until the people from Al-Heima were set free.

Ben Nagid is rumored to have left the tribe along with the hostages to some unknown place in Al-Gawf governorate. Ben Nagid is asking for freeing his son who has been imprisoned for more than ten years in Al-Heimah tribe for killing one of its men who tried to rob him of his car. A military campaign moved to Al-Heimah and arrested some of its sheikhs in an attempt to free Abu Luhood's sons. However, hostages have not been freed yet. Sheikh Abu Luhood has called for not swapping his sons with the hostages.

Yemen to Sign 2 Oil Production Sharing Deals

An official in the Oil Ministry said that negotiations with Adair Oil and Gas Inc and with Al-Otaiba Group of the UAE and Australia's Oil Search to sign production sharing agreements were almost finalized.

Yemen last year signed a MOU with Australia's Oil Search Ltd and Mohammed Al-Otaiba Group to carry out exploration in offshore block 15 in the southern Mukalla area.

A Beggar left YR 4 Million

A beggar in a poor zone of Sana'a died on Wednesday 23 leaving behind a fortune of YR 4 million. Inhabitants of the area were suspicious of his unusual long stay in his room. As they tried to find out what happened to him, they discovered he was dead in his bed that is filled with his lifetime's savings. Although shocked by the death of their father, his three sons expressed their happiness for the inheritance that will let them "lead a happy life in their village," they said after dividing the money among themselves in a nearby police station.

It is of course not the first time that a beggar dies leaving behind him such a huge fortune.

Japan Supports Kitab's Water Project

Within the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects' scheme, an agreement to support a community-based water project in Kitab in the governorate of IBB was signed on Saturday 26 by the representative of the Kitab Water Committee and Mr. Akira Hoshi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Yemen at the Japanese Embassy. The grant, which totals up to US\$ 15,714, will be spent on the purchase of a diesel engine and a water meter for water conservation. It is worth mentioning that the German Embassy in Sana'a has already funded the purchase of a pump, for the use of which the diesel engine will be installed. The local community has taken responsibility for digging a well and constructing other relevant facilities. Small-scale community-based projects target basic human needs fields such as health, education and water.

Symposium on Behavioral Sciences in Aden

Aden University will host the International Scientific Symposium on Behavioral Sciences and Challenges of the 21st Century on March 7-9. The Symposium is scheduled to highlight the status of behavioral sciences in the developing countries, analyze their development as well as their achievements in development fields, discuss means of improving them. Six Yemeni Universities, the Yemeni Study and Research Center in Sana'a and Aden, Educational Research and Studies Center, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and a number of local, Arab and international non-governmental organizations will attend the symposium.

A Seminar on Responding to HIV/AIDS in Somaliland

This seminar will take place at the Police Club, Sana'a, on Wednesday 23rd February 2000, from 8:30 a.m to 4:00 p.m. They will share ICD's recent experience in beginning HIV/AIDS advocacy in Somaliland in this seminar, in order to draw lessons for HIV/AIDS/STD control in Yemen. The seminar will also focus at the role of NGOs in this effort.

Beblawi Visits Yemen

Mr. Hazem Beblawi, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), arrived in Yemen yesterday in a 5-day visit. Beblawi will meet Yemeni officials to discuss means of enhancing Yemen's Administrative and Reform Program. Beblawi is being accompanied by a number of advisors. It is expected that the visit would be concluded by a press conference.

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Yemeni-Jewish Singer Ofra Haza died

Jewish singer of Yemeni origin, Ofra Haza

passed away in a hospital, south of Tel Aviv on Wednesday 23. The popular singer was taken to hospital on February 12 following a rise of her temperature. According to doctors' reports she was suffering from pneumonia disease. Ofra was very popular singer especially in Europe and she won many awards in different countries. She also had many fans in Yemen. Following her death's announcement, hundreds flocked to the hospital to make sure of the shocking news. Ofra tried to visit Yemen but she could not obtain a passport other than an Israeli one. After many attempts Yemen agreed to let her visit Yemen provided that she got a non-Israeli passport. Ofra Haza is an artist whose roots are the core of her music. Born in Israel to a Jewish-Yemeni family of 8 brothers and sisters, Ofra was surrounded by traditional culture, music and the beautiful voice of her mother—the perfect environment to develop a singing superstar. Ofra's career began at the age of 12 and by the time she was 19, her solo career was launched.



British Tourist Group Sent Letters of High Appreciation

In a letter of thanks and gratitude Mr. John Shipman expressed his high appreciation of all the warm atmosphere and hospitality he received from the Yemeni senior officials. Mr. Bill Herber, member of the society, along with his wife and five other friends visited Yemen from 17 January to 2 February 2000. In a report Mr. Herbert noted that during their visit to different cities, they have never felt any feelings of insecurity and they instead felt the welcome everywhere as warm as ever. Mr. Bill said that both the government and the tourist industry are being united in their determination to ensure that visitors enjoy their visit to Yemen in complete security. He noted that in some areas there was security presence and that on some sections of road an armed police and patrol car accompanied them to ensure their security. Therefore, he said that as all these precautions in place, they found it impossible to justify the continued negative advice from their Foreign Office and that they hope that it will be lifted without further delay.

A Symposium on Media Role in Developing the Humane Activities

The Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross in Yemen will on Tuesday, February 29 co-sponsor a symposium on the role of mass media in upgrading humanitarian action at the headquarters of the Society on 26 September street. The symposium is to be attended by a delegation representing the Cairo-based Al-Insani magazine.

Demonstration in Al-Dhalea

About 10 thousand people demonstrated on Saturday 26 in Al-Dhalea in protest to the random arrests campaign carried out by the security in the city that led to the detention of 150 persons. The demonstrators handed over a petition to the governor of Al-Dhalea demanding the release of the detainees and moving the military units outside the governorate. They also demanded the removal of all newly erected security check-points and the punishment of all those responsible for the arrest campaigns as well as compensating people for the damage to their houses resulting from bombing. The letter threatened of staging strikes and sit-ins if those demands were not met. Demonstrators walked peacefully along 5 kilometers chanting anti-government slogans.

Dr. Al-Iryani's government is afraid of riots that may take place after implementing the new prices of oil products such as petrol, kerosene and gas.

Kuwait Independence Day Celebrated

On the occasion of the Independence Day, the Ambassador of Kuwait held Saturday February 26 a ceremony in Sheraton Hotel which was attended by a good number of diplomats, politicians, people from the media and others.



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Congregation of Yemeni Unionists

Suffering of the People
The situation in our country is going from bad to worse. The policy of Monetary and Administrative Reform is a burden on every citizen pushing his life to a horrifying level. Nothing looks optimistic in the foreseeable future. The ruling powers continue their policies of bringing poverty and humiliation and don't bother about what such policy of starvation may lead to.... In fact the situation in our country shall continue to deteriorate as long as the ghoul of corruption swallows the greater part of the Nation's wealth and earnings.

الطريق ATTARIQ
Independent

Committee Calls for a Dhala' Demonstration in Protest
The situation in Dhala' town and surrounding villages continues to be very tense especially in Zubaid, Al-Qafrah and Al-Aghwal. Police and Army forces maintain their dense presence in the town, along the roads to nearby villages and in areas that overlook them. Attariq has learnt that the villagers and their families began abandoning their homes and villages because recent clashes spread fear among the population. Attariq learnt also that the opposition Coordination Council held a meeting at Sana'a yesterday to study the situation and how it develops between the population on one side and the Army and Police forces on the other side. The opposition Coordination Council had denounced the campaign of arrests and random raids waged by the Armed Forces in the Governorate in search of those behind explosions and peace disturbing incidents.

The Credibility of the Opposition
It is learnt that the opposition intends to establish its case that the procedure by which the Local Government Law was issued is unconstitutional. If that is right, then there is the possibility that this opposition does not rightly understand the true basics and tools of the power play in this country. It will only deepen the contradiction and confusion in the positions of the opposition. Such a move shall at least weaken, if it doesn't blow its political theorization that has always stressed that Yemen continues straying in the desert of Democracy. The opposition has always decisively denied claims by others that Yemen is as near as possible to Plato's Republic whose main features are a freely elected legislature, through which the wishes of the nation are expressed, an executive power.... that rules according to constitutional principles that consist a social contract that binds the rulers and those ruled; and an independent judiciary.

Chief Editor Meets Polish FA Official
Attariq Chief Editor and Publisher Ayman Mohammed held a meeting with the Polish Foreign Affairs Official in charge of Honorary Consulates Mr. Andrea Kasorisky and Counselor Romansky, the Polish Deputy Head of Mission while they were paying a short official visit to Aden. The visitors paid their respects to two Polish soldiers who were buried in the British Military Cemetery at Maalla during the Second World War and called on the Polish Aden Honorary Consulate. The Polish officials praised Attariq Newspaper and its objective way of fulfilling its national mission.

AL-MITHAQ
Popular General Congress

Only After Arab Rights Regained Yemen Normalizes
Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Eryani, Prime Minister and General Secretary of the Popular General Congress confirmed that Yemen was one of the first Arab countries which condemned the last Israeli aggression and that Yemen the way to liberate our land by negotiations was opened was one of the first countries which supported that. He hinted that the decision taken by

the Syrian political leadership to negotiate [with Israel] is a wise and courageous resolution reached through a study of the international state of affairs, that means to regain all what the international community agrees that is Syria's right, i.e. the Golan Heights and the return of the situation to its condition on 1967. Questioned by the Syrian "Ba'ath" newspaper about the so called 'jogging' of some [Arab] regimes towards their policies of bringing poverty and humiliation and don't bother about what such policy of starvation may lead to.... In fact the situation in our country shall continue to deteriorate as long as the ghoul of corruption swallows the greater part of the Nation's wealth and earnings.

AL-AYYAM
Independent

A Yemeni Martyred in Chechnia
The family of Mohammed Mohsen Saeed bin Ali Al-Haj of Al-Qatn Province, Hadhramout Governorate, received last Saturday the news that he was martyred in Chechnia. A memorial gathering was held at Al Ali Al-Haj Court, east of Al-Qatn on Sunday. It is recalled that several young people from different areas of Wadi Hadhramout traveled to Chechnia to help defend their Muslim brethren against the Russian invasion of their country.

AL-RA'Y AL-A'AM
Independent

Vehicle Loaded with Antiquities Intercepted
An official source at the Public Authority for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts said that a vehicle carrying miscellaneous pieces of antiquities was intercepted at Khoshm Al-Bakrah point in Hadhramout Governorate. The said pieces included copper plates and Arab rifles among others. The smugglers who were trying to cross the border with these pieces were detained and the pieces forwarded to the Authority.

RA'Y
Sons of Yemen League

An Explosion in Newspaper Building
A strong explosion took place heard before midnight last Sunday in the heart of Sana'a as a bomb exploded in the building that houses Al-Ra'y Al-Aam newspaper. The explosion resulted in extensive damages in the building, as doors and windows were thrown away in addition to a crack in the building's wall. According to a statement issued by the newspaper the Minister of Home Affairs was considered responsible for the incident. Eyewitnesses said that Ali Al-Ulofi, Al-Ray Al-A'am publisher and chief editor was heard after the explosion accusing the Minister of directly. Observers see a link between the direct accusation and the campaign waged by Al-Ra'y Al-A'am against the Minister, demanding his dismissal due to awiessness that prevails in the country and the inability of his ministry to fulfill its duties.

Al-Haymah Kidnaps Abu Luhoms
The Congress of the Al-Jawf/ Marib tribes coalition denounced the kidnapping of four young people from Abu Luhom family and their companions by the Al-Haymah tribes, and called upon the pertinent Government authorities to quickly release them and bring the culprit to justice. The Congress of the coalition called upon Nehm tribe to exercise self-restraint till all peaceful means are ended which confirmed its solidarity with the tribe. Ra'y has learnt that sheikhs from Khawlan, Bani Jabr and Al-Hada tribes have started an effort of good offices with Al-Haymah tribes in order to release the kidnapped sheikhs and their companions. The kidnapping last Saturday resulted from a prolonged tribal dispute between Nehm and Al-Haymah, which Government didn't bother to resolve.

College Frightened by Bomb
A state of panic prevailed at the Faculty of Medicine, Sana'a University last Saturday when a phone call cautioned against a bomb in a Faculty. A strict inspection all over the Faculty by the Police was taken up and it was found to be a false alarm. A Police source reported to Ra'y that an inten-

sive investigation is being carried on to uncover the identity of the caller and his aims especially as this is an unprecedented case.

Prison Verdict for Oil Pipeline Blowers

A first verdict of its kind against oil pipeline sabotegers was issued by a Sana'a court last Wednesday. Judge Najib Qadri issued his sentence of 3 years of imprisonment for the first defendant, Al-Ashtal Hasan Al-Ashtal, and of one year for each of his two companions Ali Al-Raimy and Ali Dahmash. Both sides, the accused and the prosecution said they are appealing.

Democracy and Seniority

The Foreign Affairs and Yemeni Immigrants Committee in Parliament finalized its report on the Seniority of State Officials Law. It deals with the issue of seniority in lists and the news, at the attendance of festivals and such occasions. The Law drafted by Government and reviewed upon by the said committee is full of holes like Swiss Cheese and proves to what limit the décor of democracy is still very fragile. Can the reader imagine a list of posts and positions comprising 108 levels including low-level Government officials that get ahead of Syndicate and Mass Organizations and Unions Officials who were put in the last line? They are luckier than Party leaders who were not mentioned at all. What a Democracy! Most of the said list consists of military personnel.

Internet Very Expensive in Hadhramout

Teleyemen imposes on Internet users in Hadhramout Governorate the rate of 22 Rials/ minute as against 9 Rials/ minute for Sana'a Internet users. Isn't that an unjustified discrimination, which seriously hampers interest in the Internet among Hadhramis, especially as Teleyemen monopolizes the service in our country?

Violent Female Teachers

The local media have waged a strong campaign against violence in schools especially that against teachers either by students or their parents. But life has uncovered another kind of violence that needs to be addressed! When a female school teacher at Al-Qadisyah Primary School canes a first-year girls on the outer part of their hands, that is the prelude to later violence later in life, including the one against teachers. It is high time for educationists to work to bring to an end such behavior and stop such practices from spreading in future.

One killed, Three Wounded in a Shara'ab Ambush

Baggash Hamid Al-Humaidi, 40 yrs, was killed and three other related to him were seriously wounded and hurriedly transported to Al-Thawrah Hospital, Taiz last Thursday when they were fired at in an ambush at Annabhah location, Shara'ab, Taiz Governorate. About 40 bullets were fired at Mr. Humaidi and his relatives while he was driving towards his home area. Ra'y has learnt that the incident was in retaliation for the killing of Gohar Ahmed Yahya Hatem last January. However, it is reported that the culprits shot at the wrong people who were innocent and who had nothing to do with the killing of Mr. Hatem.

AL-SAHWAH
Yemeni Congregation for Reform

Ja'ar Court Resumes its Sessions
The Court of Ja'ar, Abyan Governorate resumed the trial of Saleh Haidarah Al-Utwi and others in the case no. 13/1999. The prosecution reviewed reports about the explosions of the Greater Aden Water Project and the Abyan Police HQ. Materials seized in the incident were produced in the court, which was adjourned till next Saturday.

AL-THAWRI
Yemeni Socialist Party

Army Units Demolish Houses in Sana'a
Several Hadda (Fag Attan) dwellers in Sana'a have appealed to the Parliament Committee for Liberties and Human Rights to look into the

results of dispute concerning some military personnels' assault on their houses within the military area in Fag Attan.

In a letter addressed to the Ministers of Defense and Home Affairs and the Chairman of the Central Organization of Political Security they said that they were awakened by the sounds of military machinery and armed soldiers who were provocatively demolishing a number of houses disregarding of any rule of law. Eyewitnesses reported that the demolition of houses continued till 2 p.m. and was joined by soldiers of Military Police and Air Defense, which is part of the Republican Guards.... A total of 17 houses were demolished in this area and a situation of panic prevailed after some military groups threatened that all houses shall be demolished.

26TH. SEPTEMBER
Armed Forces Journal

In Solidarity with Al-Wahdawi

The verdict issued by Mr. Justice Ahmed Al-Jarmouzi of the West Sana'a Court against colleague Jamal A'amer prohibiting him from writing in the press for life is looked upon as sinister. It isn't only the first of its kind against writers all over the world. It lacks logic and objectivity and is devoid of any legal reasoning on which such a verdict can be built. It is also very difficult to implement. How on earth can any court be sure that Jamal A'amer wont write using a nickname, and what shall be his punishment if he just violated the verdict? Despite our full respect to the judiciary and its independence the judge who issued this verdict should have considered it carefully. A verdict that prohibits a writer from writing is similar to a death sentence. It is neither in proportion with his alleged offence nor in consonance with standard practices living and the airs of freedom, democracy, plurality and human rights, let alone the 'ill reputation' it earns about Yemen and its Judiciary.

Home Minister: Serious, Detailed

Confessions from Lahj Group

Security forces were able to detain a number of persons who were planning to execute several acts of sabotage during our National days. In a private disclosure to our newspaper, the Minister of Home Affairs said that the three individuals detained recently at Lahj Governorate have confessed in detail that they were trained abroad with others to execute several acts of sabotage in a number of governorates including Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Sana'a and Hadhramout. They shall be using new methods including booby-trapped electronic and TV devices. These devices shall be put at selected places or delivered to police stations as disputed property and left to explode after they have left.

AL-UMMAH
Al-Haq Party

The Strangest Verdict in the World

The opposition parties Coordination Council expressed its full solidarity with the Popular Unionist Nasserite Organization, Al-Wahdawi newspaper and journalist Jamal A'amer for the unfair verdict issued by a West Sana'a Court. The verdict had ordered halting the publication of Al-Wahdawi for one month, that Mr. A'amer shall be prohibited from writing and be fined 5,000 Rials. It is part of a long chain of malice and on act of sabotage against independent and partisan media in order to further decrease the thin democratic institution in the country. The Coordination Council added that this verdict stresses the need for an independent judicial system and that the executive authorities should refrain from interfering in judicial affairs according to the separation of powers principle. The Council confirmed that the verdict is a serious impingement of democracy, one of the strangest verdict in the world.

Zionist and Yemeni Businessmen Meet?

It was reported that a meeting was held in Cyprus between [some] Yemeni businessmen and Jewish businessmen of Yemeni origin. The

Yemeni businessmen were offered deals in Israeli goods and joint investments in Yemen and Israel. Some sources have disclosed that the Government of Yemen is being pressured to permit the introduction into Yemen and sale of Israeli manufactured goods. It had been previously reported that Israeli goods are smuggled into Yemen and sold to the people as Indonesian or Yemeni goods. Some are said to be sold openly as Israeli made. Aden Governorate is considered an important place for getting Israeli goods, which arrive by sea and are unloaded in the territorial waters of Yemen into small private boats, which bring them to the coasts of Sana'a.

A Book about Yemeni Nature and Archeology

A book by Mr. Mohamed Al-Shuaibi was published entitled "The Natural Phenomena & Archeological Landmarks." The book's aim as the author says is to focus on the reconsideration of some theories regarding the life evolution in Yemen, and the history of first man, the big population immigration, the formation of linguistic, ethnographic, cultural conditions. This book gives opportunity to give an idea on the technical devices used. Acknowledging the nature of tasks assigned to the archeologists, Yemeni researches on difficult conditions, of misunderstanding, backwardness of administration, non-efficiency of scientific research, back of planning. The author predicts that the book would bring more international attention to the region, and hence would contribute in preserving its archeological beauty. The book is being currently sold and distributed at Abu Salah at Al-Kuwait Street in Sana'a.

A TIME WARP CALLED HAVANA IN CUBA

STARTING 7TH TO 10TH MARCH, THE CUBAN FOOD & CARIBBEAN MUSIC FIESTA AT THE TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

8.PM ONWARDS

Chef Justo De Lara

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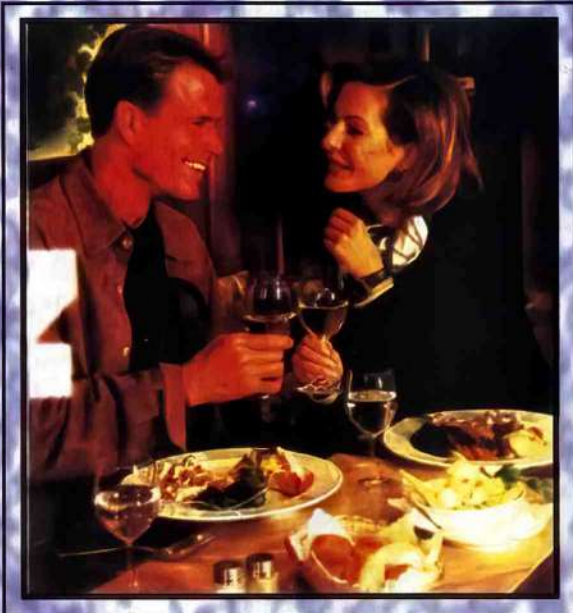
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Our all time favorite delicious buffet at the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel will definitely tickles your taste buds.



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اليمنية لاختبار السرعة



CONGRATULATION FOR THE WINNERS:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| First overall: | Mr. Khalil Al-Khawlani | Car No. 3 | Suzuki Swift |
| Second overall: | Mr. Tarik Abdulwas'e Hayel | Car No. 2 | Hunday Elentra |
| Third overall: | Mr. Mohammad Hassan Makki | Car No. 1 | Nissan Sunny |

First Yemeni woman participated in this event: Miss Nawal E. Al-Mo'aden

Standby for The Car Hill Climb Event **SOOON** (Shibam - Kawkaban tourist area)



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Official film of the event



Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Jifry to YT

Continued from last week

“The problem however, is that the government is seeing its sole image in its own mirror”

Q: As the country faces collapse of security and spread of disorder, officials claim that this is the doing of what the government officially describe as ‘hostile forces’ and ‘secessionist elements’ acting from abroad. What is your opinion, what is your comment or response?

A: This situation proves to what a great extent the government is paralyzed. They always look for a ‘scapegoat’. In the past, the ‘scapegoats’ were the Hamid Al-Din dynasty, colonialism, sultans and segmentation. And today they are the ‘secessionists’ and foreign powers. In point of fact, it is the government policies which are aggravating insecurity, disorder and chaos. The government holds power, wealth, media and decision making and yet there is incompetence, chaos and deterioration. We seek unanimous cooperation to achieve our collective ends and salvage the nation. It is common -even to the government- that the official allegations are unfounded, that we renounce violence and seek dialogue. We do not believe in violence as a means of resolving differences, in fact we think it is a menace to the country and its unity. Violence, in our opinion, is more of an ‘animal’ rather than a ‘human’ attribute. And the government is giving it a cause and justification. And it seems to me it rejoices at it, or even encourages it. I fear violence and more degeneration would follow if there is no genuine reform in the horizon. Violence, I believe, is the worst means to resolve social and political differences. Legally and patriotically speaking, violence is impermissible, unless the results of renouncing it surpasses its evils. So far, we have not reached that point.

Q: Recently, the parliament endorsed the Local Power Act, some deputies considered certain items of the act to be unconstitutional and anti-democratic and demanded amendments. What is your opinion and comment?

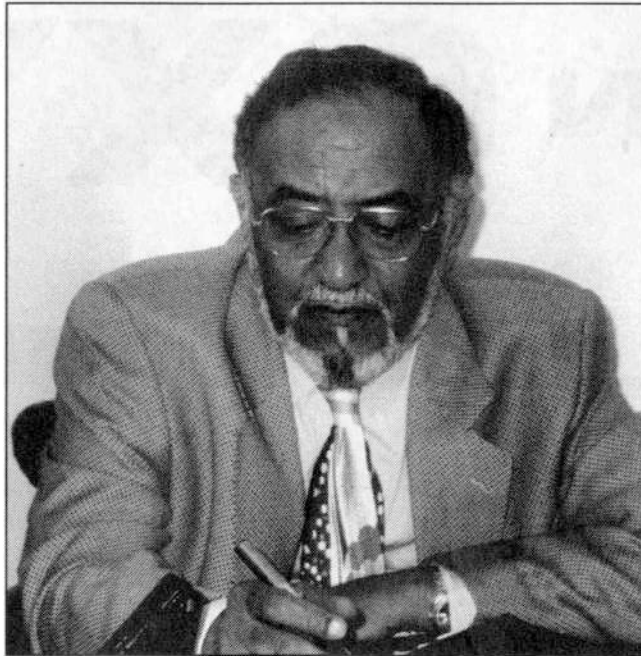
A: Regrettably, the government persisted on endorsing a local power act which envisages no local power at all. Actually, the act is unconstitutional and anti-democratic. Worse still, the government knows only too well that there is unanimity across the national spectrum outside it which recognizes the importance of an expanded, democratic local power system in line with the alternative project that we offered and was adopted by all political forces. The problem however, is that the government is seeing its sole image in its own mirror. This is extremely dangerous. It has led, and is leading to insulate the government into an remote ‘Island’ detached from the needs, aspirations and demands of the people. This scornful indifference may easily evolve into a mass popular rejection of the government and what this government brings. It may also force the opposition groups into tougher and more ruthless positions to avoid losing their constituencies. It is a bizarre situation as the government alleges that we have no positive alternative proposals, on the one hand, and neglects, on the other, all the proposals we put forward and gain popular approval and support. By insisting on such an unconstitutional act, the government is triggering a countdown for what have remained of ‘formal’ stability, and is throwing our nation in the eye of the wind.

The Local Power Act, whose spirit has been destroyed, breaches the letter and spirit of articles 4, 143, 144 of the constitution. As the unconstitutional article 33 of the Act was endorsed, the parliament was shocked and refrained from debating the other articles (from article 34 to article 113) which went on the record without any discussions. The rest of the article (113 to 164) were barely debated. In addition to other items, articles 124, 125 and 126 were vague and ambig-

ous. The act has clear definitions of the jurisdiction of local assemblies in terms of financial resources, budget and departmental allocations. These assemblies have no power to amend the budget of the units they represent. Together with the local executive organs, they have no power over appointment of officials who are installed by the central authority. Since most powers are preserved to the central government, it is necessary to lend the assemblies and councils of local government all the powers and jurisdiction to provide for public services, in terms of planning, implementation, administration and supervision, and for drawing projects of economic development, and other recreational schemes, such as athletic, entertainment and public safety programs.

Stunningly, the act gives the government, which is appointed, the power to dissolve local assemblies, which are elected, although what applies to the parliament should also apply to these assemblies. The constitution states clearly: “ The House of Representatives shall not be dissolved by the president, with the exception of cases of necessity, provided that a referendum is organized to seek the opinion of the people in the causes for the dissolution, and when the absolute majority of voters endorse it, the President may issue a decree to that effect.” Giving the central government the power to dissolve elected local assemblies breaches the spirit of the constitution and shakes the very premises of democracy, cripples these assemblies, and in fact eliminates the very ends for which the local power act was made in the first place. It actually abolishes the value of the few positive aspects this act contains, such as local elections. What is the significance of such vote when the assemblies have no real power, while the central authority can dissolve them at will. Parliamentary procedures were violated during the process of debate. For these and other reasons we harbored the hope that our brother, the president, in his capacity as protector of the constitution, would refer the act back to the parliament to revise the unconstitutional articles and expand the right of the people to elect governors and mayors, because it is an irony to give the voters the power to elect the president but deny them the power to choose heads of local units. All articles which contradict the constitution or limit the powers of local authority, such as articles 124, 125, 126, 140, 141 and 142, should be revised in order to give local assemblies the control over budget review, allocations, economic planning and appointment of officials in accordance with the civil service statutes, provided that priority is given to the local inhabitants of each unit itself.

At this point, I should point out that in its structure, history, state building and the novelty of this process, Yemen is different from any other state in the region, such as Egypt, Jordan, or North Africa (with which Yemen was compared). Given these differences, Yemen requires a local system of government empowered to the greatest possible limits (including appointment of governors and mayors by vote) so as to create a union enhanced by the broadest participation in the state and instill into the citizens the sense of achievement derived from this union to which they will be dedicated and whose integrity and defences they



would build and protect. If, on the other hand, they see that the union is reducing them to nothing, or is marginalizing them and denying them their right to self-government and self-administration, then what sense would they harbor other than a kind of ‘disloyalty’, the strongest ingredient of disintegration, segmentation and deprivation.

There was a glimpse of hope that our brother, the president, would respond to the demands of the people to have a widely empowered, democratically elected local government with full jurisdiction. But his quick endorsement of this sophisticated and unconstitutional law, which runs counter to what our people aspired to and hoped for, caused great disappointment.

As for selecting heads of administrative units (governors and mayors), I offered our brother, the president, in a statement to the press, a compromise according to which each elected local assembly would nominate three of its members for every post so that the president may select one and issue his decree to appoint him as governor or mayor in any local administrative unit. In my view this was a preliminary solution for the first session, while direct election of heads of local units would be applied thereafter.

I call on all patriotic forces, parties and figures, to meet together to pool our efforts and close our ranks, leave past chapters behind us and initiate a dialogue on “ The Vision of Pooling Efforts” which we raised since 1998, in order to arrive at a common view and a unifying platform of action which would solidify our ranks and merge our endeavors to build the Yemen of the future, the twenty first century Yemen, the Yemen of security, stability, development, harmony, amiability and peaceful struggle, the Yemen of cohesive system of governance anchored in equilibrium, widely empowered local authority, genuine and just judiciary and universal national reconciliation. Onto security, stability or development are attainable.

Q: Given the political indicators of the Yemeni official policy over the past decade, there are ruptures in relations between the official and non-official ruling system leading to calamities such as that of 1994 war and refusal of participation by all, do you expect a breakthrough in this difficult equation?

A: If the problematic structure and methods of the ruling system continue as they are now, they would undoubtedly lead to ruptures and calamities. We have already put forward our integrated conception for a cohesive system of government which would be conflict proof or conflict repellent; a system which would allow cohabitation and mutual recognition among its constituent parts on the basis of parity, expanded and inclusive decision making process; a system bereft of official and non-official duality. To achieve that, talks are required, and if the

brothers in the ruling establishment responded positively, we can cooperate to make the breakthrough towards the resolution and settlement of this difficult equation. We all need to learn from the lessons of the past to save the country which is on the verge of the abyss.

Q: Do you think that May 22 unity has laid the foundation for the establishment of an integrated Yemeni identity? Had war destroyed the identity formed in the south? In your opinion, do you think there is a social or political or sectarian or geographical rejection to prevent advocates of the ‘identity’ from success?

A: On 22 May 1990 an integrative union was announced, but we cautioned that the method of building the union state- embedded as it were in ‘partisanship’ and partition- was bound to catastrophe. As for the war, it has wreaked havoc on all. The practices which followed have destroyed Yemeni identity and ego, and exterminated allegiance and affiliation. The hindrance stems from erroneous policies and discrimination across the national spectrum rather than along the previous divide. Discrimination now exists in the same city, the same village or the same tribe, and all military and civilian levels. Such wrong practices ignite antipathy and hatred among the sons of the common homeland, and the suffering is generalized. And when people feel they do not enjoy equal rights, the sense of common identity is weakened. This is dangerous, given the fact that the country has only recently been unified after decades, nay centuries, of political, social, regional and local, sometimes even communal, conflicts. This implies that we should give due regard to the novelty of our union which is still green, so to speak, and we also should realize its importance for our present and for the coming generations.

Hence, it is vital to have actual equality in political and economic interests, in as much as it is essential to establish widely empowered local governments, launch inevitable and necessary universal and deep reforms, and initiate all-encompassing national reconciliation, in order to safeguard our nation, land and people, prepare it for coping with the present epoch, protect our people’s interests, and exchange mutual benefits with other nations. This is exactly what we have recommended before and under the union, and this what we recommend today.

Q: Some would explain the League Party present propaganda as a kind of reply to the regime’s political double-dealing attitude towards the Socialist party in its attempt to make you fill the vacuum in stead, if that is true, the regime has then succeeded in penetrating the opposition both inside and abroad. Would you please give the League’s vision on the positive and negative relationship inside the opposition and between the opposition as a whole and the political authority?

A: First and foremost, O brother, we do not do ‘propaganda’, but practice politics and information based on knowledge, research and transparency. As a result, we do not let ourselves be dragged into ‘reactions’. We do not draw our policy or movement on the basis of what position the government takes against this or that. We draw our policy, movement, and our political and informational discourse on the basis of the visions and platforms we have constructed along a method deeply rooted in our thought and history. We called upon all opposition parties, without any exception, to pool efforts and close ranks, and introduced

a comprehensive vision which defines the targets, mechanisms, instrument and tools.

As the most veteran party, we do not seek a ‘vacuum’ to fill in, because we have our own space and role which no other party can supply, in as much as the other parties have their own spaces. The ‘vacuum’ theory which is being circulated at variance with the keen political thought which has an insight into the realities of our country. Those whom you mentioned had not been in the opposition but were in the government, and they were added to the opposition, yet the arena is wide enough to accommodate all groups, consequently there is no ‘vacuum’. And this is not in the least surprising, because in democratic political thought there is no such a thing as a party permanently in the opposition and another party permanently in the government, or such a thing as a vacuum pertaining to a segment of a party shifting from the opposition to the government or vice versa. Such notions exist only in the totalitarian political thought. We do not seek to step in instead of any other party whatsoever!! We do not want it. Each party has its own line, vision and method of action, which do not match the role and methods of the others. True, when they were in the government, there was a balance in the system of governance anchored in military force and other factors of power:

finances, security forces, official media, public office, clout and the rest. But any balance based on sheer force is prone to culminate in conflict. And that was what exactly happened between the south and the north before unification and continued after it, because both sides in the equation were vying and competing each other over power. The moment one side finds the scales have tilted favorably, it is prepared to attack the other and eliminate it. During that time, both were competing to win over opposition groups which aligned themselves in the end with this pole or the other, and that is how they developed a tradition of seeking government patronage. It has been testified that our party, RAY, distanced itself from such clientele webs, and maintained that this sort of patronage, no matter what protection it may overtly extend to those under its wing, creates neither a genuine opposition nor a stable and active state system. That is why I used to say that the opposition parties were on the outer fringes of opposition rather than within opposition. I used to say that the opposition parties should form a counter balance vis a vis the government parties, and that their differences will not help us continue as an opposition but will render us fragmented. Our party shunned away from being contained by any ruling party at that time.

What we seek today is a comprehensive reform, and a balance of ‘minds’, a balance of political, economic and social interests, a balance within the system of government, a balance between the opposition and the system of government, and a balance which leads to cohesion rather than bloody conflict or future hostilities.

As for the penetration of the opposition by the government, I may say that if penetrating ranks does exist, it is mutual. But the crux of the matter has nothing to do with penetrating the

opposition groups by the government, because we, in RAY, are mature enough for that. We should realize and agree, however, that the democratic process we wish our country to embark on, would grant every single party the right to propagate its views, defend them, agree or disagree over these issues with other parties, be they in the government or otherwise. Opposition parties are not cloned copies, if they were so, they would have lost their raison de etre. Vacuum and vacuum filling are irrelevant. Success is a process relevant to visions, policies and their bearers, i.e if favorable visions and trends may succeed together with their representative, and unfavorable visions and trends may fail together with their representative; yet this process does mean the failed party is to be annulled, on the contrary, it would continue to exist, act, review, evaluate and revise its calculations and views and adjust itself and its visions and positions, as all lively political parties usually do. On our part, we shall continue to extend our hands, open our hearts and minds for all brothers in the opposition to unite our endeavors and close our ranks to uproot the residue of the past and realize that our common goal is to build the new Yemen. It would be new in its orientation and method, free from any subjective or partisan calculations. We should realize that the 1994 war, the catastrophe, has turned power relations upside down, and that a new balance has been established.

The problem of the opposition lies in misgivings, in suspicion, in the ‘inflated ego’ inherited from the realities of the past, and in the absence of a clear cut vision or systematic activity. It also lies in the passive attitude towards developments, and when these developments take place, there would be a rush to catch up with them with a series of spontaneous reactions, void of any systematic and scientific analyses. Politics is a matter of science, methodology and platforms for action, and without these no success is attainable. We try our best to observe these rules in our party, Ray, as we do within the National Opposition Front (MOWJ).

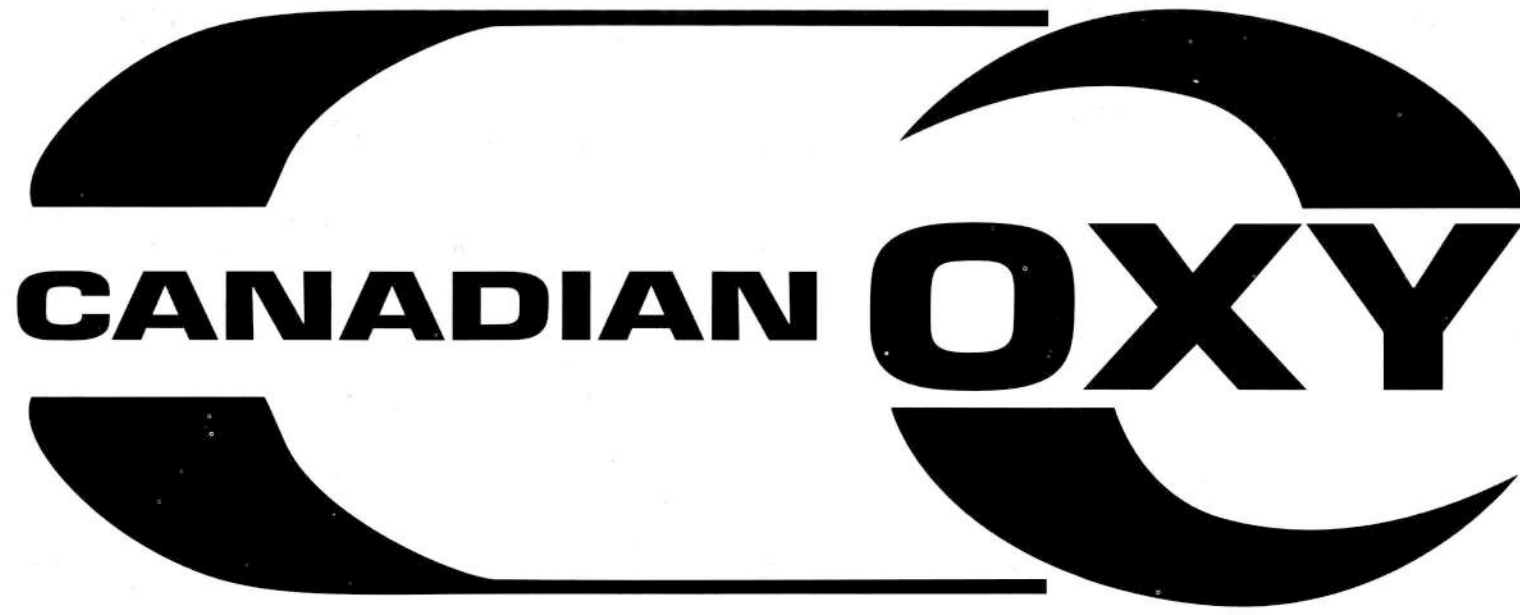
The problem of the government, by contrast, is that it assumes that it would grow stronger if it could weaken, split or clone opposition forces. The fact, however, is that this line of action weakens the government itself and destroys the embryonic democratic experience which exists in form only.

I repeat, a great future would await our country if those who hold the reigns of power recognized the importance our calls for dialogue, for a comprehensive reform and universal national conciliation. The inflexibility the government displays has gained these slogans wider popularity. And I fear that this rejection and arrogance on part of the government will breed and augment the elements of conflict, violence and discord among our people who are crushed by deadly hunger, fear of the present and concern over the prospects. The people have gone beyond the extreme limits of endurance and toleration. Time is too short and nobody will wait for us. And again, this brings home the necessity of comprehensive reform and reconciliation. This is vital for both Yemen and the world.

Car On Sale

Model: German VW 95
Color: Green

For more information, call
Dr. Ahmad Al-Kibsi Tel: 410232 / 416175



ANNOUNCEMENT
CANADIAN OCCIDENTAL
PETROLEUM YEMEN

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT
 MR. TIM THOMAS HAS BEEN APPOINTED
 PRESIDENT AND A GENERAL MANAGER OF
 CANADIAN OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM
 YEMEN EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2000 IN THE
 REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

اعلان

يسر شركة كنيديان اوكسيدنتال بتروليم يمن
 أن تعلن بأن السيد / تيم توماس ، قد عين ابتداءً
 من شهريناير ٢٠٠٠م بوظيفة الرئيس والمدير
 العام لشركة كنيديان اوكسيدنتال بتروليم يمن
 في الجمهورية اليمنية

Moving into its 2nd Decade

Yemen Times, In Brief

Founded in 1990, the first edition of the Yemen Times newspaper came out on February 27, 1991. It was the Republic of Yemen's first English language newspaper, and continues to be the country's only regularly published English newspaper.

The paper pursues vigorously information gathering, and therefore, has offices and stringers all over the country. It supports press freedom, respect for human rights, social integration, political pluralism and democracy. It promotes Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other forms of civil society organizations. At the economic front, it supports liberalization and open interaction with other nations. As the founder of Yemen Times, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1999) says, "We use the Yemen Times to make Yemen a good world citizen."

These are What Make Us no. 1

Our Total Independence

Anyone could easily open and establish an English newspaper. It takes minimum effort to do so. However, not every newspaper is in fact a true newspaper. A newspaper should be credible and should withstand any pressure that is aimed at making it lean to one side. History has proven that no matter how long non-independent newspapers struggle to keep their credibility, eventually they fail. It is a matter of principle, because the main aim of any newspaper is to provide news items in a clear, neutral, and independent manner. This is what made Yemen Times surpass its competitors and rise to the expectations of its readers.

Indeed, what makes Yemen Times unique among all other newspaper is its independence. It is a newspaper that respects all sides and presents the image in a neutral and totally unbiased manner. This is what strengthened its credibility among all other newspapers and made it the most important source of information for its readers.

Diplomats assigned to Yemen, donors and other partner agencies continue to tap in. Business interests are also among the regular readers. Yemeni students abroad and immigrants in exile have been kept informed through the Yemen Times. "It is our lifeline," one said. Why? Because they know that what appears in the Yemen Times is provided neutrally, it does not need to side by the government or by the opposition. That is why we sometimes are disliked by the opposition and other times criticized by the government. However, our aim is neither to please the opposition or the government. We only want to provide the facts, which in turn gets the public on our side all the time.

Always up to date

Yemen Times is a newspaper committed to delivering the latest breaking news and updates to its readers as soon as they are available. We sometimes stop the printing of the paper and reprint it when we think that a breaking story had erupted and it should be placed in the newspaper. Our readers are the most vital and essential part of the newspaper's power. They are the ones who believe in it, and they are the ones who deserve to know what happened on time.

Hard working staff

Anyone who knows Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf would not be surprised to see how hard working and dedicating his newspaper employees are. The 60 employees of Yemen Times have proven to the world that they are fit for any challenge. After the death of its founder, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the

staff of Yemen Times worked even harder than ever. They were able to convince the readers and advertisers, that Yemen Times is not just a newspaper, it is a whole establishment that built on a strong basis that withstands the toughest conditions. A month after Dr. Saqqaf's death, the newspaper was able to publish the newspaper daily on the occasion of the Emerging Democracies Forum held in June 1999, and in two languages. With less than 1/10th of the number of employees in an average daily newspaper, the daily issues were so high in quality and fast in delivery that extremely hard work of the employees astonished other newspapers who wondered how it was able to manage understand how his employees would be. With over 50 employees, Yemen Times is among the few organizations that gives top priority to its staff members. It works on their comfort, and hence gives them the

Quality Printing

If asked anywhere in Yemen about the newspaper with highest quality printing, you would be told that it is Yemen Times. We have not reached this level of quality easily. It took us years and years to become the most distinguished newspaper in its quality printing. The business sector that has been dealing with us would express its satisfaction with the quality that cannot be found in any other newspaper in Yemen. We have been investing in the field of color separation and paper quality for years. It is probably enough to convince our new advertiser by showing him our latest issue and the date of manufacturing of the color separation machine we have (October 1999.) That means that there is no way to compare us with other newspapers in the country, because we have the most advanced pre-press equipment in the world.

Superb services

Without doubt, Yemen Times is among the most organized and systematic newspapers in Yemen. With its qualified and attentive employees at the advertising, subscription, accounting, and marketing departments, Yemen Times was able to attract hundreds of advertisers through the years. With their polite attitudes towards others, they have gained the respect of all their clients. We further are trying to connect the newspaper to wider range of businessmen and bringing our readers and advertisers new and highest quality services ever to be found in a Yemeni newspaper.

Yemen Times Online

Yemen Times most distinguished feature is its web site Yemen Times Online located at yementimes.com, which can simply be defined as the most famous and most frequently visited Yemeni website on the Internet. With its enhanced functions, and unique services, our website was able to gain the admiration of online readers all around the world. The number of visits to the site has already exceeded the 1.5 million while most of the other Yemeni websites are lagging behind. Being among the first to subscribe to the Internet Service to our newspaper, we were able to compete even with regional and international newspapers in the design and layout of the newspaper. Yemen Times Online has been improving ever since its birth in 1997. Today, it has several services that can rarely be available in one site. These services include classifieds, postcards, weather, online feedback capabilities, links, discussion forum, search capabilities, newsletter, and complete contact information. The site had several awards for its quality

information and layout. Among these awards are the prestigious 4arabs award. Yet we are developing the site to include even more services such as online merchandising, daily updates (on the main page), etc. If you are not permanently in Yemen, you would find it quite convenient to follow the news through your window to Yemen, through Yemen Times Online.

Reliable Source of Information

Yemen Times has been the main source of information for people seeking to know what is happening in Yemen on a weekly basis. Some follow news agencies, some follow other newspapers, but most follow Yemen Times. The basic reason for that is that Yemen Times in all aspects reaches a degree of credibility that made it be a not only a newspaper, but rather a reference for all the ones interested about Yemen. Hence, Yemen Times today stands in a competition with several regional newspapers in English.

Essential for Advertisers

Advertisers at the Yemen Times have confessed that they were able to run their business much better by advertising at the Yemen Times. You only need to look at the advertisements in the paper to realize how advertisers who want to reach their target customers, race for reserving space in Yemen Times. The continuous demand to place ads in the paper is increasing every year. Why? Because you could rarely find a newspaper with such flexible payment methods accompanied with such quality. You only need to read the paper, understand who its target readers are, and check its printing and color quality. Please compare with the rest, and you will realize the difference.

HONORED

The newspaper is honored by the commitment of its readership base. A survey of our readers indicated that the paper's policy of "calling the shots as we see them" has gained it the respect and sympathy of the Yemeni public. The international media and visiting journalists and delegations as the most credible and reliable source in Yemen often cite it.

Given its visible contribution, the Yemen Times in general, and its founder in particular, were awarded the National Press Club's International Award for Freedom of the Press for 1995. As the only source of current information on Yemen in English, the newspaper serves as a vital contact point for foreigners interested in Yemen.

For over nine years, Yemen Times served its public as the only regularly published newspaper in English in the republic of Yemen. With its total independent stand, high quality articles and reports, international standard printing quality, and friendly customer service, Yemen Times with no competition remained the no. 1 newspaper in Yemen, and with more hard work, we hope to continue to be at the top under all circumstances.

A Quote from the Editor

To how extent has Yemen Times reached in terms of stability and confidence. The answer comes from the statement of Walid Al-Saqqaf, the current Chief Editor of Yemen Times, "Yemen Times is not Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, it is not me or you. It is the result of years of hard work and efforts by all of us. We worked as a team, and that was the reason behind our success. However, for this success to continue and grow, we must realize that hard work, efficiency, and cooperation are vital. When established, Yemen Times was totally Dr.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, his genius, his efforts, his vision, and his idea. However, today, we stand in front of a huge establishment structured with

complex rules and regulations that guide us from the moment an article is brought in, until the reader buys it from the market. Yemen Times today

stands tall as the most reliable and trustworthy newspaper for millions of Yemenis and foreigners alike, and I expect it to grow even more..."

This What Makes it Happen!

Yemen Times consists of a number of departments that are working in full swing to bring out the newspaper and make it appear in this comprehensive substance and magnificent attire. All these departments perform a teamwork complementing each other in a coherent system leading to the prosperity of the newspaper in all the social, cultural, sports, and political aspects and activities. On the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the newspaper, we would like offer a vivid image describing activities of the newspaper's departments and the laborious task carried out by the staff to give our readership a picture of how the paper is produced and put in their hands.

The departments of the newspaper:

- 1) Editorial
- 2) Administration
- 3) Advertising
- 4) Translation
- 5) Technical
- 6) Financial Affairs

1) The Editorial Department:

The editorial staff of the newspaper includes persons working in the editorial field and those who work for news article gathering to be published in the newspaper. This department includes columnists, article writers, news editors, editors of field press reports, and features besides editors checking and re-editing articles and news items before approving their publication.

Leading this editorial team is the editor-in-chief, the first man responsible for editing the newspaper as a whole including the subjects that are to be published in the newspaper. All the editorial staff are accountable to him. He also supervises and follows up the full implementation of what he has planned out in all aspects. Relations between the editorial department and the administration are regulated under his control, besides, his supervision of the relationship between the editorial department and the printing press. He also chairs regular weekly meetings of the paper's departments staff discussing the paper's latest issue and drawing up plans for the next issue in addition to all matters and issues concerning the work of the paper.

This department also includes the Managing Editor who is considered

to be the second person in the newspaper. Then, there is the editorial secretary who should have an overall plan of each week's articles that are to be published.

2) Administration:

It is commonly believed that without a proper and well-organized administration, no institution can ever achieve the prosperity aimed at. It is the corner-stone and the main factor behind the success or failure of any institution. In this unit, the policy and standing order of the newspaper is being planned out. The administrators model the behavior for all the staff working in the newspaper. After all, they do not care much about titles for the most important thing for them is work.

A good and strong administration gives its members a scope for authority and makes them feel confident in position.

3) Advertising:

Ever since the establishment of the first English-language newspaper in Yemen, it has been produced in colors. As an independent newspaper it has no resources other than its own, neither from the government nor from non-governmental organizations. Therefore, the advertising administration is given much attention as it is the only source of financing the newspaper.

The advertising staff have been able to strengthen ties with most of companies' owners, agents, manufacturers and merchants. The advertising staff have been able to make the public know about different companies that were established long time ago and about the different goods that are being produced. Efforts of this staff are best seen in planning and designing of many various guides such as The Tourist Guide and The Commercial Guide aiming at participating in the development process in the country. However, small this department is and the limited the number of its staff, its achievements can be compared to those of ministries and even more. For so far the newspaper has become a self-supporting institution. The staff use state-of-the-art machines and the best that technology can offer to make the most appropriate designs for the satisfaction of advertisers.

4) The Translation Department:

It is one of the outstanding and most significant departments in the news-

paper. This department consists of a number of highly qualified and competent staff who have a good command of Arabic as well as English language.

The translation staff are the backbone of the newspaper. They use state-of-the-art computers and they translate all articles, news items, features and reports from Arabic into English, taking into consideration the use of the language quite comprehensive to the foreign as well as the local and the way of their thinking so as to succeed in conveying the ideas the paper wants to communicate. Their work is a most challenging one for their job calls for more accuracy, carefulness, exactness, and seriousness. After finishing the translation, materials are checked and edited by the editor in charge, with watchful eyes before approving its appropriateness for publication.

5) The Technical Department:

The technical department embraces some of the best employees in making the layout and design of the newspaper. They are qualified and efficient enough to make the most skillful touches to make the newspaper appear in this marvelous color. Their long years of experience make them highly dependable. Besides, they use the latest apparatus's technology has offered. This has given the newspaper its own special features that make it different from other ones.

This department, along with other departments, has designed and produced guides on various topics such as Insurance Guide, Tourist Guide and Free Zone Guide. All these guides have played a remarkable role in making people inside as well as outside the country know more about Yemen and be aware of the different tourist sites.

The technical department is always hustling and bustling with many advertisers who come to see the designs of their ads to their satisfaction and add the final touches.

6) The Financial Administration:

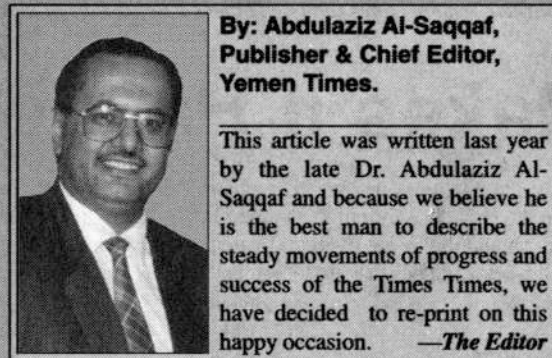
The Finance Administration is one of the main pillars of any project. It includes some units such as the revenue officers unit, purchase unit, distribution unit, etc.

The Administration of Finance employees keeps continuously detailed lists of all commercial dealings as to pinpoint stages of development and financial plans of the newspaper.



Yemen Times A Vital Milestone in The Free Press Drive in Yemen

Yemen Times: Steady Progress Through Years



By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Publisher & Chief Editor, Yemen Times.
This article was written last year by the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and because we believe he is the best man to describe the steady movements of progress and success of the Times Times, we have decided to re-print on this happy occasion. —The Editor

This week, the Yemen Times moves into its ninth year. The first issue came out on February 27th, 1991. In the short history of the paper, it has become an important factor in the democratization and transformation process of Yemen and the Yemeni people.

WHY IN ENGLISH?

One of the questions that I have been repeatedly asked is "Why do you produce a paper in English?" I have tried to answer this question in several ways. First, English is the language of the world, and it is the language of our present civilization. If it is not your first language, it should be your second. Second, when the idea of the paper was developed in the second half of 1990, Yemen had a problem with the world. Given its position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Yemen needed a channel to explain itself. We thought we would spread the word in a language that the world understands better than Arabic. Third, there were at the time over a hundred Yemeni newspapers and magazines. So, it was difficult to see how one



From here Yemen Times started — Al-Hasaba



The second place Yemen Times moved to — Al-Tahrir

more Arabic paper could add anything.

THE BEGINNINGS:

As the idea was developing, I visited many well-known world newspapers. These included The New York Times, the Herald Tribune, Le Monde, and others. Then I visited much smaller papers within the region. I finally spent several weeks with The Star, a weekly newspaper coming out of Amman. I engaged Osama Sherif, the editor and publisher of the paper, in a contract to do technology and information transfer. Thus the Yemen Times was born. Our first location was a two-room old shack made of corrugated metal plates and cardboard. It was located in the northern outskirts of San'a.

We had two small classic SE Macintosh computers, which are still with us today. The total Yemen Times team was three persons - a typist/page setter, a guard/messenger, and myself. We did all the financial and administrative work. We did everything from interviews, to news-writing, to pagination to supervising printing of the paper, to distribution... At first, we only produced 1,500 copies.

PROGRESS:

Four months down the road, we had our first advertise-

ment. Then a few more. We employed a fourth person on the team to attend to advertising. By the end of 1991, we were selling 3,000 copies.

By mid-1992, we moved into the city. We rented a flat behind the Central Bank of Yemen. At that time, we employed three news editors, on a part-time basis. We employed two clerks to help with administrative and financial affairs. Momentum was building.

By the end of 1992, our revenue from advertisements had surpassed revenue from the 5,000 copies we were selling. We purchased three more Apple machines - Power Macintosh 4400/200s.

MORE PROGRESS:

By mid-1993, we were caught in the power struggle between the People's General Congress and the Yemen Socialist Party. The PGC did not take kindly to the Yemen Times.

Our landlord was forcing us out because of outside pressure. This was to become our problem for the next four years. As soon as the paper's one-year lease expired, it could not get an extension. Thus we were forced to move from one location to another.

The third location was a two-story building behind Mujahid Street, facing what is today the French Embassy. Then we moved to the basement of a large building on Haddah Road, where today Emirates Airlines is located. Finally, we moved to our present location, which we first rented, and finally purchased.

In the meantime, the Yemen Times bought newer and more advanced equipment. The most important jump came in 1994, when the newspaper bought a number of Quadra 700, then Quadra 840 Macintosh machines. These were followed by PowerPC Macintosh 8500/150 and 9600/233 machines. These are now to be followed by G3 and iMac machines. In the meantime, the number of journalists and employees of the newspaper had jumped to over 30 persons, with branch offices in Aden and Taiz, and stringers in six different cities of the republic. Circulation and advertisement rose to phenomenal levels.

SERVING THE WORLD:

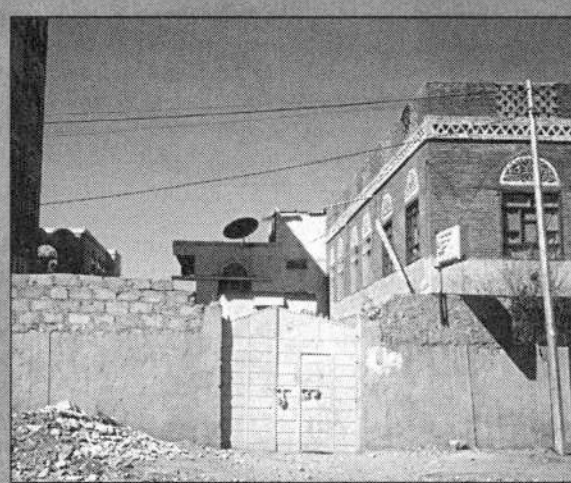
The Yemeni diaspora was the first international target of the paper. Therefore, the Yemen Times embarked on simultaneous printing of the paper in London and New York. This ambitious effort was very costly. As the internet became available, the simultaneous printing was discontinued, and the Yemen Times went on-line in 1997.

The number of visitors to the Yemen Times homepage address <http://www.yementimes.com/> has risen to high levels. Over the last 3 months, there were 1,350,000 visitors. The visitors are mostly from the West - the USA, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, and other countries. But there are also lots of on-line readers in India, Southeast Asia, Turkey, etc. Diplomats assigned to Yemen, donors and other partner agencies continue to tap in. Business interests are also among the regular readers. Yemeni students abroad as the opposition in exile have been kept informed through the Yemen Times. "It is our lifeline," one said.

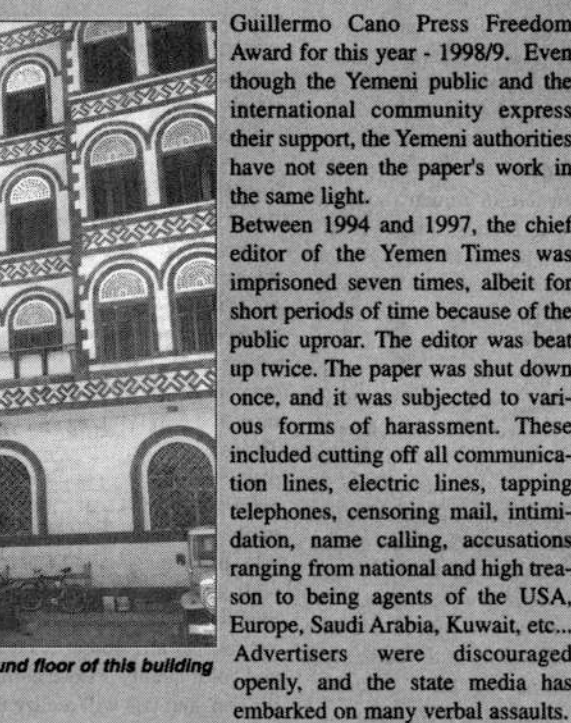
HONORED:

The newspaper is honored by the commitment of its readership base. A survey of our readers indicated that the paper's policy of "calling the shots as we see them" has gained it the respect and sympathy of the Yemeni public. It is often cited by the international media and visiting journalists and delegations as the most credible and reliable source in Yemen.

In addition, the Yemen Times and its chief editor were honored by the Washington DC-based International Press Club with the International Freedom of the Press Award for 1995. The Yemen Times was also the main partner of the UNESCO and the UN in organizing the Arab region's media conference of 1996, leading to the Sanaa Declaration on Independent and Pluralistic Media. It also made it to the short-list of the UNESCO's



The Third Office of the Yemen Times — Mujahid Street



Fourth office in the ground floor of this building — Haddah

THE FUTURE:

The Yemen Times, after securing and expanding its own premises, now has plans for expansion on three fronts. These are:

1. Al-Aswaq: The paper plans to issue an Arabic magazine called Al-Aswaq. Preparations for this are in full progress. Al-Aswaq will focus on economic issues.

2. Printing Press: The Yemen Times has started negotiations to purchase its own printing press. This is a costly investment, but necessary for continued progress. This is a project that will mature before the end of this year.

3. Yemen Times FM: Our final investment is a radio station. Application has already been to the Minister of Information last year. He says that some legal adjustments need to be made in the laws to allow the private sector to own radio and television stations. We hope this project will see light by the year 2000.

The legal and political environment needs to improve steadily for the Yemeni media to continue to make progress. The obsession of the politicians to control every journalist is a danger that could jeopardize our democratic transformation and multi-party political structure.



The current premises of the Yemen Times — Haddah

Indeed, Yemen Times has always been an inspiring and so genuine an expression of the "vox poluli" and of the "pulse of the nation". It has become a symbol as well as an acute reflection of the Yemeni reforms, its successes, shortcomings and major failures. As a representative of your devoted readers let me express my profound gratitude for the simple fact that you are there, not only for us but, for most, for ever and please never give up the task of being both the bold conscience and the common sense of Your Nation.

**Krzysztof Suprowicz
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland**

Most important is that the Yemen Times, with the efforts of its founder Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, has turned into a journalism school and complete institution that plays an important role in the political movement. It has also supported the civil society, human rights and democratic freedom Organizations financially and morally. I do feel sorry for the loss of the founder of this journalism school. However, our only consolation is the new cadre that is following the path he has drawn.

Ahmad Ali Al-Salami

Many people thought Yemen Times will hardly endure after the untimely death of its founder. Yet, it had continued its metamorphosis into an institution devoted to the furtherance of the noble ideals of democracy.

**Abdullah Mohammed Al-Saidy
Deputy Foreign Minister**

I have been reading the Yemen Times regularly. I depend on it as an important source of knowledge and information. All in all, I became addicted to it for its ability to satisfy its readers' thirst to credible and dependable news.

**Talal Ali Al-Kawlani
Senior, Faculty of Art,
Libraries and Information
Science Department**

There is always a connection between the great man and the great deed and here the man is Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and the deed is the Yemen Times. The publishing of this newspaper in English was the window of Yemen through which other foreign countries can look at Yemen. In the past, all that the outer world new about our country was written by foreign journalists and their writings were full of lies and rumors against our country

I think it is one of the most interesting newspapers in Yemen. It publishes different views and opinions on current affairs in the country. What is very important, criticism of negative aspects in Yemen's life is not done for the sake of criticism, but it is of a constructive nature and very instrumental in giving the readers more or less adequate picture of what is going on in the country.

**Alexander Kalugin
Ambassador of Russia-Sana'a**

"My impressions about the Yemen Times are good. I am one of the steady readers of the newspaper for it benefits me in different manners like continuing my practice of English and gaining knowledge from its topics.

**Fatma Abdullah Al-Salami
Student, Faculty of Arts, English Language
Department**

Yemen Times is one of the most prominent newspapers in Yemen and it is the first Yemeni newspaper to be published in English. However, the newspaper still has several shortcomings that block its widespread. For, instance it lacks information topics and local surveys and instead it shifted to publish different points of view in the form of articles without really looking at the core of the subject or making suitable solutions. Yet, in general, this has not greatly affected the newspaper in a negative manner.

**Amira Alawi
Student, English Language Department**

Yemen Times is a comprehensive newspaper and it is reaching its zenith during this period especially the field of social sciences which is a major field I am interested in due to its close relationship with our practical life. In general, it is very organized in terms of topics and design and that makes it almost the only newspaper which I have an interest in. I shall not forget to mention its smooth and understandable language it uses in its topics. Finally, I wish the staff of the Yemen Times all success and development.

**Sohayrah Abdullah Alows
Student, Libraries Department**

I will write my opinion beginning with the stage that I started reading the newspaper. It is really nice that we have an English-language newspaper in our country although, as we all know, that there

is a little proportion of the population able to speak English. However, despite that the newspaper could find its readers even among this small portion of the people.

I would like to say that the newspaper started by publishing lots of new topics that gained satisfaction of the readers like reportages and publishing facts without concealing the truth and without flattery towards.

**Abdul-Fattah Ismail
Student, College of Arts,
English Language
Department**

Truly, I am very proud of Yemen Times for all that it has achieved and yet to achieve for the Yemeni media field. I consider it the other side of the coin of Yemen for it's the first newspaper published in English. During the past ten years Yemen Times has proved that it is the most capable of entering the third millennium with more challenges and abilities and the continuation of the newspaper is the biggest proof of its success.

**Talal Ali Al-Kawlani
Senior, Faculty of Art,
Libraries and Information
Science Department**

When I came back from Germany in 1995, I found that many newspapers have been spread and published after the reunification of Yemen. However, the Yemen Times was the only newspaper that attracted me and I started reading it regularly without missing one issue. I observed the true and unbiased news which was free from flattery in this newspaper and I found on the ideas of its founder the newspaper which tries to perform its informative role to the detriment of the country. It is undoubtedly Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf's personality, his great articles, national sense and true wish to improve the situation of Yemen that attracted me to this newspaper. I was always proud of the presence of such man in the newspaper and I felt truly sad when I heard about his unfortunate accident. At this point, I expected that the newspaper would not flourish but days proved my expectations to be wrong. I now believe that the Yemen Times has lost one of its most brilliant stars but it is still the newspaper number one.

When I came back from Germany in 1995, I found that many newspapers have been spread and published after the reunification of Yemen. However, the Yemen Times was the only newspaper that attracted me and I started reading it regularly without missing one issue. I observed the true and unbiased news which was free from flattery in this newspaper and I found on the ideas of its founder the newspaper which tries to perform its informative role to the detriment of the country. It is undoubtedly Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf's personality, his great articles, national sense and true wish to improve the situation of Yemen that attracted me to this newspaper. I was always proud of the presence of such man in the newspaper and I felt truly sad when I heard about his unfortunate accident. At this point, I expected that the newspaper would not flourish but days proved my expectations to be wrong. I now believe that the Yemen Times has lost one of its most brilliant stars but it is still the newspaper number one.

**Mohsen Saleh Ali Al-Yafye'e
English Language Teacher**

My impressions on the Yemen Times are great because it has a very wide-spread reputation inside and outside Yemen. It writes about important topics comprehensively and covers all their details. So, without exaggeration, it is considered the best newspaper for me and I read it regularly. I always follow its hot news and objective articles that speak of reality of our society. What really prevails the newspaper is its independence in choosing topics and not being biased. From its start and over the previous ten years the Yemen Times has forced its self through its complete coverage of news that includes all life aspects and through its interesting articles which are always clear and smooth.

**Abdullah Rabu Ahmed Salem Al-Yafye'e
Student, Faculty of Art, Psychology**

Yemen Times is considered the first window for Yemen on the outer world by means of covering different topics in the fields of literature, art, culture, folklore, heritage and ruins not to forget its patronage of many political and cultural seminars and festivals every once in a while. These are all proofs of its strong presence and prominence in publishing in all fields.

**Abdul-Jaleel Salam
University Student**

After 10 years, The Challenge is Greater



**Hassan Al-Halifi
Yemen Times**

The Late Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was indisputably a man of foresight and had a sense of never letting opportunities slip by. On the other hand, Dr. Al-Saqqaf knew where his talents were stored and how to apply such talents for the fulfillment of his own aspirations while at the same time not forgetting that life is meaningless if one does not serve a national cause and advocate for the advancement of freedom and welfare of his people. While many people were displeased when the second party to the unification of Yemen (agreement) opted for a break from the union, once the pressure on them got too heavy, it is still to their credit that for four years (1990-1994), the Yemeni press enjoyed relative freedom and respite from direct or indirect censorship. In fact, even the public responded positively as circulation of many of the independent and partisan mouthpieces reached record high. The Yemen Times, along with many of the existing newspapers, were born during this period. The progressive outlook of the founder of the Yemen Times quickly brought the paper into the forefront of Yemeni journalism, both as a strong defender of political and human rights and in the use of state of the art technology at the same time. Al-Saqqaf understood that a paper's appeal is maintained by maverick reporting and a refusal to compromise on quality. Sometimes this entailed sacrifice and exposure to danger, but when one's destiny becomes tied to a cause sacrifice and danger take on secondary consideration and left to God's will to deal with.

With Dr. Al-Saqqaf's untimely passing, the Yemen Times continues his legacy. No doubt that the atmosphere has changed, and the pressures against free conscientious reporting have become formidable. It becomes more important for the Yemen Times to tread on the same course set by its founder and accordingly must take up the issues that are brought on by increasing repression of free expression and increasing government blindness to the decadence of the social fabric of the nation, amidst corruption, contempt of the Law, by the very elements that are responsible for upholding it, priorities that neglect the real needs of the people and even sometimes work against their well-being, and a misguided approach to democratic government. All of these work against the credibility of the state and it is up to papers like the Yemen Times to insist that as such government is not fulfilling its obligations in the social contract that binds it to the people it claims to govern, and exacts a heavy price for doing so from the resources of the land. That was what the Yemen Times worked diligently to make clear over the last 10 years, and one is pretty much convinced that Dr. Al-Saqqaf's heirs fully understand this and their commitment to this mission shall not be anyway put to comprise. So, the legacy of the YT shall carry on for generations to come, God willing!

When I came back from Germany in 1995, I found that many newspapers have been spread and published after the reunification of Yemen. However, the Yemen Times was the only newspaper that attracted me and I started reading it regularly without missing one issue. I observed the true and unbiased news which was free from flattery in this newspaper and I found on the ideas of its founder the newspaper which tries to perform its informative role to the detriment of the country. It is undoubtedly Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf's personality, his great articles, national sense and true wish to improve the situation of Yemen that attracted me to this newspaper. I was always proud of the presence of such man in the newspaper and I felt truly sad when I heard about his unfortunate accident. At this point, I expected that the newspaper would not flourish but days proved my expectations to be wrong. I now believe that the Yemen Times has lost one of its most brilliant stars but it is still the newspaper number one.

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**Mohsen Saleh Ali Al-Yafye'e
English Language Teacher**

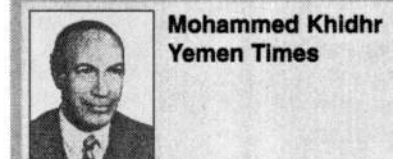
My impressions on the Yemen Times are great because it has a very wide-spread reputation inside and outside Yemen. It writes about important topics comprehensively and covers all their details. So, without exaggeration, it is considered the best newspaper for me and I read it regularly. I always follow its hot news and objective articles that speak of reality of our society. What really prevails the newspaper is its independence in choosing topics and not being biased. From its start and over the previous ten years the Yemen Times has forced its self through its complete coverage of news that includes all life aspects and through its interesting articles which are always clear and smooth.

**Abdullah Rabu Ahmed Salem Al-Yafye'e
Student, Faculty of Art, Psychology**

Yemen Times is considered the first window for Yemen on the outer world by means of covering different topics in the fields of literature, art, culture, folklore, heritage and ruins not to forget its patronage of many political and cultural seminars and festivals every once in a while. These are all proofs of its strong presence and prominence in publishing in all fields.

**Abdul-Jaleel Salam
University Student**

Yemen Times..... The Leading English-Language Newspaper



**Mohammed Khidhr
Yemen Times**

Having spent around four months working for the Yemen Times weekly newspaper, now I feel I have had a pretty happy chance that it has been my first experiment of working in Yemen. The cordiality and hospitality of the Editor-in-Chief Walid Al-Saqqaf in my first meeting with him made me completely forget I am away from home. His friendliness was that of an old friend, not of a new acquaintance and he facilitated all procedures and requirements for having me as one of his paper's staff. And this is, of course, very gentlemanly of him. I have the feeling that I am much obliged to do my best to serve this widespread leading media organ and I am determined to do so, hoping more success and development for this young newspaper.

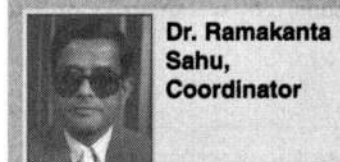
As an Arab, I feel very proud to find out such a very informative English-language independent publication in Yemen, recruiting young hard-working staff fully dependent on their own linguistic and journalistic abilities. All Arab countries need to have qualified and competent media in foreign languages because they represent the main truthful source of information on the developments taking place in our countries in a credible and unprejudiced way and truthful accounts of what is happening in them. In addition: through these media we can express our views and opinions on what is going on in the world on different topics so that the world would know that we are not a nation isolated from the rest of other nations and we have our active share in shaping a democratic and peaceful world.

Despite its young age, for it has just celebrated its tenth birthday, the Yemen Times has gained for itself a good reputation and spread among readers inside Yemen and abroad particularly that it has a site on the Internet. Yemeni expatriates find in it a reliable source of information on their country and happenings in it and the paper receives many letters to the editor from them expressing their views and impressions on multitude of information and news published in the newspaper.

I have come to know that its founder the late Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf had exerted great efforts to bring about this publication to occupy a distinguished position among the press in his country and even abroad. He had met with very many difficulties and resistance to abort his scheme but he struggled with all his might and eventually managed to realize his objective. Even after that the newspaper faced many attempts to muzzle it during and frank voice and its founder was subject to many kinds of harassment and even detention. All those acts and attitudes were meant to deviate the paper from its free independent course it had adopted for itself, but fortunately all were doomed to failure and the paper has been successful to survive them all then and at present under its young and energetic chief editor Walid Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf for whom I wish ever and ever success to maintain conveying his late father's mission and message.

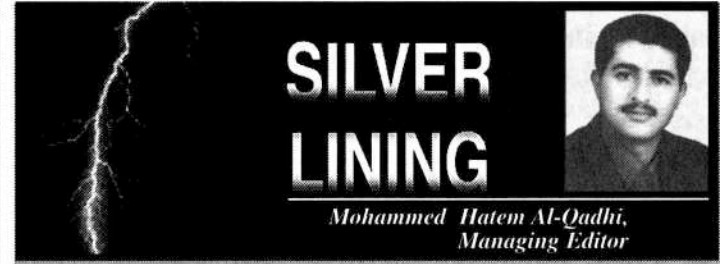
In acknowledgement of the good efforts and as a show of thankfulness towards his achievement I propose to have a small statue - a bust - to be erected on a stand at the entrance of the newspaper building to represent a monument consecrated to the memory of this prominent Yemeni personage. Much heartfelt congratulation to all the staff of the newspaper and its editor-in-chief on its birthday and best wishes for its ever success.

The Education Supplement/ Youth Forum: A perspective



**Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Coordinator**

On the glorious occasion of 10th birth anniversary of Yemen Times, it is our proud privilege and bounden duty to present a perspective on the Education Supplement and Youth Forum, twin feathers in the colored cap of Yemen Times. These constitute a forum by the youth and for the youth, to encourage them to express their ideas, feelings, emotions and visions for the future. At a time when Yemen Times is entering the threshold of its youth, it is only appropriate that there should be an exclusive chapter for the youth who uphold a rich promise for the future of this old country but young nation. Yemen Times is committed to search literary talents among the Yemeni youth and nourish them to be harbingers of its fabulous literary and cultural heritage. We take this opportunity to solicit the patronage of all concerned to join hands in this noble endeavor. Let the Education Supplement and Youth Forum attain the full bloom of youthful vigor and vitality under its youthful Chief Editor Walid Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf.



SILVER LINING
Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Managing Editor

Yemen Times Heading for a Brighter Future

It is really difficult for me to record my experience with the Yemen Times in words. Actually, my story with the Yemen Times goes back to the beginning of my college study. I found in the Yemen Times a good source of information as well as an appropriate means to improve my skills in English which was my first purpose for reading the Yemen Times continuously. But later on I developed a liking for the newspaper and its late editor Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. I admired his writings, his devotion to the country and its people, his courage in handling critical issues for which he was ruthlessly harassed. I used to know everything about him through the newspapers. This really made me feel the greatness which made him command the respect of all people. I admired more his courageous fighting against the crooked and corrupt people in the country. For this, I used to keep all the issues of the Yemen Times in a special archive. And because I am fond of writing, I decided to contribute to the Yemen Times. The first article published for me in this paper was in 1995. I still remember even its title, "The Arab Mindset and Future Challenges". Publishing that article gave an incentive to write. It also gave me confidence in my ability to write in English, though I started writing in Arabic since my secondary schooling.

After graduation from the university I kept reading the newspaper. Once I decided to write a letter to the editor of the Yemen Times asking for the post of a correspondent of the paper in Taiz. The managing editor of the paper at that time asked me to work as a freelancer in the paper. He further asked me to write reports for the paper. He sent me a letter of accreditation as I am the paper's correspondent in Taiz. I started making reports and writing articles which were published. That motivated me a lot and gave me an impetus to go ahead. My first contribution now was about the manners of begging. I kept on writing for about six months. Then, I was offered a job in the head office. I came to Sanaa and I met Dr. Saqqaf for the first time. He gave me a very warm welcome and I found him very modest and humble. He told me that he was very impressed by my writing and the topics I focus on in my writings. Furthermore, he told me that all the editors of the newspaper had th same impression about my writings. I attended the next day a seminar about "Safe Tourism in Yemen". It was the first seminar in which I represented the Yemen Times.

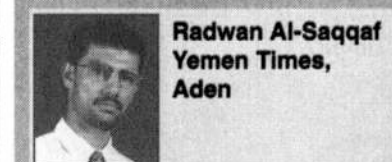
Dr. Saqqaf kept on encouraging me and telling me to always "take the initiative". He was also happy with my being hard working and punctual and he used to tell me about that.

After two months of my joining the work, Dr. Saqqaf promoted me to the position of the Assistant Managing Editor. This pushed me further to keep the good work up. He also sent me abroad to participate in some seminars. Once I told Dr. Saqqaf that malaria swamped Taiz. He told me that he had a plan to re-open the paper's office in Taiz. Then, we re-opened the office and I worked there for seven months as the editor of the office. After the catastrophe of the untimely death of Dr. Saqqaf in June I started working as the managing editor until now.

During all this time I have found the paper achieving consecutive success and ranking a high position among the other media bodies in the country. This is mainly because of its total independence and accuracy in reporting. For this it has become an important source for news for people living inside as well as outside Yemen.

After the death of its founder, some people thought that it would wither away and collapse. BUT it continued and it will with even a stronger determination as long as the soul of its founder is with us, YEMEN TIMES is alive and kicking.

Yemen Times Steady Progress Towards Prosperity



**Radwan Al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times,
Aden**

The occasion of the 10th anniversary of the newspaper is the beginning of a new era of prosperity. We have committed ourselves to do our best so that we see the newspaper prosper and develop. This is the best thing we can do to express our appreciation for the late founder of the newspaper Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. Our celebration this year is very special for it is our first festival in the new millennium and I still remember the time I joined Yemen Times when the late Dr. Abdulaziz helped me a lot to improve in journalism. At the beginning the newspaper used to have very limited resources, however our celebration today marks the conspicuous success the newspaper has achieved throughout ten years. I still remember how we started with a small modest office equipped with few machines and how it has developed into a big journalistic institution equipped with sophisticated equipment and latest computer network. Who can ever forget the year 1993 when the most modern computer network was inaugurated in Yemen and Yemen Times was the first newspaper to use such modern technology.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Reader, we need your help.

This week, the Yemen Times enters its 10th year. This is a milestone of which we are proud. However, we want to use this occasion to better serve you, our reader. For that purpose, we are asking that you take a few minutes and fill out the following questionnaire about the Yemen Times.

The questionnaire asks for your views on our news coverage, analysis, information, editorial, and format of Yemen Times.

In addition, there are several questions about you, our reader. To improve the newspaper's service to you, it is essential for us to better know our readership profile, their interests, and what it is they are looking for.

I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your time, patronage and cooperation.

Publisher - Yemen Times

- (1) Sex
 Male
 Female
- (2) Age
 15-25
 26-35
 36-45
 46-55
 55 and above
- (3) Nationality

- (4) Educational level
 No formal education
 High school
 University graduate
 Post graduate
- (5) Employment
 Private sector
 Government employment
 Army/police
 Student
- (6) Line of Business:
 Commerce
 Academia
 Oil/Gas
 Industry
 Diplomacy
 Student
 Banking insurance
- (7) How often do you read foreign newspapers?
 Never
 Often
 Occasionally
 Which ones do you read?

- (8) Which Yemeni newspaper/s do you read?
 Al Thawrah
 Al Gumhuriyah
 26th September
 Al Hurras
 14th of October
 22 May
 Al Wahdah
 Al Mithaq
 Al-Tariq
 Al Ayyam
 Al Tagammu'
 14th of October
 Al Shoura
 Al Thawri
 Ray Al Wahdawi
 A Sahwah
- (9) How do you get your Yemen Times?
 From Newsstand
 Borrow it
 From Hotel
 Aboard airplane
 Other, Please specify
 Subscription
- (10) How often do you read the Yemen Times?
 Weekly
 Once a month
 Randomly
 See it only occasionally
- (11) How many persons read your copy (at home, work, etc.)?
 One
 Two
 Three or more

- No one else
 I don't know
- (12) Where do you live?
 City / province
- Country
- (13) Why do you read Yemen Times? (More than one answer is possible)
 I respect the stand it takes on the issues
 I admire its writers and reporters
 I like the type of stories it presents
 I enjoy the variety of subjects
 I like its approach of the topics
 I appreciate the pictures with the articles
 I have a long relationship/association with it
 It is the only newspaper in English I can obtain
 Its layout and format are attractive
 It carries lots of useful information
 Its frankness and honesty appeal to me
 Other reason, please specify:
- (14) Please give your opinion on various selection of the paper:

Front Page	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Editorial	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Local News	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Interviews	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Focus	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Cultural affairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Law/Diplomacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Readers' Letters	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
- (15) Which columnist is your favorite:

- (16) Do you find your favorite columns or subjects missing in Yemen Times?
 Yes
 No
 If yes, what are these columns and subjects?

- (17) Do you find the number of pages of Yemen Times sufficient?
 Too Many
 Appropriate
 Too few
- (18) How do you find the advertisements in Yemen Times?
 Too much
 Appropriate
 Too little
- (19) The standard of advertisements in the paper is:
 Excellent
 Good
 Bad
- (20) Can you do without newspapers by watching TV or listening to the radio?
 Yes
 No
- (21) What are the reasons for reading newspapers?
 They carry in-depth news on certain topics that are not presented on radio and TV
 They carry analysis on some topics that are not presented on radio/TV
 I can read my newspaper at any time in contrast to radio listening and watching TV
 I enjoy reading
 I am free to choose the subject I read
 Variety of paper's subjects
 Others
- (22) What subjects are there on TV and radio that are generally not found in newspapers?
 Please specify:

- (23) When do you usually buy your copy of the Yemen Times?
 Mornings
 Afternoons
 Evenings
- (24) Where do you buy your copy of the Yemen Times?
 Bookstore/newsstand
 Street vendor
 Grocery store
 Borrow
 Other
- (25) Do you find difficulty in obtaining Yemen Times issues?
 Yes
 No
- (26) If there are any, what are these difficulties?
 Always unavailable
 Runs out quickly
 I live far away from distributors
 Does not reach distributors early
 Other difficulties.
 Please specify:
- (27) Where do you usually read Yemen Times?
 At home
 At work
 In public places
 Other
- (28) Do you read the whole paper at once or at intervals?
 At once
 At intervals
- (29) What is the first thing you read in the Yemen Times? What is the second thing? Please list using 1, 2, 3, etc.
 () First page
 () Last page
 () Local page
 () Editorial
 () Feature
 () Culture
 () Focus
 () Economy
 () Social issues
 () Law & Diplomacy
 () Other sections
- (30) How much time do you spend reading the Yemen Times?
 Less than 10 minutes
 About 30 minutes
 About 60 minutes
 Two hours
 More than 2 hours
- (31) Have you ever heard of Yemen Times online (www.yementimes.com)?
 Yes
 No
- (32) If you had access to the web page of YT, would you continue buying the hard copy of the newspaper?
 Yes
 No
- (34) How do you evaluate the situation of Yemen Times after the death of its founder, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf?
 It has become better in general terms
 It has become better in some areas and weaker in others
**If yes, please explain by writing suggestions below (Q no. 35).*
 It has become worse in general terms
 I started reading the paper after the death of the founder
- (35) What suggestions do you have for the improvement of the Yemen Times? Please specify:

Please send this questionnaire to:
 Yemen Times
 P. O. Box: 2579, Sana'a
 Republic of Yemen

COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

On Dry Pens, Sealed Lips and Common Colds

The three men and the woman accompanying them had just come out of a meeting of prominent journalists in Yemen. Ibrahim one of the leading writers of an opposition party paper, which was once a partner in the ruling coalition, commented: "I do not know what to make of the present situation. Journalism in Yemen, over the past ten years has become beset by so many changes, so many disappointments and is presently faced by an increasingly unwelcome field. I find it now increasingly difficult put what I want to say into print.

A colleague from an independent English paper said: "You guys must not ever wane in your determinations to get the truth out to the people, no matter what the consequences are. As long as the government proclaims we have democracy and freedom of expression, then we have an obligation to test their commitment to democracy and the sincerity behind their proclamation of welcoming criticism."

"Farouk, there are large discrepancies behind all these government claims and declarations - and the law - and the reality that we face," said Murshid who comes from another opposition party, whose mouthpiece has been subjected to closures more than any other paper, continuing, "The government policy on Press Freedom is:

*Yes, you have a right to write,
But it has to be what we see is right,
So, do not try to be so bright,
Or else we will resort to fright,
To show you might makes right;
Against criticism we will fight
And not hesitate to bite,
To show you the extent of our spite,
From which there is no respite
By prayers or flight,*

*In broad daylight
Or under the darkness of night,
Now, do you see the light?"* That is very good Murshid! Apparently the closure of your newspaper is freeing you to explore some potential talents. What other talents have come out beside poetry since your paper closed?" remarked the sole woman in the group.

"Farida, believe it or not, I have even turned to palm reading and astrology to bite the time away. I wanted to take advantage of the free time to read. A friend of mine had been kind enough to send me some novels and history books from Beirut, but the Ministry of Information has confiscated them. For four months now, the MOI has not been able to determine if the "Old Man and the Sea", by Ernest Hemingway or the novels of Georgi Zeidan*, among other books of similar detriment to national security and public morals, are not a national threat, and if they would not lead to further corruption of my already astray mind. Furthermore, they would like me to sign an undertaking not to write any other articles "distorting the image of the state, in the eyes of the public."

When I suggested that they rephrase the pledge 'to only write the truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God!' they promised to come back to me in a week. When they did not contact me, I went back and asked for my books - ready to sign the revised pledge. They said that the revised pledge has yet to be considered. It might require the formation of a committee to first consider if the books should be dealt with separately from the pledge. If so, then two committees will be formed to look into each one. When both committees come up with their decisions, they will be referred to

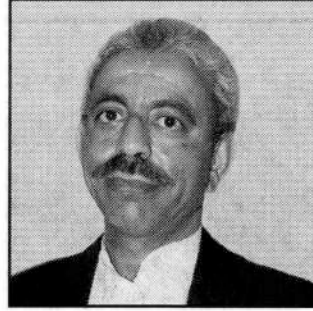
the Ministry of Legal Affairs to ensure the compliance of their decisions with the existing laws. When I asked how long this whole process takes, the MOI official said, while assuring that no firm commitment is implied thereof, from six months to two years, with the latter holding sway. That was when I decided to go into palm reading and other explorations of the mystical."

He then asked Farida:

"Say, Farida, what progress has been made in getting your women's paper going?" "Progress! What progress can you expect from a government bureaucracy that has mastered the art of turning normal routine procedures into a hard time - in particular when it is for a matter that has to do with the press? Things appeared to be encouraging at the start, but then someone raised the fear that the magazine might advertise women's lingerie with prohibitive pictures of women in their undies. That opened up a whole span of religious and moral questions about the magazine that must be dealt with by a Higher Committee for the Protection of the Moral Persuasion of Women, which is recently being considered for formation. The matter is being referred to the Council of Ministers for decision. So our application has now entered the 6 months - to 3 years category, also with the latter more likely to hold sway.

Say, Ali, you have not said anything, nor did you speak up in the journalists meeting, which is not really like you", said Farida as she turned to the fourth journalist, in the group.

He did not answer! Murshid quickly explained Ali's predicament: "Poor Ali! He has just been sentenced to the most unusual penalty ever imposed on any journal-



ist, probably anywhere in the world. He has been given a life sentence of sealed lips. Ali's crime was that he rose up in the trial of our colleague, who was sentenced to dry his pen for the rest of his life, to state after hearing the sentence: "That means our friend here can not even write his last will and testament, which is a God given right stipulated in the Koran!" Because of that, the Judge turned around and passed his other historic sentence on Ali, thus sealing his lips forever.

Farouk sympathized with Ali: "Poor Ali, Suppose he catches a cold and he cannot breathe from his nose any more. On the other hand, what about eating?"

"The Judge, was not to be outdone by such minor difficulties," replied Murshid, further explaining, "For the first problem, His Honor ordered the Ministry of Health to prevent the flu virus from ever approaching his nostrils, while at the same time, he ordered that the Higher Tender Committee of the Government to announce an international tender for a life-time supply of vitamin C injections, to be financed by the donor community and to be administered twice a day to Ali by the Minister of Health himself, to increase Ali's defenses against the common cold. For the second problem, he ordered the reinstatement of Ali's umbilical cord, adapting it for use externally with a modified connection and valve to the INTERNET."

"But why to the INTERNET?" asked Farida, somewhat puzzled by the odd connection.

"You should never underestimate the super intelligence of Their Honors, as Farouk helped to clarify any perplexing questioning of the Judge's wis-

dom, "His honor himself explained that the international agencies and non-governmental organizations are all connected to the INTERNET. Since these establishments are so astute about defending and supporting people, who forget that freedom of expression *must have its limitations*, whether on matters of international relations or judicial decisions, then it should be up to them to find ways to provide the support that Ali will need to make up for his inability to eat from his closed mouth. He added that he has 'made it easier for by relieving them of the reactivation of his umbilical cord'. Now it should not be difficult for them to find means to give Ali the nutrition he will need to carry on by using the INTERNET to get it to his umbilical cord. The Judge also indicated how merciful his judgement was by noting that this decision avoids any further processing for public fund allocations from the State Budget, which is 'more difficult than the reactivation of his umbilical cord'.

Murshid brought out one problem still pending: "Ali

is unable to find out where his mother threw away his umbilical cord. Accordingly, the Ministry of Social Affairs has been asked by the Council of Ministers to order the Maternal and Infant Care Unit to look into the matter."

Farida commented: "With the government so busy on such very important issues it is understandable now why the Yemeni - Saudi standoff issue could not be addressed decisively."

* A popular Lebanese novelist whose work used historical events, especially those that date back to early Islamic history, as background for his efforts.

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Please call
tel: 205201, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Hassan Al-Zubaidi

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A Yemeni Company announces the following vacancies:

1. Sales Manager. Requirements:

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- ### 2. Secretary. Fluent in English language, writing and speaking. Should be able to use computer and have good experience in this field.

Those who find themselves are fit to these two vacancies have to call at: 220883 -Taiz, or Mobile: 7924884.

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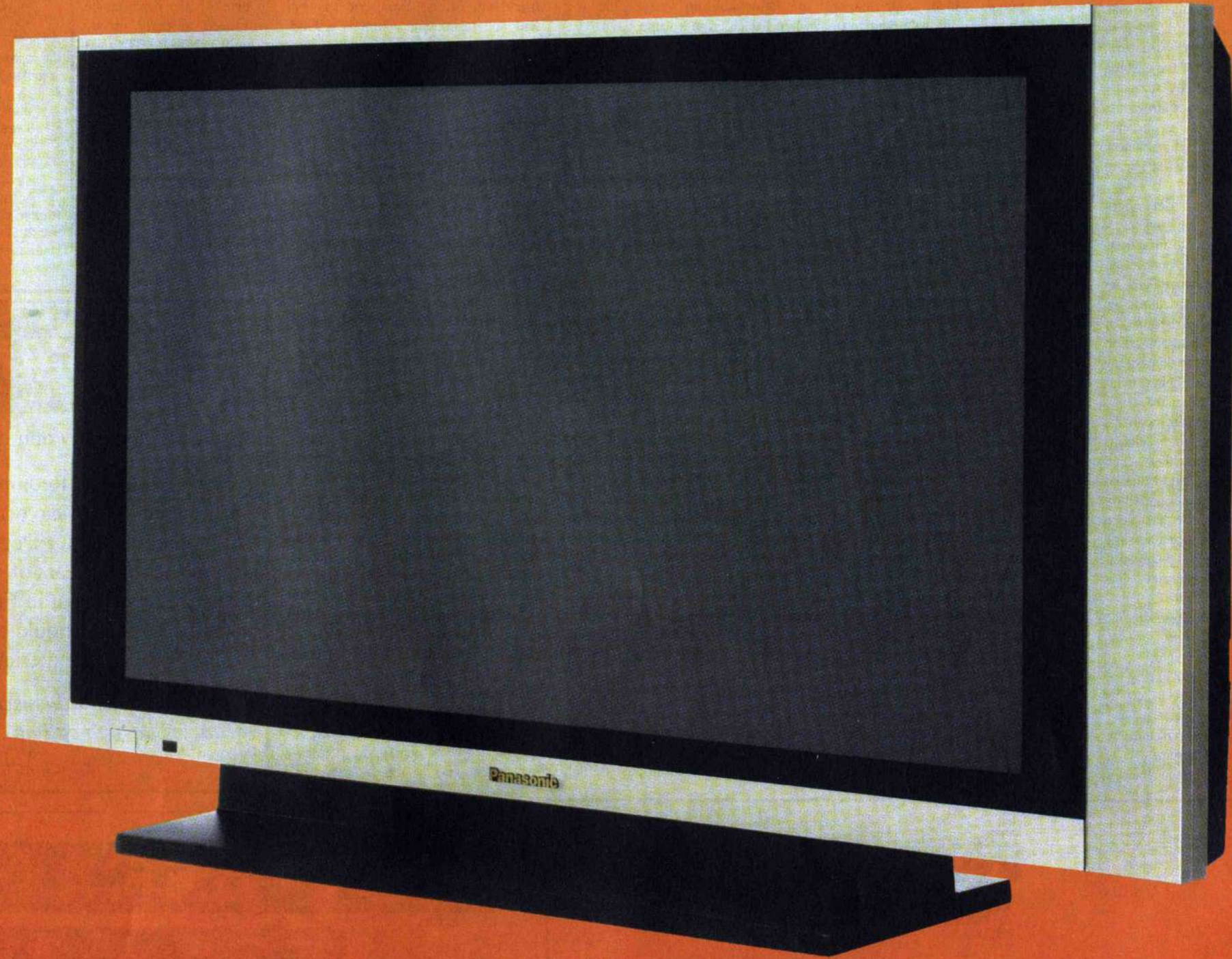
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cd/m²*) and contrast (550:1). Its sharp pictures and natural, true-to-life colours make for an extremely impressive viewing experience.

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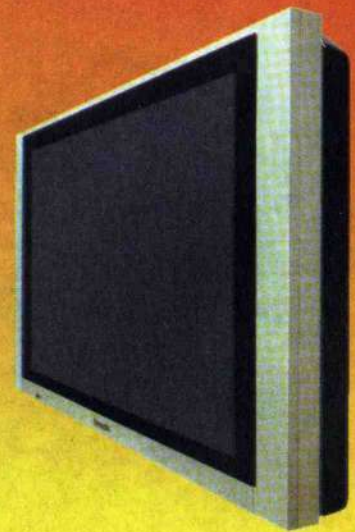
The revolution is already under way, with Panasonic's PLASMA-TAU at the forefront.

* Measuring the panel separately.

The Finest Picture Quality Ever Achieved in a Plasma Display

PLASMA TAU is the result of Panasonic's efforts to re-engineer the conventional plasma display panel from the ground up. Our newly developed Asymmetrical Cell Structure Panel, advanced Plasma AI (Adaptive Brightness Intensifier) technology, and Dual Scanning

Method have solved the picture-quality problems of conventional plasma panels. Boasting superior image quality rivaling that of CRTs, PLASMA TAU delivers extremely vivid whites (11,000K) with unprecedented brightness and superb contrast.

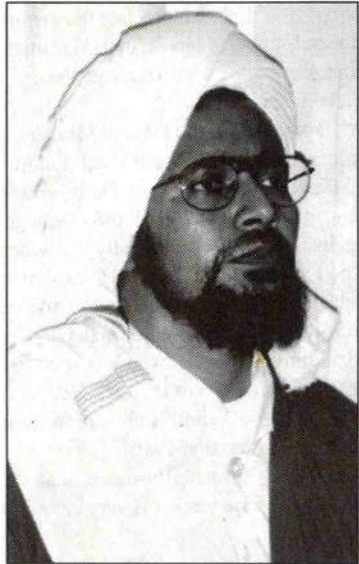


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 **ALFA Co. Ltd.**

The Islamic Religious Leader Omar Mohammed Ben Hafid: A Biography

The Yemeni Hadarems have played a very essential role in spreading Islam in different spheres of the whole globe, especially in East Asia and Africa. They are distinguished for their manners and techniques to



preach Islam which are well-recorded in history. For they always play the key role model in preaching and practicing what they preach. The Hadramout school has become an synonymous with Islamic approach for preaching a way of life.

During the centuries that have elapsed one can certainly see the influence of this school that has expanded in geographic terms, taken roots, and its members increased in number. One of the most distinguished and outstanding figures of this school is the Islamic religious leader Omar Mohammed Ben Hafid.

He was born on May 27, 1963 and is endowed with many talents and faculties which have been devoted to preaching religious canons on the basis of his virtuous forerunners. He has dedicated himself to applying all the apt and convenient means to disseminate his mission among the people. His strong mastery of the art of oration as well as his spontaneous way of speaking and dealing with others bestows on him another advantage that makes him bring together a large number of supporters. He is also very modest, well behaved and possesses high morals. He also has a good command of philology, linguistics, Hadith. He learned the Holy Qura'an by heart at an early age. The scholar was brought up in a scientific and literary environment in Tarim, Hadramout. His father, Mohammed Salem Ben Hafid, was the scholar of Gahbath. He used to hold highly scientific status and was a famous preacher, poet and historian. He was kidnapped during the early 1970s by the socialists who used to rule the South at that time.

Mr. Omar travelled to Al-Baida'a in 1982 where he joined the mufti (someone who officially explains Muslim law) Mohammed Abdullah

Al-Hada'ar. He stayed there for ten years and devoted himself to acquiring and teaching sciences at Al-Rebat.

After the unification in 1992, he went back to Hadramout and settled at first in Al-Sheher Town where he re-established Al-Rebat Mostaffa Institute before he went back to his home town Tarim and established Al-Mostafa House for Islamic Studies. He chose the date of kidnapping of his mother "May 6, 1997- 29.12. 1417 as the date of inaugurating it."

He also re-established scientific institutes for teaching Islamic sciences and philology in specific. Such institutes were re-opened in East of Tarim, Kaidoon at Wadi Dawa'an, and Al-Ormah the West of Sayoon, Al-Hasi to the East of Al-Shaher and Rebaten at Al-Mokala.

The scholar Omar Ben Hafid is a well-travelled man aiming at preaching Islam and spreading his sciences either inside or outside Yemen. He has visited the two Holy places many times. He also visited the UAE, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania and Comoro Islands. He has managed to convince many people of sending their children to study the principles of the Islamic mission in Al-Mostafa House in Tarim. The scholar is the father of three sons and six girls.

His works:

- 1) Poetical Works in four volumes.
- 2) "Al-Thakhirah Al-Mosharefa" meaning the "Honorable Asset of What a Muslim Has to Do."
- 3) Sharh Mandomat Al-Sanad of Imam meaning the "Explanation of the Verification Set of the Imam Ibrahim Ben Akil."
- 4) Mokhtar of The Prophet Hadith.
- 5) Noor Al-Iman of Habib Al-Rahman.
- 6) Al-Deya'a Al-Lama'a Bedekr Mawled Al-Nabi Al-Shafa'a

Al-Mostafa House for Islamic Studies:

Tarim, Hadramout

It consists of a national school for teaching primary, secondary as well as secondary education. The house is licensed by the Ministry of Education. Teaching in the House continues for four years after the secondary school just like Al-Azhar University. The first batch which graduated from the House was in 1998 and their number was 30; three of whom were Yemenis while the rest were from Indonesia. During the current year, 2000, the number of those studying in the House stands at 585 of whom 328 students from abroad while the rest are from Yemen governorates including Sana'a, Dhamar and Haga.

Every year in summer the House opens teaching courses for various education stages where at least 1500 students join in. In the Institute there is a complex of modern buildings that is located at Edid district, South-West of Tarim. It consists of two floors containing 44 rooms and two big dining halls besides the education building that includes 8 classes and a mosque of two floors that can accommodate 2500 worshippers. There is also a big library containing 10,000 books, a swimming pool, water tanks, clinic, and other facilities as well.

The house holds contemporary courses of half a year, a year and two years duration and most of those students who attend such courses come from foreign coun-

tries. The following chart is a display of the country-wise break up of foreigners studying in the House during the year 2000:

Country	No. of students
Indonesia	210
Tanzania	24
Saudi Arabia	20
Oman	15
Malaysia	15
Comoro Islands	10
Kenya	10
Egypt	6
USA	4
Britain	3

There are also students from UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Somalia, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Thailand, Italy and Russia.

GOOD NEWS
FOR EXPATRIATES & FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN YEMEN
NO WORK FROM 14-20 MARCH. DON'T FALL INTO A DEPRESSION
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Continued from Page 1:

The Press Continues to Face Hassles

Jamal Amer and the editor in chief of Al-Wahdawi Abdul Aziz Sultan was kept under investigation for two consecutive months in the Print and Publication Prosecution which has referred the case to a court. The referred court kept the matter for some time putting off passing the verdict for four times. In the fifth time the verdict was finally passed with this aggressive con-

tent. Security Forces in Ibb governorate have already attacked Mr. Jamal Amer at his house after two days of publication of the article and jailed him in the Central Prison in obedience to orders by the Interior Minister Hussain Mohammed Arab who used to take interest personally through the telephone to know about the incitors and the sources of informa-

tion. The newspaper has filed an official appeal against the verdict on the very next day of passing the verdict, i.e. 23/2/2000.

On the other hand, a number of press organizations and those interested in human rights including the Reporters Sans Frontiers and the Federation of Arab Journalists urged the Present Ali Abdullah Saleh to use his constitutional right and stop this aggressive verdict. They have noted that this verdict directly threatens freedom of the press and creates an atmosphere of fear among journalists. The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate in an appeal report to the President of the Republic noted that this heavy punishment does not have any legal sanction and is out of proportion and contrary to the principle of freedom of expression in accordance with the relevant laws, especially the Print and Publication Law that governs the journalism activity.

These verdicts and court terms will be presented before the international organizations, especially those interested in freedom of the press, the syndicate added. This case along with other cases will also be included in these organizations' annual and regular reports and circulars which are to be found in all the press media and communication space

channels all over the world.

The syndicate has requested the President Ali Abdullah Saleh in his capacity as the chairman of the Supreme Court Council, to interfere to stop implementing this sentence to protect the image of Yemen in the eyes of the world and to prove the credibility of the government to uphold the democratic system that is based upon plurality and freedom of the press.

The PNUP that publishes Al-Wahdawi newspaper has viewed this verdict as politically motivated. Besides, there is some relationship between the verdict passed and the pressure exerted by the Saudi side on Yemen culminating in this verdict, some sources doubted. A number of journalists are organizing a sit-in in front of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to exercise pressure on the court so that the official appeal presented by the newspaper would be accepted, sources told Yemen Times.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Sultan, editor in chief of Al-Wahdawi newspaper, told Yemen Times "The verdict was not at all anticipated and that it was a clear-cut signal

dict was politically motivated despite the existence of the Printing and Publication Law which was set aside when dealing with our case. I believe that there is no law that prohibits a journalist from writing in any other part of the world.

Moreover, the article published is not more than an opinion article and is not a news item so that it can be said to be true or false. This verdict negatively affects the democratic transition in the country. We are sorry to say this especially as we are entering a new millennium, for we should have overcome such pitfalls long time ago. To face the verdict made against the newspaper, we have presented an official appeal and we hold out hopes that we will find some judges who will be highly aware of the credibility attached to their jobs.

We highly appreciate all the press and space channels that have responded positively and constituted a strong pressure-force that denounced this aggressive verdict. There are some other means that can be followed to convey our ideas to the public in accordance with the preva-

lent laws. It is our mission which we will never give up."

Jamal Amer said in a statement to Yemen Times "The verdict was a complete shock for me and it was a real insult to the democratic system and Yemen's reputation. It is absolutely groundless and is not at all reasonable. He who follows up the sessions will never fail to notice the confusion of the prosecution in determining the reason behind the case."

"I am really proud of all that support by journalists, the official press and the opposition. I also appreciate the sympathy and support I have received from the first secretary at the Dutch embassy in Sana'a," he added.

At another level, the Deputy Minister of Information, Mr. Mohammed Radman Al-Zurqah to Al-Thawra Daily yesterday that the content of these sentence against Mr. Amer was totally misunderstood by the media people. He explained that the court's punishment to Amer to stop the profession of journalism was something additional which is specified in Article No. 106 in the Law No. 25 of 1990 for Press and Publication Law with maximum one year.

Mr. Mr Al-Zurqah illustrated that the substance of the verdict is very clear if it is well-read.

AL-QIMMA

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Franchise owner of Pizza Hut Restaurants in the Republic of Yemen is interested in a secretary regardless of gender with the following qualifications:-

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- 3- Representative.

National Strategy on Yemeni Women Labor

Organized by the Ministry of Labor and Technical Training, in cooperation with the United Nation Development Fund for Women World Labor Organization and European Union, an extensive meeting for discussing a draft of a national strategy for the Yemeni women work was held from 21-23



February 2000. Yemen Times staff met with some of the participants in the meeting to know more about the outcomes of the meeting and their impressions. Mr. Fadl Al-Bakel, chairman of Culture and Information in the General Federation of Trade Unions said "The procedures and policies included in the draft project of the national strategy for the Yemeni women labor are ought to be brought before the public so as to vindicate the principles of equality among men and women even at their minimum levels."

"Other activities and programs should help decrease the political, cultural, scientific and social obstacles impeding women from integrating in the market work. Attempts to marginalize women should also be thwarted and all the precautions should be taken to bridge the gap between women and men. Besides, the weak groups should be protected as well as be given support.

With a view to catering to the practical needs of women, procedures should be streamlined to get jobs, income, training, education, chances of starting projects and social security should all go hand in hand in supporting and strengthening their strategic needs. Women should be given chances to work and to play a key-role in decision-making. So as to meet our goals, it is important to raise the awareness of our society regarding the significance of women's work."

Dr. Mary Kowaar, Regional Advisor for Working Woman in the International Labor Organization, said "We as an international organization provide the technical support for the Ministry of Labor and Technical Training in the Republic of Yemen. We help the Ministry in producing laws and legislations pertaining to the rights of working woman. We wanted to conclude this meeting with a clear-cut strategy and a national prospect to support the Ministry of labor and Technical Training to perform its duties."

Tahani Saeed, chairman of the Social Gender Statistics Department in the Central Organization for Statistics, said "My impressions about the extensive meeting on discussing the national strategy on woman labor is that it is held to specify some important policies for women's work. The participants practically and actively participated in the conference and all their suggestions were very much related to the difficulties as well as hardships faced by women. The conference was actually a valuable endeavor to promote women's conditions and change their present situation for the better."

Fatemah Mohammed Yasslem, chairman of the Administration of Developing Working Women at the Ministry of Labor and Technical Training, Aden office, said "Women and their connection to economic activity and market work is one of the most important contemporary issues in the lives of the Yemeni women. It has become socially, economically, culturally important to form a national strategy for working Yemeni women so as to promote their work. The Ministry of Labor is trying its best to integrate women in the different developing activities in our society.

How much I, along with other chairwomen of women in other governorates of the Republic, have wished that we would be given the chance to participate in preparing this draft and that it would be generalized all over the governorates of the republic so that all will be able to contribute to the enrichment of this strategy. I consider my being here as a way to compensate what has been ignored while preparing this draft which we hope will help modify some laws that we believe will do a lot to integrate women in the market work, especially as the standing order of the private syndicates falls short of women rights in work.

I hope that we will be able to adopt some procedures that will help deal with those women who were deprived of work and that they will be trained in accordance with the needs of market work."

Noor Mohammed Ba-Obad, national chairman of the Project of Integrating Woman in Development, said "Holding this extensive meeting to discuss the draft of the strategy of women's work is a courageous step that should be approved. It is actually a national concern that this great number of qualified women are ignored and not made use of. It does not mean that the situation of men is any better and that they do not need training. However, working women need more care as well as greater opportunities of work, especially as the impact of economic crises is a little bit stronger on them as they are mostly deprived of education as well as work. They may also be forced to early marriages, unplanned delivery, exposed to aggressive divorces, subjected to emigrating husbands, etc. They may also be compelled by family burdens and at the same time they may be lacking the basic necessities of education and training.

Besides, our community still holds conservative ideas about women. Therefore, it is highly important to develop the awareness of people to the importance of women's work, taking into consideration their duties as mothers, wives, and housewives."

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THE COMPETITION IS OVER.. NOW IT IS TIME TO CELEBRATE

Tremendous success for Yemen Times

Without doubt, the Millennium Competition of Yemen Times has been of great success to the newspaper, to the sponsors, and to the printed press in general. The competition attracted tens of thousands of readers, and gained popularity that exceeded borders. We even received coupons from neighboring countries as well.

As one says it, "You were able to do what the whole government couldn't, as no competition on TV, on radio, or even on printed governmental newspaper was able to achieve what you achieved. You have the most valuable first prize in this season."

Sponsors more than Satisfied

What the sponsors have said about the

competition was astonishing.

Look at the SAMSON company for example. After their sponsoring of the competition, they had their highest sales ever in Mango Kaha juices.

Look at the Artex company in Sanaa. They have been receiving calls from thousands of readers to know the answer. Their products are know among the most known brands in the country. The same applies for Ba Marouf Suzuki, United Insurance, and all the other companies. They have gained a lot of popularity in such a short time and hence, boosted their business at the start of the new millennium. After the other companies heard about the success of the competition. They regretted not participating in the competition, in the illusion that they would waste their money like they did in other similar campaigns. They did not realize that Yemen Times is different and unique. Today, we have confirmed over 10 companies to participate in the next year's competition.

added more credibility to the clean and shiny record of Yemen Times. Despite the lost credibility in some competition organizers, today Yemen Times reached an extremely high level of credibility that encouraged many new advertisers and sponsors to get in touch with Yemen Times to future cooperation.



Time to Celebrate

With the great achievement accomplished in the last few months, We in Yemen Times decided to hand the awards of the competition in front of the guests that would be attending the Yemen Times 9th anniversary at the Taj Sheba Hotel on the 28th of February. It is time to show the whole country that Yemen Times is rising strong despite the death of its founder. It has proven that it is founded to stay!

An Honest Draw

The honesty and fairness in the draw of the competition had



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Continued from Page 1:

Statement of the Winner of the YR 1,000,000 in the Yemen Times Millennium Competition

"I have been following Yemen Times since 1992. I admired the newspaper since the first time I read it. What mostly impressed me was the attention it gives to its readers in providing the unique and interesting articles and reports about local and international issues concerning Yemen. I also was delighted to see how its simple and effective language had helped a lot of students enhance their reading abilities and English language in general."

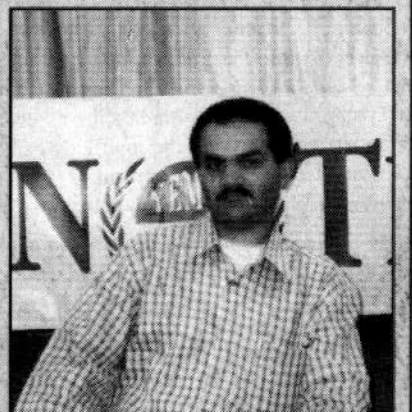
"I participated in the competition by mere chance. I stayed awake the whole night just for the sake of completing the coupons. I kept on calling the sponsoring companies and I went to the places where I could get the accurate answers from. I even went to the Shammr Shopping center to shop and to get the answer of the second question. I worked hard on getting the questions, and it was worthwhile. I had strong confidence in the honesty of Yemen Times in making a just draw in an appropriate and correct manner. Just as I expected, the draw was fair and was done in front of the public at the Yemen Times premises, where the gate was open for all to monitor and watch the draw. I also was told that the draw was recorded on video, which further emphasizes on the fact that the draw was carried out fairly."

"Yemen Times called -the telephone number I wrote on the coupon- 10 minutes after the announcement of the 1st prize winner (me). Because I was in out of town on that day, I was in a mission in Shabwa, my original homeland. My friend Nayef Al-Mansouri answered the phone and was told that I won the first prize. He then called me to tell me the great news. I couldn't believe the news. I couldn't believe I was the winner of the YR 1,000,000, simply because I participated by mere chance. Frankly speaking, I was encouraged to participate after reading the phrase "Who knows? You could be the YR 1,000,000 winner."

"When I was called to the Yemen Times office in Sanaa, I saw my name listed as the first prize winner. Only then did I believe that I won the prize. I will use this amount of money to enhance my standard of living and cannot think of much to do with it now. I also would like to wish all the other participants who did not win in the competition more luck in future competitions. I would also want to encourage them to participate in the coming competition of Yemen Times, because the newspaper's reputation and honesty are the two main factors that encouraged me, and should encourage the rest."

"At the end of the day, even if I hadn't won this competition, I still would have trust in the honesty and fairness of the draw that took place in a truly appropriate and just manner, and hence would still be satisfied with the results. Thank you Yemen Times."

Salem Mohamed Salem Kuraif - Winner of the 2000 Millennium Competition



Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet

I. What to say ...

Health

Abdul and Khalid: Good morning, teacher.
Dr. Sahu: Good morning guys. How are you all?
Abdul and Khalid: We are all right, doctor, but what happened to you? We haven't met for over a month now. What happened?
Dr. Sahu: I was ill.
Abdul: We are sorry to hear that. What was the problem?
Dr. Sahu: I suffered from some form of heart ailment.
Khalid: What exactly was wrong with your heart?
Dr. Sahu: Well, I used to feel dizzy after climbing stairs and could not walk long distances or lift heavy objects without panting.
Abdul: Did you develop these complaints recently, that is, after you came to Yemen?
Dr. Sahu: Oh, no. I had all these symptoms for a long time; say, for over fifteen years. In fact, I underwent a heart surgery ten years ago.
Khalid: What was the result of the surgery? Did you get relief from the complaints?
Dr. Sahu: Yes, I did. It was a temporary relief, though. But now those problems seem to recur.
Abdul: What does the doctor advise now?
Dr. Sahu: The doctor has put me on diet and wants me to stick to it. He has recommended regular exercises and a lot of rest besides taking the prescribed medicines.

Khalid: We also request you to start taking your health more seriously.
 By the way, what kind of diet is recommended for you?
Dr. Sahu: It is a high fiber, low cholesterol, low salt diet. At the same time it must have with it all the protein and mineral needed.
Abdul: Please follow the doctor's advice meticulously. Your health is as valuable to us as to you.
Dr. Sahu: I shall try my best. Thanks a lot.
Abdul and Khalid: Thank you. See you later.

II. How to say it correctly

The following sentences contain an error in some part. Can you locate the error and correct it?

- 1) The tea is a popular drink.
- 2) In this way, the game came to end.
- 3) I have lost a watch that my brother gave me.
- 4) Make him stand by car.
- 5) I was born on twenty third July, 1947.

III. How to express it in one word:

- 1) That which can not be conquered.
- 2) That which cannot be heard.
- 3) That which cannot be read.
- 4) That which cannot be seen.
- 5) That which cannot be recovered.

IV. Choose the correct spelling of words from the alternatives given:

- 1) amuse, amouge, amouse, amuge
- 2) angrī, angry, angree, angrey
- 3) answer, anser, ansar, ansher
- 4) appeal, apel, aple, apple
- 5) Apreel, Apreil, Aperial, April

V. Quotable Quote:

"There are hundreds of languages in the world. One smile says it all."

YOUTH FORUM

Dawn of a New Era
 Let the noble thoughts glitter in our hearts and brighten our lives and let them lead us to the edge of the zenith where we can see the sunrise far away in the horizon.

Adeeb A.S. Qasem
 Faculty of engineering

He Knows
 He knows what I want to say
 He feels what I feel
 He holds all my sorrows

What ever just I feel
 Whenever I am in problems
 He solves them all
 He's that chosen one
 Do you know whom I mean?
 How can I say how much I love him
 Words fail to describe him
 How much do I adore him!
 Though it is too little for him

He says he will fight for me
 The devil for the dark nights
 He says he will bring the stars for me
 To brighten our days
 He says I will make you happy
 Every single night and day

How can I express how I love him
 All Words are too little for him
 How can I say I adore him
 Tough it's too little for him.

Wala'a Al-Baidani

Dr. Saqqaf: The Man who Commands the Respect of All

What attracted me in the first place to the late Dr Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf was that he was an ambitious energetic young man whose head was swarmed with ideas on what he could do for his country Yemen.

My first encounter with him was before the elections of 1993, a period when the political arena was bustling and bustling with various trends and absence of clear political visions. Conflicts were at their highest points between power centers, party blocs, tribal groupings and those having interest in such turmoil atmosphere.

We were looking for patriotically oriented youth not yet contaminated with the ills of corruption that was rapidly spreading in our country particularly after the unification. We were searching for well behaved youth enjoying good morals, and away from tribal and partisan fanaticism. That was the situation and the state of affairs comprehended by the youth then and indeed it was clearly and profoundly understood and realized by Dr Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf.

This common concern had brought us close to each other and decided to work together under the slogan of "the homeland above all". Thus Dr Al-Saqqaf decided to run the parliamentary elections of 1993. Electors at his constituency placed great confidence in him as their faithful representative and among the sincerely patriotic men in Yemen with progressive orientation. Unfortunately he could not score the votes needed to win a seat in those parliamentary elections and that was owing to many political reasons. Nevertheless he has won the love of the people and their respect during his lifetime and following his martyrdom on June 2, 1999, the people mourned him in a most magnificent referendum of love, respect and confidence. It was exciting and awesome vote of confidence awarded to the man whom the people have always loved and respected, Dr Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf.

Mohammed Bin Sallam, Yemen Times

Yemen Times: A Glittering Decade of Success

Yemen Times is celebrating the elapse of a decade of unique experience in the field of journalism in Yemen as the first English-language newspaper. Yemen Times' age is as that of the Yemen's Unity and this is what its founder really desired. Despite the fact that its period of experience in journalism is short, it has proved itself as an outstanding one among independent newspapers gaining the respect of local as well as foreign readers.

It has never been leading a traditional profession and its founder, Dr. Saqqaf, did not think of fame or material gains. He had rather wanted it to carry out a mission in society. He wanted to be the mouthpiece of the suppressed and needy people as well as a mirror reflecting the people's ambitions and aspirations. Through Yemen Times, many people inside and outside Yemen have come to know him as a great economist and advocate of human rights.

Mahboob Ali
 President of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate

Thank you Subhi !

"When people like Yemen Times, they keep on preserving it like preserving precious things". This expression was said by the young man Subhi Nasser Ahmed Al-Zuraiqi.

This young man was graduated from the University of Sana'a, Faculty of Education, English Department. He began to read Yemen Times from the first issue on February 1991, and kept all issues up to now. On this occasion, Yemen Times will award a certificate of Merit to this young man, and a free subscription of one copy for each issue.

The Fourth Session of Arab Judicial and Inspection Leaders Concluded



Yasser M. Ahmed
 Yemen Times

The Fourth Session of Arab Judicial and Inspection Leaders was inaugurated on February 16, 2000, at the Higher Judicial Institution in Sana'a. This session was organized by the Arab Center for Legal and Judicial Researches in the Arab League.

It was attended by the Prime Minister, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Eryani, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and other thirteen delegations from different countries. A number of papers were presented by those delegations and discussed by all the participants. They focussed on judgement and judicial inspection. In addition, they recommended a mechanism to discover the lacunae in judgement and put the appropriate judge in the right place. The session also discussed the way through which administration of justice can be more efficient. This session is one of the different activities launched by the Arab Ministers Board since its inception. This session is a valuable step towards

exchanging points of view and recommendations in the field. The papers also focussed on giving independence to the judicial authority and separating it from other wings.

It was felt that judicial authority should be respected, and a judge must be independent. However, the papers focussed on the right choice of judge, giving priority to those who are competent. Some of the papers emphasized freedom of the press and how it should be separated from judiciary. At the same time, those papers concentrated on the inputs and how it is important to have strong and independent judgement.

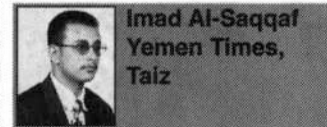


The papers confirmed that judgement should be independent in order to be objective. The session was concluded on February 23, 2000. It came up with different recommendations. One of those recommendations is appointing the 15th of February of the next year as the date for the 5th session at the venue could be any Arab country. All of the participants stressed the important of implementation of recommendations within the constitutional boundaries.

Regarding the independence of judgement and its effect on achieving justice, the participants recommended establishment of an independent judicial system. This can be achieved through protecting it from information media. They have to find the appropriate means through which they can meet the finances without depending on the executive. They also should take care of judges and give them enough salaries in order to avoid such negative phenomena.

The participants recommended development of a machinery for administration of justice through specialized institutions, and organizing training courses for those who are working in the judiciary. We should gain from the new information and telecommunications technology to utilize the same in judgement. Regarding the typical report of judgement, all participants were unanimous that they would hand in different samples of reports to the center.

In Memory of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf



Imad Al-Saqqaf
 Yemen Times,
 Taiz

We started from scratch in a country where democracy was in its infancy. Ever since its establishment, it has been committed to freedom, democracy and human rights. Yemen Times was established by the pioneer of Journalism Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf on 27 February 1991. He had been fully committed and devoted to these goals until he passed away. From establishment to his death, lies a long, tiring, and challenging journey, but, interesting. I have been associated with Dr. Abdul Aziz since the establishment of the newspaper. He

used to play the role model in sacrifice and patriotism. He was always optimistic and used to take the initiatives in anything pertaining to the development of our society. So often he used to tell us "The true role of journalists is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." I have held so many positions such as an accountant, printing supervisor and presently Taiz Bureau Chief.

There is a big difference between the beginning and our present state which goes all-out to prove that the founder as well as the staff of the newspaper have done a good job. The only thing we are ought to do to give Dr. Abdul Aziz his due right is to follow his footsteps no matter whatever happens.

His legacy will go on

Dearest,
 First of all I would like to express my respect and admiration to your progress and achievement which you have made through ten hard years defending the human rights, mentioning mistakes and fighting against bad deeds and corruption, what we really miss is the great man who founded for a press freedom, who paid his precious life for his belief, who gave his people and his country his best: Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf was and he will still national symbol for every patriot in our country.
 Walid, Raydan and the whole family and Yemen Times staff give us the feeling that Dr Abdul Aziz is still alive among us. Keep it up our beloved friends go on shouldering his legacy. May his soul rest in peace, and God bless you and give you the power to complete his high minded message.

Hooria M. Ahmed

Vacancy



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- Prepares monthly report explaining the Revenue variance between actual and budget and between actual and outlook. Obtains Operating, Capital and General & Administrative variance analyses from the Planning group and distributes these reports to the International Accounting group on a monthly basis.
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Yemen and Slovenia TVs to Produce Two Documentary Films on Yemen

Mr. Miran Hvala B. Sc. is an engineer and economist from Slovenia. Slovenia got its independence from former Federation of Yugoslavia in 1991. It is a well-developed country bordered by Italy and Austria to the West. It is in the process to be a member of European Union. Mr. Miran worked for the Slovenian Radio and TV. He held a number of positions: electronic engineer on the transmitter department, head of the engineering department of the transmitters and assistant of General Director for financial management. He has come to Yemen several times. The first visit was in 1982 when he came as an electronic engineer for maintenance and training of staff on the high power medium wave transmitter—Sana'a. He fell in love with Yemen and this motivated him to design and later to realize with his staff the project of 5 TV relay stations network in 1983-1985. This was followed by two other projects. Now he is again in Yemen for preparing new documentary films on Yemen. Yemen Times Managing Editor, Mohammed Al-Hatem Qadhi met him and filed the following:



films about Yemen. We are starting with two films. One film is called "The Land of Fertile Sand". The second is about Socotra called "The Island of Dragon's Bloods Tree." The first film will talk about life and traditions and archeology. The first point is to present the beauty of the country, the architecture of the country and its history. The story of the film will start in Qabr Hood in Hadramout. Some legends say that the Yemenis originally came from this area. In "The Land of Fertile Sand" we well all the times follow that there are some green fields in the desert there are green fields in the mountains. So the main point will be life through water coming from the earth.

director is a very known film director in my country and a winner of one of the world famous prizes called Gold Butterfly Prize in the field of documentary film. Our ambition is to have these films compete with other films in international festivals. This should be a big promotion to the Yemeni TV as a co-producer. In this way Yemen TV will be participating, as I know, for the first time in such a festival. For its side, Yemen TV's contribution will be a companion who will be all the time with us and a video cameraman. Surly we have a contract for this co-production and we are obliged to give one professional copy to Yemen TV.

Q: What will Yemen benefit from these films?
A: The films are about Yemen. It will be transmitted on Slovenian satellite covering the whole of Europe. It will also be transmitted on the Yemen TV to cover the Arab world. We will also participate in some documentary films festivals and we hope there will be interest in them. This will be a good opportunity for Yemen because the film will be transmitted in different foreign countries. The film will show the beauty of the country and present the various kinds of architecture and some of important archeological places. Introducing the country in this way will be a tourist propaganda even this is not our main aim.

Q: When did you start the project?
A: I was here in 1994 to make test shots then I came 1998 twice. All things were concluded in these visits. My team will arrive in Yemen on 19 and we will start soon from the next morning. Then we will stay for three days in Sanaa. I have already prepare what should be done next in Marib, Shabwa and Hadramout. On 3 March we will go to Socotra island, stay there for one week, and coming back then to Sanaa to finish shooting for this part. We are coming again in November to continue filming in other parts of the country and I hope that the films will be ready in the beginning of the next year.

Q: Why have you chosen Socotra in particular to be the story of a whole film?
A: Socotra is a very magnificent

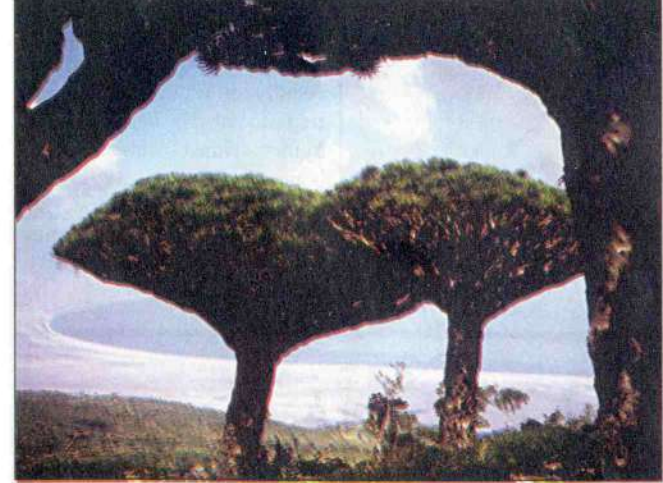
island. I suppose that many Yemenis know little about it. Personally, I was informed about Socotra from different sources, the most important one was a study done by a Russian scientist that I found at the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. Then I decided to go there and I visited Socotra in November last year. I found it more exciting than I had expected. According to geological history the island was very isolated. Its animals, plants and even people used to dwell in a very specific way far away from Africa and far away from the Arab world. Among 850 plant species, 280 are in endemic, this means that they are to be found only on Socotra. There are also some endemic animals, particularly birds. 80% of the reptiles in the islands is endemic. The island was populated three thousand years ago. People came from southern Arab peninsula mostly from Mahra area and because of a 3 thousand-year life in isolation they developed their own language called Socotri that is only spoken. I enjoyed my stay there. People are very friendly. I have never found people as friendly as Socotri people. On the other hands Socotra is now opening an airport and building an economic off-shore area and the isolation of the island should be finished. The island is absolutely undeveloped and without any tourist infrastructure. It was very important for me to find there the UNDP Socotra Biodiversity Project, headed by Dr. Edoardo Zandri researching island

and preparing the program of protecting the environment. They are well organized and they also offered us assistance in filming.

Q: What are your future plans concerning Yemen?
A: My next project is organizing the Exhibition of Yemen Culture in Slovenian capital Ljubljana. We have already received the positive response from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Yemen and it should be opened at the end of 2001.

Q: Any last word?
A: The film is supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Yemen represented by HE. Mr. Abdul Malik Mansour, Yemen Airways, Universal Travel and Tourism represented by Mr. Marco Livadiotti, YATA represented by Dr. Dietmar Quist and of course, Radio and Television Corporation of Yemen represented by Mr. Hussain Mogbel. Finally, I would like to note that the budget of our filming project has not been covered. So we kindly invite individuals and companies from Yemen and abroad who are interested in promotion of Yemen who like to sponsor or support our filming activities or who are interested in filming materials or photographs on Yemen to contact us to the following addresses:
Fax: + 967 1 273 256 NTSC
Co. Sanaa
Fax: + 386 61 1590486 Ljubljana, Slovenia
E-mail: miranhvala@hotmail.com

Q: How did the idea of the films come about?
A: The idea of the film was mine because Yemen is not known very much in my country. I have come to this country many times and I have been to most of the country's areas. I suggested to my organization that I make a series of documentary



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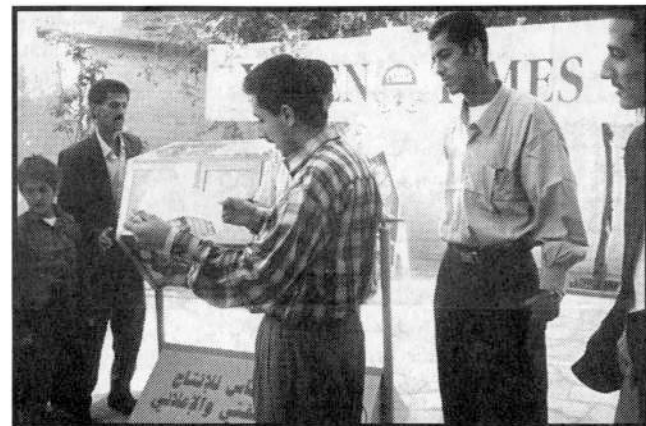
وانتهت المسابقة...

بحضور العشرات من المشاركين في مسابقة يمن تايمز ومندوبين عن بعض الشركات المساهمة، بدأ السحب لجوائز مسابقة الألفية الكبرى في جو من الشوق لمعرفة الفائز بالجائزة الأولى والتي هي "مليون ريال" في عصر السبت الماضي في مقر الصحيفة بصنعاء. وقد قررت إدارة الصحيفة ممثلة برئيس تحريرها البدء في سحب الفائزين من الأخير إلى الأول حتى يزيد الهيجان ويتمكن الذين لم يحضروا مبكراً أن يراقبوا سحب المليون ريال.



ويعد كلمة ترحيبية للحضور، التقط رئيس التحرير الأستاذ/ وليد عبد العزيز السقاف الكوبون الذي يمثل الفائز الخمسين، وكانت الجائزة تلك عبارة عن ميزان صغير. بعدها ترك رئيس التحرير المهمة إلى الأستاذ أكرم عبد الرحمن السقاف لتنظيم أمور السحب. واستمر السحب بعد ذلك لبقيّة الكوبونات بواسطة طفل وبعض الشخصيات المتواجدة.

وفي الـ 6 الجوائز الأخيرة عاد رئيس التحرير للسحب حيث سحب الجوائز السادسة والخامسة والرابعة. ثم سحب الأستاذ مختار السقاف الجائزتين الثالثة والثانية. وعند السحب الأخير، ذهبت الأنظار إلى الأستاذ محمد النظاري الذي كان أحد أقرب اصدقاء المرحوم د. عبد العزيز السقاف، فسحب كوبون سعيد الحظ الذي فاز بالجائزة الأولى (1,000,000 ريال).



وتم السحب أمام عشرات الحاضرين، ورفع رئيس التحرير الكوبون الذي لم يفتح بعد إلى السماء قائلاً "هذه هي اللحظة التي كنتم تنتظرونها بفارغ الصبر. صاحب هذا الكوبون هو صاحب المليون ريال" ثم أخذ بفتحها بروية حتى نطق باسم الفائز أمام الحشد الذي أمامه والذي تسمرت أعينهم على الورقة. كان جزءاً من الحضور مرتبكاً ويعرق بغزارة، البعض بدا عليه علامات اليأس، والأغلبية التي صمتت صمتاً تاماً بدا عليها الترقب والانتظار وكان تلك الثواني مرت كمائة سنة، كما قال أحد الحضور "لقد ظننت أن هذه اللحظة لن تأتي أبداً!!"

ولكن في النهاية، حتى ولو لم تعجب نتيجة السحب البعض، وحتى لو لم يفز بعض الذين شاركوا بالمئات بل بالآلاف من الكوبونات بالجائزة الأولى، يبقى أن لا ننسى بأن السحب تم أمام الجميع بشكل نزيه لاقى الاستحسان من قبل جميع القراء الذين أعجبوا بالتنظيم الجيد للسحب، والامانة التي تمت بها بالمقارنة بمسابقات أخرى لم تلاق مثل هذا الاهتمام والنزاهة.

فهنيئاً للفائز الأول وحظاً أوفر لبقيّة المشاركين في مسابقات



الترتيب	الجائزة	الفائز
1	مليون ريال	سالم محمد سالم كريف- صنعاء
2	غرفة نوم	حسن محمد عبده على الشرعبي- صنعاء
3	ثلاجة	محي الدين على غالب- صنعاء
4	غسالة	خالد راجح على عوض الوجيهي- تعز
5	طباخة	فيصل محمد ذياب حيدر- تعز
6	تذكرة سفر لعمان والعودة	عمار سيف عبد القادر غانم الرياصي- تعز
7	إقامة في فندق شمر لليلتين في جناح ممتاز (260 دولار)	محمد علي هيثم - صنعاء
8	إقامة في فندق شمر لليلة واحدة في جناح رئاسي (250 دولار)	محمد عبده محمد الحاج- عدن
9	إقامة في فندق شمر لليلة في جناح فاخر (150 دولار)	سمية عبدالله عبد الخالق عبد الرب- تعز
10	إقامة في فندق شمر لليلة في جناح فاخر (150 دولار)	حكيم محمد علي العقيلي- صنعاء
11	إقامة في فندق شمر لليلة في جناح فاخر (150 دولار)	محمد علي هيثم طماح- صنعاء
12	إقامة في فندق شمر لليلتين في غرفة مزدوجة (120 دولار)	رباب قاسم سعيد عبده الاصبحي- تعز
13	إقامة في فندق شمر لليلتين في غرفة مزدوجة (120 دولار)	محمد علي هيثم طماح- صنعاء
14	مشتريات من معرض الملابس بشمر بمبلغ 20000 ريال	فيصل سعيد محمد صالح- تعز
15	مشتريات من معرض الملابس بشمر بمبلغ 15000 ريال	جميل مثنى محمد القديمي- عدن
16	مشتريات من معرض الملابس بشمر بمبلغ 10000 ريال	محمد علي هيثم طماح- صنعاء
17	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 10000 ريال	فيصل محمد عبد اللطيف- صنعاء
18	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 10000 ريال	محمد علي هيثم طماح- صنعاء
19	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 10000 ريال	محمد علي هيثم طماح- صنعاء
20	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 10000 ريال	محمد علي هيثم طماح- صنعاء
21	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 5000 ريال	محمد علي هيثم طماح- صنعاء
22	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 5000 ريال	علي حسين عبد الله موسى - المنصورة- عدن
23	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 5000 ريال	محمد علي هيثم طماح- صنعاء
24	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 5000 ريال	محمد محمد مقبل عبيد - تعز
25	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 5000 ريال	ياسر حسن أحمد حسن الأغبري- صنعاء
26	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 5000 ريال	عمر عبدالله عمر حسين - المنصورة- عدن
27	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 5000 ريال	رضوان عبد اللطيف سلطان المنسوب- صنعاء
28	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 5000 ريال	عوض أحمد سعيد بريوم - عدن
29	مشتريات من سوپر ماركت شمر بمبلغ 5000 ريال	هلا محمد العطار- عدن
30	وجبة عشاء في مطعم بلقيس لـ 6 أشخاص	محمد علي هيثم طماح- صنعاء
31	وجبة عشاء في مطعم بلقيس لـ 6 أشخاص	نظير أحمد علي اسماعيل- تعز
32	وجبة عشاء في مطعم بلقيس لـ 4 أشخاص	نوال حسن أحمد محمد الاصبحي- صنعاء
33	وجبة عشاء في مطعم بلقيس لـ 4 أشخاص	محمد أحمد ناصر مثنى - صنعاء
34	خلاطة Rotary	حسين عبد الواسع محمد فارح الصنوي- صنعاء
35	خلاطة Rotary	محمد علي هيثم - صنعاء
36	خلاطة Rotary	محمد علي هيثم - صنعاء
37	خلاطة Rotary	عمار أحمد محمد مفضل - صنعاء
38	خلاطة Promix	أحمد عايض ناجي أحمد الشايف - اليمن- تعز
39	خلاطة Promix	سحر حسن محمد ناجي فارح الدبعي - عدن
40	خلاطة Promix	محمد علي هيثم - صنعاء
41	خلاطة Promix	هيال عبد الرزاق ذياب- صنعاء
42	غلاية شاي Aroma Compact	عاد ل علي يحي الذيب - صنعاء
43	جهاز استنشوار شعر	عبد السلام أحمد هادي عبيد - تعز
44	جهاز استنشوار للشعر	طلال سعيد عبد الواسع القرشي - صنعاء
45	جهاز استنشوار شعر	محمد مهيبوب عبد الواسع المجاهد - تعز
46	خلاطة بهارات	ربا خالد عبدالله علي - صنعاء
47	خلاطة بهارات	صلاح سعيد عوض مدرك - المكلا
48	خلاطة بهارات	أحمد محمد حيدر الكوري - عدن
49	ميزان	مختار محمد عبده سعيد - صنعاء
50	ميزان	فهد عبد الملك الشيباني - صنعاء