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Foreign Minister Bajammal in the Arab League Meeting in Beirut: Yemen Stresses Importance of Having Regular Arab Summits

Yemen's Foreign Minister Abdulqadir Bajammal emphasized the importance of holding regular Arab Summit meetings to discuss issues of common concern to the Arab states during the Arab League Foreign Minister's Conference held last Saturday in Beirut. "This initiative was not but a product of all the proposed measures and recommendations of the previous summits," he said.



He urged his colleagues to adopt a certain technique to regulate the Arab League meetings and discuss the emergency situations immediately and in detail in order to avoid any obstacles in the way of the

Power Cuts Disrupt Press

The past few days have been seeing the practice of the old new habit of repeated power outage in Sana'a's City for reasons known only by those in charge of electricity power at the Ministry of Electricity. Repeated power outage do not only impede the work at factories but transcend that to involve the media work, especially the press, causing confusion and chaos in this vital activity. Any journalist can work and write his articles in the candle light, but modern technology has not yet developed candle-powered equipment and therefore printing machines and computers are run solely by electricity. Repeated power failure causes damage to electric equipment like fridges, TV sets and other household appliances, owned by citizens paying electricity bills on a regular basis.

Citizens complaints against the Ministry of Electricity have become countless but the latter does turn deaf ears and refer them to their drawers. What is worse is that the government is intending to raise prices of some commodities and services including electricity. More critical is the situation with press, especially when power outage occur at times the newspapers are preoccupied in issuing their editions due to be at the hands of readers early next day. The Yemen Times newspaper was on Sunday morning a victim of power failure. All the members of its staff were very busy working on the next issue for Monday. At 10:00 a.m. on Sunday two workers from electricity authority used a ladder and climbed to the top of a nearby electricity pole, cut power cables and left the place without any prior notice, all of a sudden work inside the newspaper building came to a standstill. The newspaper administration made many contacts with the electricity authority informing the people there about the incident. The authority responded only about four hours later and the power was restored to the newspaper under the justification that cutting the power supply to the building was by mistake for another building was meant by that measure. So simple, just a mistake made by a worker, but one wonders why such mistakes are so often repeated, and when are they to stop?

Arab solidarity to address such emergency situations. He also confirmed that all these meetings should be held openly and frankly with transparency being the rule rather than the exception. Bajammal added "We have to announce to all that that our fraternal Lebanese people are not alone in their holy struggle. On the other hand he made it clear that words are not enough to Israel back out of Lebanon. What is needed are serious and practical Arab reactions against such aggressions and barbarity. Among what he also said was that Yemen will not give up its support for a comprehensive and fair peace settlement in the region. Yemen will not engage in any efforts to drive Israel back from the

Arab holy lands and will not yield to the current political, economic, cultural, and social frustrations which the Arabs are being subjected to." The meeting was held in Beirut to symbolize what is made to appear as solid Arab support for the Lebanese people in the wake of continued Israeli attacks on Lebanese civilians and civilian infrastructure facilities and since Israel has declared that the Memo of Understanding of April 1996 has, for all practical purposes ended. The one day meeting culminated in a 10 point communique which among other things suggested that even those Arab states that have normalized relations with Israel ought to review the relations, which implied that such relations can be broken as easily as they were made. In addition the Arab Foreign Ministers confirmed the need to make do on the previous commitments of the Arab League members to provide the necessary financial and logistical support to Lebanon to rebuild the destruction and the damages caused by the Israeli attacks. The meeting itself suggested that this is the first time that the Arab League came out with decisive declarations of support and was the strongest collective action since perhaps the 1973 War against Israel and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the mid 1980s. The forum was concluding with the long awaited Beirut Declaration, which clearly expressed support to Lebanon against Israeli oppression.

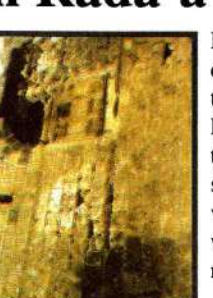
After several attempts to assassinate him: Important Yemeni Official Seeks Political Asylum in a Western Country

The Yemen Times has learned that Judge Salim Al-Sheiba, Chairman of the Prosecution for Appeals of Sana'a Governorate has sought the right of political asylum in view of having to face several intentional attempts of harassment and pressure by some official and prominent figures. These include several attempts against him which were carried out in an open or clandestine manner. It is reported that Al-Sheiba had strong differences with some official and well-known figures, and he and his family have been subjected to very close escapes from death and bodily harm. He was once even intercepted by elements of the security apparatus.

It is worth noting that Al-Sheiba is a judicial personality who has fought diligently to reform the judicial process and has insisted on the independence of the judiciary from any executive authority in a democratic framework. Al-Sheiba is also credited with having freed many prisoners who were arrested without cause and without due process of law. Al-Sheiba was also the prosecutor general representative against the 16 accused secessionists (including Ali Salim Al-Beid) after the 1994 civil war of 1994. This represents one of the first attempts to seek political asylum by many who have become openly disgruntled by the lack of respect for constitutional rule of law and it is reported that many people who have been faced with similar political difficulties will follow suit.



Violent Tribal Confrontations in Rada'a



In the midst of the continuing battles taking place in Rada'a, Ryam tribe recently fired several houses in Abass village with R.B.G weapons. The shelling resulted in killing of



four persons, injuring 17, and destroying four houses. The Abass tribe retaliated with heavy shelling on the villages inhabited by the Ryam tribe. The details of casualties are not known. **More on page 2**

Naseem Hamed K.O.s his Opponent in the 4th Round Our Naz is Back!

For the 14th time, Naseem Hamed was able to defend his World Boxing Organization Championship featherweight title for the 14th time by stopping former IBF super bantamweight champion Vuyani Bungu of South Africa in the fourth round Saturday.

Contrary to some of his latest matches, Naseem proved to be in form and as strong as ever in the match that lasted only 3 full rounds and 2 minutes of the 4th round.

Bungu, stopped for the first time in 40 fights, defended the super-bantamweight title 13 times before stepping up to fight Hamed.

"That was a stunning knockout," Hamed said. "Nobody had taken him out. He got stretched tonight. Now I would love to fight Erik Morales [WBC and WBO super-bantamweight champion]." "You saw the real Naseem Hamed tonight. He dismantled tonight a terrific fighter who had not lost in eight years and was one of the finest 120 pound fighters I have ever seen," said HBO boxing executive Lou DiBella. As the whole country felt quite happy with this victory, they all look forward to seeing him defeat his next opponent. Yemenis and Naz fans all over the world were delighted to witness the return of the prince to his best form.



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Words of Wisdom

"Bureaucratic formalities are the curse of our modern civilization."

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



In Brief

CC Rejects Proposed Rise in Prices

Members of the consultative Council rejected the proposed rise in prices due to economic, social, political, security considerations.

The government, headed by Dr. Al-Iryani brought the note of the new rise before the President who transferred it to the consultative council for further discussions.

It was asserted during the discussions that any new rise in prices would negatively affect the production of development sectors and would affect life of most of the people.

After discussions the consultative council was divided into three groups. The majority expressed their objection to any rise, three members agreed and a few suggested postponement of the new rise.

The Supreme Council for Opposition expressed its objection, too and called upon the government to reconsider its economic restructuring.

On its part, the government seems to be determined to impose the new rise that is expected to begin after the Eid.

Mediations to Release

Abo Lohoom's Sons Failed

Attempts to release Sinan Abo Lohoom's sons failed through Al-Haymah tribes, where Sinan's sons were held, affirmed that they won't be released until their persons seized by Bin Najed in Joda'an, Mareb are released.

Reports show that Al-Haymah tribe refused the proposal presented by the president's stipulating presenting 100 pieces of weapons to Al-Haymah tribe as arbitration on their murdered person. Reports do also reveal that ten persons belonging to Joda'an were held recently as hostages by Al-Haymah tribes to ensure the release of their people seized by Bin Najed. Bin Najed in his turn wants to save his son from the death penalty after being accused of killing one person from Al-Haymah.

Political and tribal sources asserted that seizing Abo Lohoom's sons is owed to some old disputes the authority wants to settle. This happens at a time Abo Lohoom asserts that he won't connect his tribes' conflicts to his sons.

It is worth noting that sheikh Abo Lohoom has called for all the sheikhs of the Yemeni tribes to his house to inform them of what has befallen his sons. He further asked them to find a suitable solution to this issue.

Sources told Yemen Times that sheikh Sinan Abo Lohoom is working these days on his autobiography in accordance with Yemen's historical process which has considerably disturbed many top forces.

Local Authority Law Invites International Criticism

In a symposium on the local authority law held by the opposition parties on Thursday, the NDI pointed out that the local authority law does not aim at decentralization. In its paper the NDI recommended the election of governors and general-directors and giving local authorities more power.

International criticism has intensified, especially after approving the last version of the law which violates the constitution.

Al-Dhalea Events Condemned

Syndicates as well as political bodies have strongly condemned the bloody events in Al-Dhalea governorate that led to a number of deaths among civilians and damage to some houses as a result of the bombing by 35 armored brigade stationed in the governorate.

Dam't citizens in Al-Dhalea governorate led a peaceful demonstration condemning the events of Al-Dhalea.

Opposition Coalition Council has condemned the arrest of a number of civilians who participated in the demonstration and called for stopping of the brigade activities inside the governorate.

Foreign Press Campaign Against Yemen

Foreign newspapers launched a press campaign against Yemen's government following the latest incidents of kidnapping the Polish Ambassador, killing the Dutch Expert and the attempts to kidnap a German expert and an Italian diplomat along with his wife.

In this regard, Dutch newspapers urged upon their government to stop assistance bound to Yemen. At the same time other foreign newspapers called for closing down the embassies of their countries in Yemen.

The terrorist incidents make the government's strong threats against such acts as futile.

Mysterious Death of an Islah MP

Sheik Ali Wahban Al'ali, 55-years old, was died yesterday. He is a member of the Parliament and a member of State Consultative Council in the Islah Party. There is no news about the reason of his death. Reliable sources told Yemen Times that sheik Wahban was buried without doing any investigation about his death.

RSF Urges President Saleh

Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) protested, in a letter sent to the President, the proceedings taken against the independent weekly Al Ayyam newspaper. RSF urged the President to do the best he could do to put an end to this campaign against one of the representatives of the opposition press.

New World Bank Loan to Yemen

Yemen has been granted a fresh loan of US\$ 30 million by the World Bank to renew the Civil Service as well as to support the implementation of the Administrative and Financial Program. Yemen is a heavily indebted poor country and its external debts are in continuous increase, adding more burdens to economy.

Yemeni Delegation to Participate in the Second World Water Forum at the Hague

A Yemeni official delegation will be heading this week to the Hague in the Netherlands to participate in the Second World Water Forum which will be held during the period from 17-22 March. The delegation, which will consist of several key experts in the field of water and water projects will also be accompanied by representatives from some Yemeni NGOs and Women associations.

Besides the delegation, 3 newspaper representatives will also be going to the Hague in order to cover the events and report them directly to their headquarters in Yemen. These newspapers are Al-Thawra, Al-Ayyam, and Yemen Times.

Engineer Jamal Mohammed Abu Chairman of General Authority for Water Resources pointed out that Yemen would participate in several sessions including youth activity and will participate in public meetings during which several working papers will be presented from regions including Arab states. Some of the topics in which Yemen will concentrate on are water harvesting, rain harnessing, and agriculture.

The 2nd Conference of the Yemeni Veterinary Association

The 2nd conference of the Yemeni Veterinary Association was concluded on March 6, 2000 in Sana'a. A number of participants from Arab and world associations participated in the conference. They discussed a number of scientific matters which aim at raising the position of veterinary services and presenting the medical protection to animal wealth in Yemen and at the same time, protecting Yemeni consumers from different animal diseases.

Mr. Mohammed Shoga'eden was appointed the Chairman of the association. A number of international companies participated in the medical exhibition, organized at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Project on Charity

The Charitable Society for Social Welfare receives from generous people munificent donations for the success of project

charity. This is one of the biggest projects implemented by the society. Dr. Hamid Hussein, Security General of the Society said that the society started this charitable work in 1413 Hegira. Up to the year 1419 Hegira, more than 170,298 of poor people got the benefit from this project. This project is implemented for the eighth time. This time it aims at expanding its scope and area of operation.

Arwa University Holds a Course on Women's Role in Development and another on the Internet

Queen Arwa University hosted a training course for promotion of women's activities in the field of development during 12-22 of February, 2000. This course was organized by the university under the motto "University is the ray of Society". Researchers from Aden, Sana'a, Arwa universities, and Laiden university of Holland participated. At the end of the course, the participants discussed the pilot projects presented by the trainers concerning on women's role in the social and developing work in Yemen.

On another level, a training course on Internet sciences was held from 7-12 of March in the university. A number of researchers, diplomats, and specialists in some local and international corporations and institutions and UNESCO participated in the programme. Dr. Wahiba Fare'a pointed out that the training course was designed to train the participants in administrative and educational challenges of the university, and to give an opportunity to the participants to gain from the new technology so as to successfully face the challenges of the third millennium.

Slovenian TV finished Shooting in Yemen

In cooperation with the Yemeni TV, the Slovenian TV team has successfully finished shooting two documentary films on Yemen: "The Land of Fertile Sand" and "The Island Of The Dragon' Blood Tree." The first film was shot in Sana'a, Marib and Hadhramout from February 20 to March 3. The second one was all shot in Socotra from March 4 to 10. According to producer, Mr. Miran Hvala, the films will be ready by 2001. The Slovenian team will leave for home today thanking all the local authorities and the UNDP Socotra Biodiversity Project for their help.

MOWJ Denies Involvement In Terrorist Acts

The London-based Yemeni National Opposition Front (MOWJ) has denied its involvement in the latest incident of kidnapping HE the Polish Ambassador. In a statement published by its office in London, MOWJ has strongly denied having any hand in kidnapping or any

other acts of violence "The alleged accusation of involvement of MOWJ and its leader, Abdul Rahman Al-Jifri in a case that it has nothing to do with, reflects the government's inability to address security and signals deterioration of law and order, undermining individual security," said the statement.

Furthermore it described the present trend of violence as dangerous

and more so because of the government's inability to unravel the root of the malice

As regards the news of planning for terrorist acts in Yemen, as some official newspapers have reported, MOWJ concluded its statement by saying that it had committed itself to progressive activities based upon peaceful political activities that eschew violence.

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Yemeni Press Scanner

ATTARIQ
الطريق Independent

A Call for General Reconciliation between Shabwa Tribes: Mr. Mohammed Saleh Makhshoof, Liberation Front High Leadership member and its Shabwa branch chairperson called upon all sheikhs and prominent dignitaries for a two-year general reconciliation between the warring tribes of Shabwa. He stressed the need for reasoning and civil dialogue instead of bullets and war to solve the disagreements between Shabwa tribes. He called upon the judiciary to quickly decide on tribal disputes in courts, indicating that delays in making judgments are a main cause for fighting.

AL-THAWRAH
الثورة Official

German Minister: Yemen More Open and Stable than 90s
Visiting Minister of State at the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs praised the 'Democratic Experience' Yemen is going through. He said: "I congratulate you for the good progress made by you in which Yemen was so unique in this region. The German official in a press conference held yesterday that Yemen is now more stable, developed and open to the region and the world than it was during the mid-nineties when he visited Yemen for the first time.

Egypt: Consultations to Revive "Association of Donkeys"
Ex-members of the Egyptian Association of Donkeys, which was established in 1930, said that they are trying to revive the association that stopped functioning since 1993. The activities of the Association of Donkey were usually in charity. They attributed the cause of the halt of activities to the refusal of the Ministry of Social Affairs to officially license the Association because of its name unsuitable and is inconsistent with traditions name, especially as members are given strange rank names, depending on the length of their membership such as ass, foal, small or big donkey.

RA'Y
رأي Sons of Yemen League

Western Press Attack Yemen over Kidnappings:
The Western Media attacked Yemen last week because of the increase in the number of kidnappings of Western citizens and the recent developments into the killing of experts and kidnapping of Ambassadors. The press of Holland demanded the halting of aids to Yemen, while [other] western newspapers called for closing western embassies and that western citizens should leave Yemen. This campaign comes in the aftermath of the kidnapping of the Polish Ambassador to Yemen, the killing of a Dutch expert of the Small Industries Development Project, and an attempt to kidnap an Italian diplomat and his wife.

Opposition Tells World Bank: No to Price Hikes:
The opposition parties have confirmed to the deputy chairman of the World Bank their rejection of any hikes of prices intended by the government for petrol and petroleum products. They told him that nothing can be gained from such hikes beyond the additional burdens thrown upon the population while corruption swallow all what can be made through these increases. The opposition parties stressed the need for the implementation of the administrative part of the reforms. The meeting was also attended by businessmen, economic experts, representatives of the private sector, and academicians. The deputy chairman of the World Bank reviewed the Bank's policies and programs and the assistance it provides to Yemen and other developing countries.

AL-WAHDAWI
الوحدوي Popular Unionist Nasserites

Agreement on Receiving 10,000 Jew Tourists Reported:
A well-informed source has confirmed to Al-Wahdawi that Saudi Arabia is behind the report published by the Ashraq Al-Awsat [of London] about the high Israeli official's secret visit to Yemen. He said that Saudi Arabia was reacting to President Saleh's announcement that Yemen shall normalize relations with Israel only after Saudi Arabia does so. The source added that Ashraq Al-Awsat of London attributed the report to an Israeli source because it was demanded so by high Saudi officials who insisted the report should be highlighted and given a big space. A source in the opposition demanded the Government makes an open position and to the true nature of the claimed secret contacts by Yemeni officials with the government of the Zionist enemy or with international Zionist organizations.

AL-AYYAM
الأيام Independent

Kidah Tribes Support the Widow of Al-Ayyam Founder
Sheikh Ali bin Haftan Al-Kindi, the supreme sheikh of the tribe of Kindah, confirmed in a telephone call with Al-Ayyam that the rules of our Islamic religion and our tribal and Yemeni traditions don't allow the indulgence in the honor of an old woman, such as the widow of Sheikh Ba Shraheel, founder of Al-Ayyam, of whom all the tribe of Kindah are proud as a fellow member. All the tribes of Kindah support her in demanding her legal rights.

400 Killings of Yemeni Women and Children in 1997:
The Executive Director of the United Nations Organization for Motherhood and Childhood Ms. Bailmy has indicated in an interview with the 'Voice of America' that 400 killings cases against women and children had occurred during 1997. The UN official was discussing the subject of violence against women all over the world. The activity was part of a program on the International Day of Women of March 8th.

AL-UMMAH
الامة Al-Haq Party

Fire Exchanged near the Presidential Motorcade:
Eyewitnesses report that an exchange of fire by unknown people has occurred last Tuesday at Hadda St., Sana'a while the Presidential motorcade of President Saleh was passing and caused some confusion. The Presidential Guards behaved in a very good way by declining to react directly and by calling police to deal with the situation. Police arrived at the scene and arrested those responsible.

26TH SEPTEMBER
ال26 سبتمبر Armed Forces Journal

Olive to Replace Qat in Haraz:
Preparation continues at Eastern Haraz to plant a big number of Olive trees. In a preliminary phase, 60 Olive trees shall be planted at three locations: Al-Khateb, Akamat Al-Qadhi and Kahel. The development comes within the inclination of the population of Haraz to replace Qat plantations with other useful plantations. It is recalled that 50,000 Qat trees were uprooted [last year] in Haraz. Olive was considered suitable because it needs less amounts of water and efforts. It is expected that 40,000 Olive trees shall be planted in the first phase. Later this year other species shall be used such as coffee and local nut trees.

A Woman Minister Shortly:
The Yemeni Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Eryani said that the Women of Yemen have fulfilled a good amount

of their aims recently as there women appointed as Ambassadors, Permanent Secretaries of Ministries and as high officials in many state organs. Dr. Eryani who was speaking was speaking at a small festival organized by the Ministry of Planning and Development and the National Committee for Women on the occasion of the International Day of Women added that a woman shall shortly join the Government of Yemen as a Minister.

Court Dismisses Cases Against the Ministry of Information:
The West Sana'a Court Headed by judge Mansoor Al-Wagal has dismissed two cases against the Ministry of Information raised by the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (the Islah Party) and the Socialist Party of Yemen. Both parties had claimed that the official media of Yemen didn't broadcast parts of the final statements issued at the conclusion of meetings held by the leadership of both parties. A third case against the same Ministry was also dismissed. This one was raised by the Popular Unionist Nasserite Organization which claimed that the final festival of its 9th. Congress and its press release were not broadcast.

No Contacts with Israeli Tourist Agencies:
The Yemeni Association of Tourist and Travel Agencies has denied the claims of the Israeli Broadcasting Station which were repeated by the Yemeni opposition media of official contacts with Israeli tourist agencies. The Chairman of the Association, Mr. Yahya Mohammed Abdulla Saleh confirmed in an with us that there are no contacts between Yemeni and Israeli tourist agencies. The Israeli Broadcasting Station had quoted the General Director of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs as saying that a delegation representing Yemeni tourist agencies visited Israel last week. Mr. Saleh said that the official Yemeni position is quite clear and declared by the political leadership of Yemen. He indicated that there no dangers from visits by Jews of Yemeni origin who don't hold Israeli passports.

AL-BALAGH
البلاغ Independent

A Tribal War Halted:
War between the tribe of Arhab and that of Nihm was inevitable because of the dispute between a man from Arhab and his uncle from Nihm which resulted in the killing of the first, if it were not halted by the wisdom of Sheikh Abdulla Al-Aa'wag who ordered a gathering of his tribe, including the culprit to arrive with rifles and oxen to the other tribe.

AL-SAHWAH
الصحوة Islah Party

Democratic Institute Arranges a Symposium on Elections:
The American Democratic Institute organized last week a symposium on (The Organization and Structure of the Party before and until Elections) which was attended by cadres from the Yemeni Congregation of Reform last Saturday and Sunday at the Islah Institute. The agenda included subjects like the Strategic Planning (its definition and importance) and the aims of the party from the elections and the construction of election campaigns....

AL-THAWRI
الثوري YSP

Piracy Suspects Released by "High Orders":
Abyan Governorate learned political sources have confirmed that the pertinent security authorities have released the suspects of piracy against the Australian yacht belonging to an Australian couple who were last September opposite Ahwar coast, Abyan Governorate.

The release comes after some amounts of money and golden jeweler ware taken from the accused upon instructions from a high military official in Sana'a.

AL-GAMAHEER
الجماعير Ba'ath Party (Syria)

Sheikh Al-Qiyari and Others Surrender:
Security forces which had left Sana'a for Khawlan last week returned to Sana'a after fulfilling their duties regarding the kidnapping of the Polish Ambassador to Yemen who was released last Saturday. Sources reported to Al-Gamaheer that Sheikh Khaled Al-Qiyari and another four sheikhs from the Yemanyatayn tribe of Khawlan surrendered to the authorities upon request by the President after the people who kidnapped the Ambassador rebelled. The pertinent security authorities had released Sheikh Khaled who was detained when he arrived from abroad two weeks ago in order to get others from his colleagues who were wanted

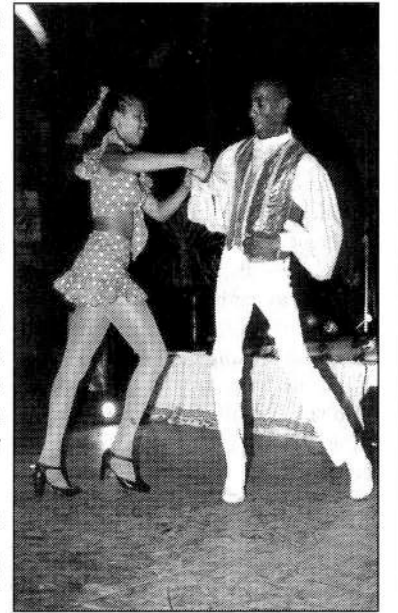
The Cuban Festival Concludes at the Taj Sheba

The first to lead as usual, the Taj Sheba started their F&B activity, the first of its kind in Yemen "The Cuban Festival."

The band and the duo were very popular and the crowd enjoyed every bit of the dancing.

The festival was well attended by the expatriate community and the diplomats most of them puffing the Cuban Cigar imported from Havana.

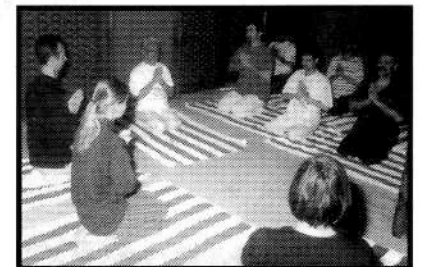
The event was co-sponsored by Yemenia, Murjan, Universal, Arhab travels and the Cuban Embassy.



Events at the Taj Sheba

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Conclusion of the 3rd Cardiology Conference

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times - Aden

The 3rd cardiology conference concluded on Thursday 9 of March, 2000. It was concluded under the motto "Cardiology Medicine in Yemen and the 21st Century". The conference discussed a number of scientific researches presented by doctors. It focussed on the subjects related to heart diseases, surgical operations of heart and blood vessels surgery. The conference came out with different decisions and recommendations. It recommended organizing scientific conferences all over the governorates of the Republic, and paying special attention to cardiologists through liberally granting innovative training courses at leading cardiology centers. The participants congratulated Athowra hospital on establishing a cardio-surgical unit. They confirmed reconstructing a specialized cardiology hospital, and opening cardiology

sections in different hospitals all over the Republic. They congratulated Arab efforts presenting possibilities to establish faculty of higher studies in Yemen.

The participants from Sana'a and Aden universities were felicitated. The participants renewed their resolve to present scientific researches and to conduct surveys on heart diseases in Yemen. They It is necessary for the Ministry of Health to provide financial assistance to these conferences. There must be an efficient net-work and good services available inside hospitals.

The conference organized in collaboration with the Heart Diseases Friends Association began on March 6. It was attended by Mr. Taha Qanim, governor of Aden, Mr. Waheeb Rashed, Deputy Governor of Aden, Dr. Taha Shamsan, General Manager of Health Office in Aden. More than 450 participants from Yemen, Italy, Britain, Sudan, Egypt, Germany, and Jordan. The Minister of Health participated in the conference highlighted the activities of the Ministry of health for improving health services in the country through implementing furnishing all hospitals with essential equipment. He said "we have to carefully monitor the health situations all over the Republic".

Dr. Abdalnaser Munaibari, General Manager of Athowra hospital said: "the 3rd cardiology conference contains deep scientific significance because it is being held in a traditional and scientific city, the city which occupies central position amongst the Yemeni cities". The scientific researches, studies, and lectures were presented to the participants, who shed new light about heart diseases. Yemeni doctors stand to profes-



sionally gain from specialists who came from the neighboring countries. Everyone concerned extended their cooperation to make this conference a success. Dr. Mansour Al-Torhah, cardiology specialist in King Sawood University, Chairman of Cardiology Doctors Association in Saudi Arabia, and the Vice Chairman of High Blood Pressure Association in Saudi said, "In fact this conference was highly successful. We thank our brothers, the organizers of this conference. I believe that this is a very important milestone for the Yemeni doctors. It must continue as any other annual activities.

These professional must be renewed organized forums annually because of the rapid development in heart diseases. We must not forget there are trainers who are taking training courses at hospitals. They need to learn more about the science of medicine. So, this conference is the cornerstone to those doctors to gain and take advantage from. I presented two researches on heart diseases factors in Saudi Arabia. I presented them at the beginning of this conference. In fact this is the first time for me to attend a conference in Yemen. I am very happy to meet my colleagues in Yemen, and thanks to them for very good hospital-ity".



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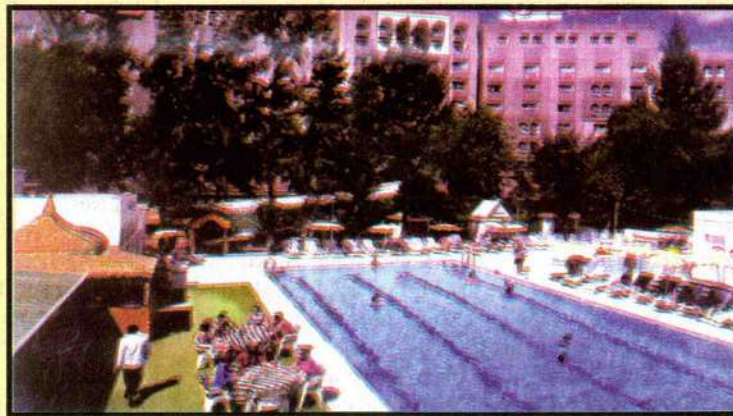


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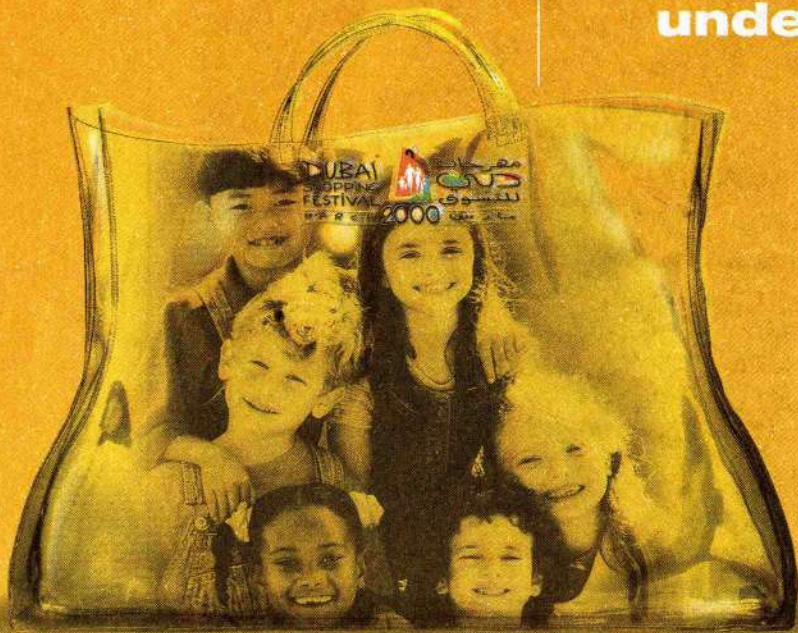
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MDF3: "Voices for Change, Partners for Prosperity"



Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi
Yemen Times,
Cairo, Egypt

Seven hundred development practitioner, economists, businessmen and media people from across the Middle East and North Africa met in Cairo last week for the third Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF3).

Organized by the World Bank and other organizations and agencies and held under the auspices of Mrs.



Suzanne Mubarak and Queen Rania Al-Abdullah ibn Al-Hussein of Jordan, the theme of the three-day forum was: "Voices for Change, Partners for Prosperity".

The meeting focussed on the development needs of the countries of the MENA region as they work towards

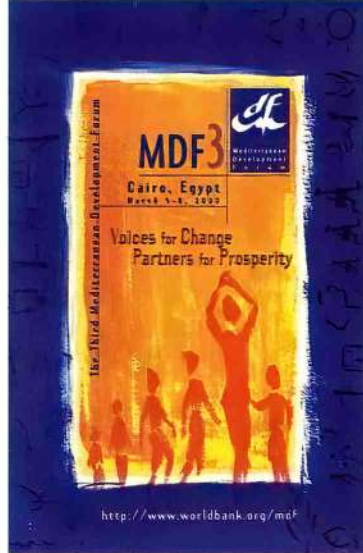
becoming fully integrated in the global system. Over 600 practitioners and experts and more than 40 workshop sessions, analyzing and debating such topics as: which way for the MENA region after the WTO meeting in Seattle? strength-



ening NGOs and making them more effective; attracting foreign direct investment, fighting corruption; constructing an Arab free trade area; transparency and the role of the media; and how companies can become globally competitive. At MDF there were seven main workshop themes, each of which had six sessions. The themes are: Global trade and regionalism, institutional reforms and sustainable development, what makes your firm internationally competitive?, civil society, knowledge and development and partners for employment creation and social protection.

MDF is a partnership of Middle Eastern and North African think tanks which began working in 1997 to support development throughout the region. There were two previous MDF conferences - in 1997 and 1998 - both of which were held in Marrakesh.

"To the voices of change I have joined my voice" proclaimed the First Lady of Egypt. She urged the conference to take seriously the concerns expressed in Seattle and Bangkok. Development must be comprehensive and balanced, the end has to be human welfare and progress. Mrs. Mubarak stressed in her speech on the interaction between nations by saying "We live in a time of



unprecedented interaction between nations and peoples. Never before have the borders of the sovereign state been as previous to the flow, not only of visitors, material goods and capital but also of ideas". She also said that: "we must promote growth and equity, the alternative is not only unjust but a prescription for civil strife".

Queen Rania of Jordan urged those involved in development to learn from the practical experiences around them at the conference. She quoted the example of Jordanian Young Entrepreneurs Association, now keen to establish a regional networking. On the other hand, "Globalization needs strong political support, there has to be a public dialogue, Egyptian PM said, adding that "regionalism is the preparatory stage for globalization". In a press conference, Kemal Devis, Vice President of the World Bank, said that "the media have an important role to play in development, translating the policy debate to the wider public and feeding back the views of the people to the decision-takers, so that everyone is aware of the difficult trade-offs that have to be made between economics and social responsibility." For this reason out of the 700 participants 100 were journalists.

It is worth mentioning that there was no official participation for Yemen in MDF3.

Yemen Insurance Companies: United Mechanism



The Yemen Insurance Federation has activated a program to prepare the Yemeni national insurance companies to face the future challenges of globalization and open markets by a Seminar held in Taj Sheba Hotel - Sana'a and sponsored by Arab Reinsurance Group (ARIG) - Bahrain the leading reinsurance group in the Arab World.

The seminar concentrated on the aspects and the philosophy of insurance companies' risk retention and the Maximum Possible Loss and Probable Maximum Loss Factors and their importance in a scientific approach in increasing the retention capacity of insurance companies, which would lead to retaining more funds in the country.

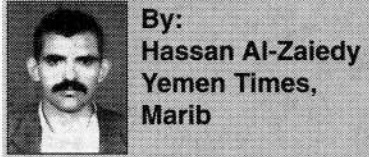


Delegates from all insurance companies operating in Yemen attended the seminar and Mr. Mohammed Musaaef - Senior Treaty underwriter and Mr. Abdul Hamed Al-Amadi - Assistant Treaty Underwriter delivered the lectures, both of ARIG.

ARIG representatives were warmly welcomed by the Yemeni Insurance market, and were impressed by the willingness and solidarity of this emerging market to catch up with the international development in the insurance industry.



How Many Times the Oil Pipeline was Pierced? *Part 2*



By:
Hassan Al-Zaiedy
Yemen Times,
Marib

A detailed report issued last week has made clear the times of explosion of the oil pipeline so far. In this report I am going to focus on the ulterior motives that could have urged the residents of the area to commit such acts; the government's previous and present reactions to such situations; the volume of losses and damage on account of these incidents; the extent of damage compared to the demands of the people in these areas; the environmental damage resulting from those explosions.

In an attempt to find some answers, Yemen Times met with so many persons residing in the areas where explosions took place to know their points of view. Though explosions occurred in 1993, it was pretty hard to know the real reasons behind these explosions. The explosion conducted by some residents of these areas in 1994 was motivated by the YSP's top officials during the war of 1994, the government claimed. The other chain of explosions were the result of clandestine operations making it impossible to identify the saboteurs as well as their motives behind these.

Regarding the explosions that occurred in early 1998, the latest of which was in November 1999, so many factors have come to light as a result of our meetings with some people residing in the affected areas. Some of them inescapable consequences by the extreme suffering and consequent rage of some residents. They said "These residents felt that they are ostracized and are deprived of their basic rights including public services, projects, and so many other facilities. When authority did not respond positively to their requests, some residents resorted to explosions so as to exercise pressure on the government to meet their demands." Some other people see that the indifference of these officials and their procrastination is also another factor behind these subversive operations. One of these residents, requesting anonymity, said "We do believe that explosive operations are acts of sabotage, however, we were forced to resort to the extreme step as the government has always been turning deaf ear to our legitimate demands. We have always wanted peace and knocked on all doors asking for our rights, all to no avail."

Another one, requesting anonymity, said "We are Yemenis and we have rights as well. We want to feel the sense of equality that our government boasts to uphold." Some of us are qualified officials who have been kicked out from their positions by the authority. Other ones are poor farmers

who terribly suffer due to floods and the government has not even supplied them with the basic means to reclaim what has remained after floods. Despite the fact that we live in areas where these companies are established, we have never been considered for employment there, even as workers. If there is a job vacancy or two, they will certainly go to Sheikh's son or his cousin. We, and the like, have spent fortunes in following the procedures up in Sana'a to be get a job. However, all have come to nothing. In short, the point is that since we do not have effective mediation, therefore we are left with no choice can find no way except resorting to these actions or die out of hunger."

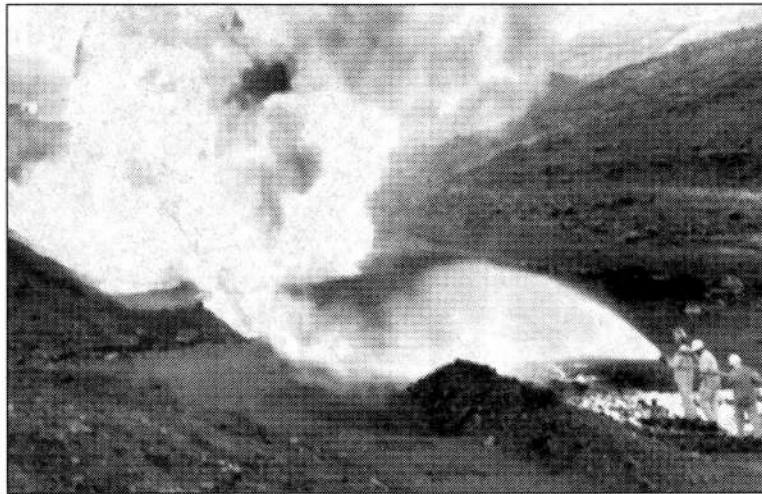
Mr. M. said "We are not saboteurs. The real saboteurs are sheikhs and officials who have deprived the residents of their rights. We do have rights to enjoy the benefits of the available resources of our society. We have the rights to live happily in peace and security. We have rights to enjoy the wealth of our lands. Where do all the revenues of these resources go? "Obviously and undoubtedly to the pockets of some select few".

Foreign aids to help farmers terribly affected by floods, were many times intercepted by these select few. Consequently, these farmers who have been asking for help since 1996 have so far received nothing."

Mr. S. quoted some popular proverbs which illustrate the state of chaos in our country and the law of the jungle in which the stronger smashes the weaker. He said "If you show your muscles on the officials, then only they will respect and appreciate you." We talked to one of the residents of Al-A'roosh, Khawlan, and said that the government's constant calls for these areas' sheikhs to meet and discuss things is a sure sign of its commitment to solve their problems, he said "We do not deny that the president calls for sheikhs whenever there are problems. However, their meetings have never borne fruit and solutions to these residents problems and sufferings remain a far cry mainly for the following factors.

Some sheikhs are only looking for their own self interests. They do not care for their people's legal rights and insist on the government solving them. Others are interested in showing off. They do insist that solutions to the problems should be conducive to them, otherwise they will oppose any attempt to solve issues of dispute. Some others are interested to keep things as they are so as to exploit these for their benefit.

Thus, residents of these areas lost their trust and were naturally fed up with these shallow promises of these top figures. Had there been sincere and committed attitudes by these officials and sheikhs, the situation would have been different and solutions to all these issues and problems of people



would be easily found. This has led to the escalation of so many problems including subversive incidents and acts of kidnapping, etc.,

Pretty Heavy Losses:

Comparing the losses due to these explosions to the cost of meeting the residents' demands, one can get a clear perspective. So far, explosions run to 37 and each incident cost the company \$ 150,000 to get the oil pipeline repaired. Besides, according to some informed sources, one of the explosions conducted by a land mine led to the leakage of 70,000 barrels of crude oil. Another one led to the leakage of 48,000 barrels of crude oil. In other explosions crude oil leak was estimated at 50 barrels an hour. In some of these explosions the oil pipeline needed a two-day work to be repaired. However, at times residents of these areas stood against the technical group and works and negotiations run to 16 days.

The following will illustrate the losses:

Number of Explosions	37
Cost of repairs	\$150,000
Total	\$5,550,000
Oil leak quantity	223,000
	barrels
barrel Cost	\$16
Total	\$3,568,000
OVERALL TOTAL	\$9,223,000

These are the overall costs of the losses which have reached a staggering \$ 9,223,000. Moreover, fortunes are spent on the security forces protecting the oil pipeline.

From the above account one could easily observe that the volume of losses is far greater than the cost of meeting these residents' needs.

Interference of External Forces

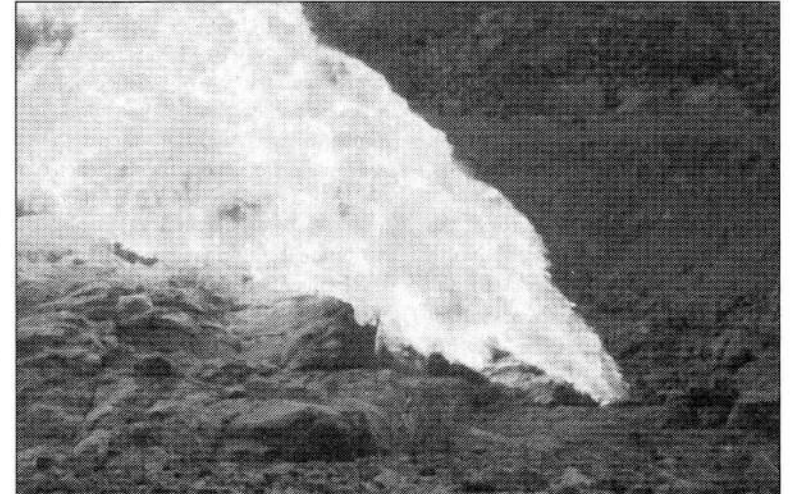
From time to time, explosions are projected to be politically motivated and that there were some foreign forces behind them. In order to come with the grips with the heart of the matter, we contacted so many residents of these areas who had the following to say: "Regarding the explosions that occurred in 1993 and 1994, four explosions, were conducted in a completely clandestine way. Besides no source had claimed responsibility except in one explosion that took place in Khawlan when the tribesmen protested against being able to be employed in an oil company.

However, explosions that happened after 1998, 1999 were not at all politically motivated which is clear from the fact that those who are behind such explosions were fully known to the people residing in these areas. Had they been supported by any foreign force, the situation would have been absolutely different.

The possibility that some saboteurs in connivance with foreign forces may have perpetrated such acts is very dim, for they are very few and well-known to the people of these areas.

Official Precautionary Measures to Settle Disputes:

At the beginning, the government deployed military forces to the sensitive areas so as to enforce a margin of security. However, this was not that effective as ironically, some explosions took place near these military forces. On the other hand, this had at different occasions, to confrontations between the security forces and some residents of these areas causing dam-



age of many houses, killing some children and women, preventing so many students from continuing their studies and creating an atmosphere of panic over the area. The outcome of deployment of security forces in these areas is increased tensions between the government and the people. The top brass and sheikhs close to the authority were the only beneficiaries of these actions.

When these officials and sheikhs found it hard to control things, they deployed some residents as guards to protect the oil pipeline. Moreover, the government has convened a meeting of those influential in these areas and tried to meet some of their personal demands so that the poor citizens will find no-one to stand by them. By this, the government has applied a new diplomatic policy seeking to appease the influential and the strong. After all, the new policy has been another ineffective one for the atmosphere of fear is still prevailing, especially as the really affected residents have so far received nothing. Therefore, the possibility of their resorting to old ways is still there.

In its attempt to control this, the government has taken preventive measures such as covering the oil pipeline by sands so that residents won't be able to dig it up and explode it. Had

the government supplied these means to benefit these residents and established projects to reclaim their lands, it would have solved some of the most pressing problems and could have contained the mounting discontent among these people. By helping these residents the government could have also stopped anyone who tries to do some acts of sabotage for the residents will stand against any attempts.

In short, it seems that the government does not want to put an end to this. These residents in their return are not going to let their rights vaporize in thin air, nor the government seems to

be reasonable and seriously consider their demands and tries to meet the basic and logic ones. This means more public destruction and acts of sabotage. It is obvious that these continuous explosions have damaged the environment and affected the people's health as well as the agricultural lands. Environmental experts have constantly warned against the great hazardous effects of these explosions on the environment.

This is the real story of the explosion of oil pipeline in Yemen and the judgment on this issue is to be left for the readers.

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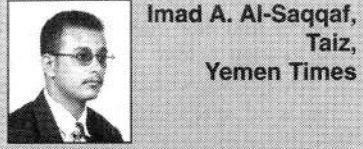
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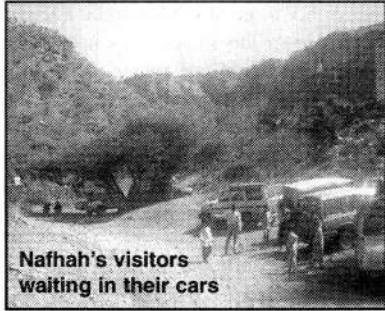
Conjuration In The Modern Age?

Part 2



Imad A. Al-Saqqaf, Taiz, Yemen Times

In the countryside, most of the Assyads' visitors are among the youth who are very eager to know what is in store for them. Some apprehend that their beloved might marry somebody else, so they want to be alerted beforehand so as to take precautionary measures. Some others who intend to marry, go to such soothsayers to know if they will lead a happy life after marriage. Soothsayers then, tell them if the person they have chosen as a spouse will be the cause of their happiness or misery. Moreover, soothsayers specify a date for marriage when devils and genies will never harm the happy couple. Many soothsayers are to be found in



Nafhah's visitors waiting in their cars

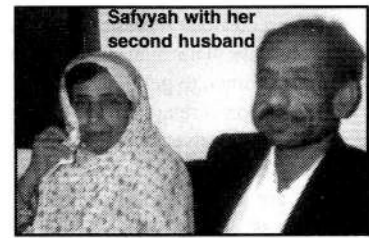
the street. Pay only 50 rials, and may be less, and you will know what is in store!



Muneer Amin Ali looks at such activities from a religious perspective, "Those people practice conjuration and conjuration as a means to get money. They usually affect stupid people who are easy to fall in their traps either by their sweet words or by magic.

husband. I spent 14 years in prison. While in prison, I came to know a Somalian lady who was imprisoned for a political charge before unification. I used to see her playing cards alone. At the beginning, I did not know that she used them to forecast what is in store for people nor I knew that I belonged to Ben Alwan, (a dead worshiper whose grave has become a hearthstone for many people who come to be blessed by his spirit.) Once, while we were gathering and praying for Allah, she got nervous. I, then, blew into her mouth until she vomited on my body. Soon my ears

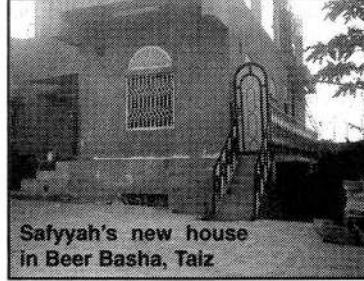
started to buzz. I also noticed that the playing cards were moving. I did not know that I will be using them to know people's diseases. Then I started examining other prisoners for 10 rials.



Safyyah with her second husband

As far as medicine is concerned, I use herbs. Patients really get benefited from them. Some diseases, such as those related to blood, require a mixture of 38 kind of herbs. Patients who suffer from psychological problems are advised to go to psychiatrists. I do not claim to have control over genies nor do I claim to know what is in store for people.

I was unable to read but when God bestowed this talent on me, I could read. Now I can read newspapers. I also read the Holy Qur'an. I also can write, but my handwriting is not good. I do not claim to be a Walyyiah (female of Wali, person who has reached a high stage of worshipping Allah) What I do is just prescribing the medicine I know, and call unto Allah for help. Some people stand against me, however, what I practice is not conjuration. When a patient comes to me, I ask him/her to take some cards.



Safyyah's new house in Beer Basha, Taiz

First I tell him/her his name and something about his house and job. Then I tell him/her what he/she is suffering from. I do not treat possessed people. When such people come to me, I advise them to go to someone else. Part of my work is also making magic spells ineffective."

Abdulkader Al-Habashi asserted that once he took her with him to his village, Gabal Habashi, while he was under spell, and she could find the spell written on a piece of paper and thwarted it.

She continued saying that her way of treatment is not doubtful, and that she never refused to meet with anybody be him/her a patient or not.

She then asked my companion Mohammd Al-Hakimi to take some cards but he refused. Suddenly a new visitor came and she called him in to prove right what she had said. As soon as he was seated in front of her, she told him his name, his work. The patient approved of it. Moreover, she



Condolence

It was with great shock and disbelief that the Royal Netherlands Embassy at Sana'a received the news of the violent death on 2 March 2000 of

Mr. Jan Bol

Jan worked for the Small Enterprise Development Unit in Sana'a as a Dutch Expert, providing Technical Assistance under a Dutch funded support program.

At his office, Jan and his colleague

Mr. Mohamed Haider

become the tragic victims of violence in it's most cruel form.

Jan was a respected consultant, looking forward to his retirement after a long and fruitful life of work in many different countries. His sudden death leaves a feeling of great loss to all who have known him here in Yemen.

The Embassy wishes both Jan's family, his wife Françoise and his two daughters, and the family of Mohamed Haider all the strength in trying to cope with their tragic loss.

Condolence messages and correspondence for the Bol family can be sent via the Netherlands Embassy at Sana'a, PO Box 463

Country Director - Yemen

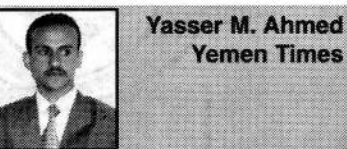
Marie Stopes International is a results orientated social enterprise developing sustainable family planning and reproductive healthcare programmes in the UK and overseas.

We need a well experienced and dynamic director to implement and manage the country programme. You will be responsible for all MSI projects in Yemen, which include two maternal and child health centres. duties include: strategic and annual planning; programme and resource development; marketing; external relations supervise and establish new projects, managing the finance function; managing organisational growth and change; human resource management and liaison with government officials and MSI London.

You will be fluent in Arabic & English and possess proven supervisory, managerial and analytical skills. Healthcare experience a plus.

Please send c.v. & covering letter to: Rachael Fletcher, Marie Stopes International, PO Box 16160 Hadda Post Mail Sana'a Fax: 506268 or e-mail: rachael.fletcher@stopes.org.uk Closing date: 07.04.00

HSASA Prizes for 1999 Declared



Yasser M. Ahmed Yemen Times

After a flurry of meetings, Tuesday March 7, 2000 was a red letter day for declaring the prizes of the Hail Saeed Awards for Sciences and Arts, third round held in

Egyptian commentator, the literary man, Jamal Al-Ghaitani, chief editor of Cairo Literature newspaper, Dr. Mostafa Al-Sa'eed, well-known economist and some other eminent figures in different fields, was formed. After several meetings for discussing the assessment of the works, results were referred to the Board of trustees which endorsed the results during its meeting held last week."

Hepatitis on those who denote blood" and Dr. Yahya Ahmad Mohammed Raja'a on his two researches "Bilhariasis in wadi Al-Sahool" and "Bilhariasis on Mahweet".

2) Prize for Environmental and Agricultural Sciences:

The committee unanimously agreed to grant the prize to Dr. Ahmad Mohammed Ahmad Al-Hadrani on his research "Qat and Insecticide, its consequences on the safety of environment and man".

3) Prize for Economic Sciences:

All the researches presented did not meet all the requirements of the prize, however, there was a good research presented by Dr. Abdul Wahed Abdul Bari Hazza'a Al-Afori titled A study of Globalization. It was recommended by the committee and he was granted YR 500,000. Other prizes of YR 100,000 were granted to Dr. Shbir Abdullah Al-Harazi, Dr. Mohammed Abo Bakr Al-Amari and his partner Mohammed Omar Abdullah Banajah and Mohammed Ahmad Haider Ali.

4) Prize for Humanities and Social Sciences:

The committee agreed on granting the prize in halves to Dr. Ahmad Ali Al-Haj on his research titled the "Education Drive and Technical Training in Yemen" and Dr. Mohammed Saleh Ali Al-Kubati and his partner Dr. Zubair Ayash Nasim on their research titled "Population Explosion and Development, Yemen's case."

5) The Islamic Sciences:

The committee has unanimously agreed on granting the prize to Mr. Abdul Karim Sharaf Mohammed Abdoh on his research titled "Planning Reproduction a legislative Prospect and Practical Experience."

6) Prize for Literary Creativity:

The committee has agreed to grant the prize to the literary man Abdul Karim Thabet Al-Razihi on his collection of stories "The death of the White Cow."

He noted that establishing this prize is of crucial importance as to lie a strong emphasis on science and culture asserting that the civil development can never take place unless it is accompanied by a focus on culture and intellect. Besides, scholars and thinkers should be given the attention and care needed. He spelled out the different activities that are going to be opened in the near future: the foundation building which includes the most sophisticated library in the Middle East, Al-Sa'eed Cultural Forum and the Child Cultural Center will also be built.

Mr. Faisal Sa'eed Fara'a, secretary of the prize, made a detailed speech of the evaluation committee and the researches' assessment. He thanked all the educated professors for their time and efforts to help push forward with these prizes and highly appreciate the numerous applications for the awards. He, then, read the Board of Trustees' decision and declared winners of prizes and recommendations of the committee which were as follows:

1) Prize for Medical Sciences: The prize was decided to be divided up equally between Dr. Nasser Ali Ahmad Haider on his research "Viral



Sana'a and awarded by Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Sciences and culture. The meeting was chaired by Ali Mohammed Sa'eed Ana'am, chairman of the Board of Trustees and chairman of the Administration of Al-Sa'eed Foundation and attended by Faisal Sa'eed Fara'a, secretary of the prize and the Foundation general manager, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Makaleh, Mr. Ahmad Jaber Afif and the judge Hamoud Al-Hitari.

Each prize carries a YR one million cash award, publication of the work, in addition to the recognition. In the meeting Mr. Ali Mohammed Sa'eed delivered a speech welcoming the good turn-out. He said "This ceremony comes at the time of the Diamond anniversary of the unification which has taken place after a long struggle by Yemenis.

Seventy three talented applicants from all over Yemen entered the competition in this third round. An evaluation committee including Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Makaleh, Dr. Gaber Osfoor,

إعلان تحذيري

تعلن الشركة المتحدة للصناعات المعدنية لكافة زبائنها الكرام من الشركات والمؤسسات وتجار الحديد والورش المتعاملة معها بأنها قد أنهت خدمات كلا من:

١- محسن أحمد صالح الهيج (مسؤول مبيعات عدن)، يماني الجنسية
٢- أسامة خليل الشامي (أمين المخازن)، اردني الجنسية.

وذلك لأسباب ارتكابهم مخالفات مالية.

وعليه فإن ادارة الشركة تحذر من أي تعامل مع المذكورين فيما يتعلق بها، وهي غير مسؤولة إطلاقاً عن أية التزامات خاصة بأعمال الشركة مع المذكورين أعلاه.

Warning Announcement

United Co. for Industrial Metals warns all its customers, dealers, workshops, corporations and steel merchants that it stopped the service of the following two persons due to their committed financial discrepancies:

1- Muhsen Ahmed Saleh Al-Haijj - Sales Official, Yemeni
2- O'sama Khaleel Al-Shami - Store Official, Jordanian

United Co. Management warns against any dealing related to the company with the above listed persons.

Observing The International Women's Day in Yemen

By:
Mohammad Bin Sallam
Yasser M. Ahmed
Yemen Times

Yemeni women celebrated the International Woman's Day on March 8th in the Central Meeting Hall at the Ministry of Planning and Development. At the same time a number of meetings and different activities were conducted in different governorates by the offices of the Women Union within the international call to promote women's participation in societies. Official newspapers were

lates that women have equal rights to men in all fields of development. He explained how women in the past were deprived of going to the Qur'an schools to acquire basic literacy, contradicting that situation with the present when there are holders of highly specialized academic degrees, practicing professions that were for long confined to men indicating that there is no field of development Yemeni women do not participate in. "We are not claiming here that Yemeni women have obtained all what they are aiming for but what has been achieved already is remarkable," he added. Moreover, he called upon families everywhere in Yemen, to educate their

Yemeni women. Recalling the black history of the British colonization and the Imam's regime during which women were the most suppressed and oppressed class, Assoswa expressed her happiness to what Yemeni women have achieved at the present time. However, "Women still need more attention from the government, family and society in order to fill the gap between man and woman in many fields such as education, decision-making, etc.," she added.

Ms. Joke Buringa, First Secretary Gender and Development, Netherlands Embassy Expressed her gladness at the recent revival of the gender task force under coordination of the National Women's Committee. She explained how understanding of women's needs and interests changed drastically and how women became no longer passive recipients of development but active participants. She further described the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 as the most important achievement of the period.

A number of messages were also read on the occasion such as Koffi Anan's, Mr. Boualem Aktouf, the UNDP Resident Representative, a. i., Mr. Mark Malloch Brown the UNDP Administrator and others.



Mahasen Al-Hawati:

Q: What does the 8th of March mean for you?

A: This day is one of our important days. All people at both the public and the official levels pay attention to woman affairs and conduct activities embodying women status and achievements in the society. We in Yemen give this day special meaning because it portrays attention paid to all in various fields and for me I am very happy in this day, and I feel that it is one of the days which are very close to our hearts as women.

Q: There are many calls and slogans on women's rights, develop and upgrade their conditions and roles in society, how it is possible to achieve that, given the fact of having a biggest rate of illiteracy?

A: Yes, I agree with you in this point that there is big rate of illiterate people in our country especially among women, but women's rights are stipulated in constitutions, laws, and the law of Islam. But the problem here is who would translate these laws into actual steps or rights actually granted. Illiteracy plays crucial roles in hindering our role as women in getting our rights. In addition to this, our traditions and customs represent the essential obstacle. The man also does not support women to get their rights. The fourth reason is related to the educated women themselves because they do not join hands with illiterate women. They are existent, but there is no awareness among people. I think if women and men join their forces for creating awareness of these rights, they can achieve some good leaps in this regard.

Q: I have asked a woman, a chief editor of a newspaper for an interview, but her husband refused to allow me to picture her, what do think of that?

A: This is an individual stance, so we must not involve on this matter. In my opinion, I see that while the woman works as a journalist, she must be free. On the other hand, woman must interact with man in all subjects, especially in the press field.

Q: In our society, few women are involved in political activities, how do you explain that?

A: The fact is that people think wrongly of women. They think her incapable of managing her own affairs, how then could she take care of others! This unrealistic opinion about women's capabilities is the outcome of illiteracy and lack of awareness of their rights. A woman could be educated and holding high degrees but not having a

degree of awareness and thus could not change the mode of her life and personality. Education could facilitate for her to get a job but to be a leading figure in the society is what her real suffering is in our country. The difference between the educated and illiterate woman is that the educated woman believes she must not subordinate to man, while non-educated woman does not take such a stand.

Q: Are you married?

A: No, I am not married, but I hope that I will get married to someone who could understand me well.

A: Don't you believe that women are in need of men?

A: No, a woman is in need of a man, she is need of a man who would stand by her and guide her if she has done something wrong but not to treat her in a harsh way.



Bahriya Shamsheer

Ali: Vice Chairman of Equal Opportunities Project of G.T.Z - German Agency for Technical Cooperation.

Q: What does the 8th of March mean to you?

A: It means many things for me. It means struggle for the sake of women's causes.

Q: There are many calls and slogans on women's rights, develop and upgrade their conditions and roles in society, how it is possible to achieve that, given the fact of having the biggest rate of illiteracy?

A: We have to put an end to illiteracy among women because women could not be developed if they are illiterate, essentially they are unaware. This is their actual problem. The other point is that if decision-makers grant us these rights we can then develop ourselves. But if those in power and decision-making do not grant women their rights there would not be any use because all these can be obtained through laws. That why I told you of the need of continued struggle, it is

very difficult situation and we have a long way to go.

Q: How can equality between the woman and the man be achieved, and in what fields?

A: I do not believe that there is something called equality. There is a need called giving equal opportunities to both man and woman. It was said the proper man in the proper place and now I say the proper woman in the proper place.



Radyah Shamsheer:

Q: What does the 8th of March mean for you?

A: This day is a great day because it has chronicled women's struggle for their legitimate rights all over the world. On this day we recall when women workers in a textile factory in the U.S. city of Chicago launched their uprising in late 19th century, demanding their rights to working hours equal to those of their male colleagues. Women workers were doing longer hours with half wages compared to those paid to men. That date represents a distinguishable turning-point in the history of woman's struggle. Today we are celebrating the International Women's Day by all public and private sectors institutions in Yemen for the first time under the state of unity. This ceremony marking the Day is considered a remarkable gain for Yemeni women. In addition, the ceremony of honoring Yemeni female journalists is ushering a forward stand for women. Two or three years ago men even abstained from mentioning the 8th of March as a Day for women. This is an indication that Yemeni people started to comprehend the role of women in the development process. We are now working to establish the relationship with men in all fields. Men should realize that they are not the only owners of decisions, but they have to share women because women are now present and active in all Yemeni universities and entering all walks of life.

Continued on page 17



asked, on this day, to issue special supplements edited by women.

During the celebration which was attended by Dr. Al-Iryani, Prime Minister who honored a number of female journalists at the Journalists Syndicate's Office. A number of speeches were delivered and messages from the world were also read.

Dr. Al-Iryani began his speech by describing the 8th of March as a symbol for women and by conveying his greetings as well as the leadership's greetings to all Yemeni women in rural, urban and desert areas.

He said that all societies were aware of the importance of women's contributions to all sectors, pointing out to the Yemeni constitution which stipu-

girls, improve their health and to stimulate their participation in the fields of development and economy.

He described women as the source of life, as well as caretaker and guide of generations. He highlighted the government's commitment to promote women's participation, including resolutions taken by the government last year concerning the establishment of general directorates for women in ministries, to support women's participation and to meet their needs and interests and to improve the quality of life for women and guaranteeing their due rights.

In her speech, Mrs. Amat Al-Aleem Assoswa welcomed the guests and highlighted the glorious history of

البنك التجاري اليمني

يتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات
لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

علي عبدالله صالح

والى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر
والى الحكومة اليمنية الرشيدة برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني،
والى المجلس الاستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبد القني
والى الشعب اليمني البطل

بمناسبة حلول عيد الأضحى المبارك اعاده الله على اليمن والأمة الإسلامية
باليمن، والخير والمسرات

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البنك الذي تثق به

Yemen Commercial Bank

Congratulates

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmer and Parliament, Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister
and his Government Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani and Consultative Council,
and the Yemeni people
on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak

Many Happy Returns

"The Blind" A Journey of Nonstop Suffering and Brutality of Social Insurance

By: Jalal Al-Shar'abi, Yemen Times

No one can imagine how unbearable the conditions of the blind in our country are. They always suffer despite their patience and temerity on account of the bad treatment they receive from the Ministry of Insurances and Social Affairs.

express their discontent, the blind organized a peaceful protest march to the building of the Ministry of Insurances and Social Affairs. However, what they found was nothing more than disdain and disrespect from workers there.

Mr. Mohammed Ali: "We registered our protest against the Ministry grabbing our land forcing the blind to streets since we do not have enough residential accommodation. So, this is why we asked for building a new residence instead of Ministry's offices. We have authorized a committee to file our demands to the president's office and the Cabinet."

Some one, who requested anonymity complained that he always gets beaten because they accuse him of instigating others. "First, it is really a big tragedy to see the new members turned away every year because of the limited number of rooms in the residence. So what happened to us on Sunday, 6 March was even a bigger tragedy. We were shocked by General Security beating us harder than the Israelis do in Palestine. We have previously informed Mr. Mohammad Abdullah Al-Butani, Minister of Insurances, of our demands and he told us: "You eat and drink what more are you looking for?" We answered him: "Animals drink and eat too. So what is the difference". Our center is half-disintegrated despite all the aids we receive simply because they do not reach us.

where beaten severely. They explained, with a choked voice and signs of beating clearly visible all over their bodies: "The soldiers told us to go up to the Ministers office and once we went in they started taking us out one by one beating us harshly in our backs and necks with the bottom of their shotguns and with metal wires."



Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Zyad, Chief of Al-Nour Center said: "The center was established in 1967 in Sana'a and it had only 20 students then. In 1979, we built this center and there was no Ministry support then. Then, in 1983 the then Minister asked us to construct some buildings for the Ministry of Insurances. Last Thursday I was told that the Ministry was making some construction in our yard. Many of the blind who came from all around Sana'a, some of whom have graduated 20 years ago, gathered and buried the foundations of the buildings of the Ministry of Insurances on Friday 3 March. Next morning, I went to the Minister's office and suggested that they stop the construction and calm the situation but he insisted on the continuation of the project saying that the blind came only to study, eat and drink. They have nothing to do with the land. He also threatened to fire me from the administration of the center. Half an hour later, the Minister sent his orders for the construction to continue.

The center now has 135 students and we refuse accepting 50 to 60 more blind every year because of the limited seats available. Moreover, the center does not receive any aids even the barest minimum necessary to save patients. Therefore, I

would like to ask all benefactors and International Organizations to help us get the necessary amenities at the center. They can sensitize utilization of the grants by themselves. As for the decaying health condition of the blind, Assistant Doctor Mr. Fouad Doa'ysh says: "We, at the center, lack many health care necessities. Every thing that we have at the center is unhealthy and causes disease: food, beds and residence. Besides the Ministry of Health gives us hardly enough materials. Now, after the blind have been beaten many of them suffer greatly. So, if any body is sincerely interested in the welfare of these hapless victims of destiny, he could come and visit our center to directly experience the situation.



Mr. Hassan, Chief of The Society for the blind, said: "The Ministry always asks for aids in the name of the blind. The beatings in the harsh manner presents a good example of its dealing with us. We ask all international human rights organizations to stand with us in our tragedy for we are blind and handicapped, deprived of the privilege of leading a normal life. We all know that all laws, religions and constitutions prohibit assault on the blind. Finally, we ask his Excellency, the President to solve our problems because he is the father of us all"



The beaten-up blind children

many cases the Ministry prohibits funding organizations from rendering aids to the blind. Official sources reveal that there are 4700 blind persons who do not have residence and are perforce taking to beggary because the carelessness of the Ministry of Insurances. Al-Nour Center, located in Sana'a, embodies a real tragedy that tear the hearts of the blinded because of the harsh treatment they are meted out by the Ministry of Insurances and other official authorities. The center itself is on its last legs with broken water pipes and out-of-order bathrooms and, in addition to that, all the blind do not have suitable clothes, clean food and good health care. To highlight this situation and

Undersecretary, what do they want" as if he was not aware of their demands. The Yemen Times broke the ice and tried to analyze the problems of this vulnerable section of the society:

Mr. Abdullah Saleh Al-Nomayri: "We started a peaceful protest to protest against malicious grabbing of our land express our disapproval of taking our land by the Ministry of Insurances. However, we found ourselves targets for the sticks of the Ministry's soldiers causing me injuries in my right eye and back. Our demands are legal and simple and all we ask for is a new set of clothes every year, hygienic food and clean residence"



Toilets conditions of the blind

Arabic text document, likely a petition or official report, with a header from the Ministry of Social Security and Social Affairs.

Large advertisement for Arab Bank plc. Includes a portrait of Ali Abdullah Saleh, the bank's logo, and text in both English and Arabic celebrating Eid Al-Adha. The text mentions 'Arab Bank plc Congratulates President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Yemeni people' and 'البنك العربي ش م ع يتقدم بأحر التهاني واطيب التبريكات إلى فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ علي عبدالله صالح وإلى الشعب اليمني بمناسبة عيد الأضحى المبارك'. It also lists branches operating in Yemen and provides contact information for the regional office.

U.S. Department of State 2nd in a Series

Yemen Report on Human Rights Practices for 1999

SECTION 2. RESPECT FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES, INCLUDING: a. Freedom of Speech and Press

The Constitution restricts freedom of speech and of the press "within the limits of the law," and the Government influences the media and limits press freedom. Some security officials attempt to influence press coverage by threatening, harassing, and detaining journalists. Although most citizens are uninhibited in their private discussions of domestic and foreign policies, some are cautious in public, fearing harassment for criticism of the Government. The Press Law criminalizes "the humiliation of the State, the Cabinet, or parliamentary institutions," and the publication of "false information" that "threatens public order or the public interest."

The relative freedom of the press permitted between unification (1990) and the civil war (1994) has not been reestablished. An atmosphere of government pressure on independent and political party journals continues that was not present before the civil war. The international human rights group, the Committee to Protect Journalists, criticized the Government for restrictions, harassment, and arbitrary detention directed at journalists.

The Ministry of Information influences the media by its control of most printing presses, by subsidies to certain newspapers, and by its ownership of the country's sole television and radio outlets. Only one newspaper, the thrice-weekly Aden independent Al-Ayyam, owns its own press. The Government selects the items to be covered in news broadcasts, and often does not permit broadcast reporting critical of the Government. However, during the presidential election campaign, the media extensively covered both candidates and reported in full the many critical comments made by the President's opponent. The Government televises parliamentary debates but may edit them selectively to delete criticism.

In 1998 the Government implemented regulations for the 1990 Press Law. The new regulations specify, among other things, that newspapers must apply annually to the Government for licensing renewal, and that they must show continuing evidence of about \$4,375 (YR 700,00) in operating capital. Some journalists welcomed the new regulations, saying that they were long overdue. Others claimed that they were designed to drive some opposition newspapers out of business.

Although newspapers are allowed to criticize the Government, journalists sometimes censor themselves, especially when writing on such sensitive issues as government policies toward the southern governorates, relations with Saudi Arabia and other foreign governments, and official corruption. The penalties for exceeding these self-imposed limits can be arrest for libel, dismissal from employment, or extralegal harassment. Some journalists reported being threatened by security officials to change the tone and substance of their reporting. Journalists must have a permit to travel abroad, although enforcement of this restriction is irregular (see Section 2.d.).

During the year there was a significant increase in incidents in which journalists were detained for questioning for short periods of time for writing articles that were critical of the Government or that the Government considered touched on sensitive subjects. For example, in 1 week in May, six newspapers (Yemen Times, Al-Ayyam, Al-Shoura, Al-Thawri, Al-Wahdawi, and Al-Haq) were summoned to appear before the Special Media Court for violating the Press Law. However, most individual journalists and the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate acknowledge that there was a decrease during the year in incidents of extralegal governmental harassment.

Beginning in late December 1998, the Ministry of Information closed the independent weekly newspaper Al-Ray Al-Amm for 5 months for publishing an article critical of the

Government of Saudi Arabia. The newspaper reopened in May.

From mid-December 1998 through late January, security officials in Marib detained Hassan al-Zaidi, a Yemen Times correspondent, and a German journalist who were investigating the kidnapping of a German citizen by tribesmen in the region.

In February PSO officials detained Nu'man Qaid Seif, editor in chief of the opposition Al-Shoura newspaper, for 3 days on the charge of disseminating false information. Seif had written an editorial on corruption critical of the President Saleh entitled "The President Is Urged to Fight Corruption."

In February the Ministry of Information closed Al-Shoura newspaper, the newspaper of the Islamist opposition party Union of Popular Forces (UPF), as well as a new, competing version of the same newspaper. The second Al-Shoura appeared following an ideological split in the UPF. Under the Press Law, it is illegal for more than one newspaper to use the same name. Some journalists allege that the Government financed the second Al-Shoura in order to create a pretext to shut down the outspokenly critical original Al-Shoura. A court in April allowed the original Al-Shoura to resume publication and upheld the suspension of the second Al-Shoura, but in September an appeals court ordered the original newspaper to cease publication pending the Supreme Court's decision as to which faction had the right to Al-Shoura's name. At year's end the case remained unresolved.

In March security officials imprisoned Abdul Latif Kutbi Omar, editor in chief of the opposition Rabeta Party-affiliated Al-Haq newspaper, for 4 days for publishing an article claiming that the Government had granted the United States the right to operate a military base on Socotra Island. Some journalists report that authorities suspect Omar of having links to the London-based secessionist leader Abdul-Rahman al-Jiffri, who fled Yemen 1994 and who now heads the Yemeni National Opposition Front (MOWJ) (see Section 1.e.).

In May four masked armed men severely beat Saif al-Hadheri, the editor in chief of the independent weekly Al-Shumua. A few days prior to the assault, the newspaper published an editorial on corruption that directly criticized the Minister of Finance. The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate and the Committee to Protect Journalists called on the Minister of Interior to investigate the assault. However, a court determined that the issue was personal and dismissed the case.

Also in May, the Ministry of Information threatened to close the Aden weekly Al-Ayyam, the largest-circulating newspaper in the country, after it published an editorial entitled "Let's Talk about Unity from a Social Perspective," which criticized the structure of local government, whereby southern provinces are governed by officials from the north. The Ministry claimed that the editorial instigated "national feuds," separatism, and harmed national unity. Journalist Ali Haitham al-Ghareeb was arrested and held for 5 days. Editor Hisham Ba Sharahil was summoned by state prosecutors and questioned for 4 hours. Ba Sharahil was charged with violating a January court order banning publication of court proceedings of the trial of a group of British nationals whom the Government alleged had conspired to commit acts of terrorism in Yemen; Al-Ayyam had published comments made by the defense lawyer to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Ghareeb was sentenced to a 10-month suspended prison term. Ba Sharahil received a 6-month suspended sentence and a \$62.50 (YR 10,000) fine.

In June the Government filed a case against Ahmen al-Ashwal, a journalist for Al-Wahdawi newspaper, for publishing an article about corruption in the selection of teachers at Sana'a University. He was fined \$62.50 (YR 10,000). In June security forces arrested Hassan Bin Husainoon, a journalist

with Al-Haq newspaper, for writing an article entitled "In Hadramout there are Non-Unity Practices," which alleged that officials in Hadramout governorate discriminate among residents. In October a court suspended publication of Al-Haq for 1 month for inciting "sectarianism" and "regionalism," and fined editor Abdel Latif Al-Kutbi \$250 (40,000 riyals) and Husainoon and two other journalists, Ismail Al-Riashi and Abdullah Hamadi, \$62.50 (10,000 riyals).

In August journalist and lawyer Nabil al-Amoudi was brought before the Abyan preliminary court for writing an article critical of the Government and the human rights situation in Yemen. The case still was pending at year's end, but al-Amoudi is not imprisoned. In August Jamal Ahmed Amer, editor of Al-Wahdawi newspaper and member of the opposition Nasserite Party, was detained and held incommunicado for 6 days for writing an article critical of Yemeni-Saudi Arabian relations. The Minister of Interior personally questioned Amer by telephone. Al-Wahdawi's editor, Abdelaziz Sultan, also was called for questioning and interrogated personally by the Minister of Information. Amer has filed a suit against the Minister of Interior, which still is pending. Also in August, security officials detained Jamil al-Samit, a journalist for the Taiz-based official newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah, for writing an article about the use of excessive force by the military in putting down a civilian protest in Quradah (see Section 1.a.). He remains imprisoned in Taiz central prison.

In September Al-Ayyam's editor Hisham Ba Sharahil twice was called to the Aden prosecutor's office for questioning. He first was called in connection to the publication in August of an interview with Islamic militant Abu Hamza al-Masri (see Section 1.e.), then was summoned a few days later, for publication in July of an opposition statement that allegedly misquoted the Koran.

In October 1998, three journalists from Al-Thawri, the newspaper of the Yemen Socialist Party, were acquitted of all charges related to the case brought against them by the Sana'a prosecutor's office in relation to articles criticizing the Government.

The editor of Al-Shoura, the newspaper of the Islamist opposition party UPF, stated in August that traditional mediation and a published apology effectively had ended the case brought against the newspaper by the Government in 1995. The case involved two journalists who had been found guilty of slander and character assassination against an important sheikh, a leader of the Islaah party. The judge ordered that the newspaper be closed and that the journalists be flogged with 80 lashes, stopped from working for 1 year, and fined \$625 (YR 100,000). The Ministry of Justice suspended this judgment while reviewing its conformity with law and judicial procedure.

After he died in a traffic accident in June, the Special Media Court terminated the case that it had filed against Abdul Aziz al-Saqqaq, the editor of the English-language weekly Yemen Times, for publishing a story questioning the disposition of government profits from oil exports. The Yemen Times requested that the case be continued, arguing that the charges involved the newspaper's journalism, not Al-Saqqaq personally, but the judge sustained his ruling.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate defends freedom of the press and publicizes human rights concerns. For example in September it sponsored a symposium on "Media and Its Role in Spreading a Human Rights Culture." Critics claim that the Syndicate has too many nonjournalist members who support government policy. In the spring, several independent and opposition party journalists formed a rival union, the Committee for the Defense of Journalists, under the leadership of Hisham Ba Sharahil, the publisher of Al-Ayyam newspaper, to defend more vigorously journalists harassed by the Government.

Customs officials confiscate foreign publications regarded as pornographic or objectionable because of religious or political content. The Ministry of Information routinely delayed the distribution of international Arabic-language dailies such as Al-Hayat and Al-Sharq Al-Awsat in an apparent effort to decrease their sales in the country. For several days in February, the Ministry banned sales of Al-Hayat because it published a threat from the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army against foreign ambassadors in Sana'a, and Al-Sharq Al-Awsat because it printed allegations that Yemen was providing arms to the Aided faction in Somalia and supporting Eritrea in that country's war with Ethiopia.

An author must obtain a permit from the Ministry of Culture to publish a book. Most books are approved, but the process is time-consuming for the author. The author must submit copies of the book to the Ministry. Officials at the National Library must read and endorse the text. It then is submitted to a special committee for final approval. If a book is not deemed appropriate for publication, the Ministry simply does not issue a decision. Publishers usually do not deal with an author who has not yet obtained a permit.

An estimated 5,000 persons use the Internet and 3,540 persons subscribe to it. The Government does not impose restrictions on Internet use, but most persons find that equipment and subscriptions costs are prohibitively high. Teleyemen, a parastatal company under the Ministry of Telecommunications, is the country's sole Internet service provider. With the exception of mowj.com, the website of the Yemeni National Opposition Front, the Government does not block politically oriented websites (see Section 1.f.).

Academic freedom is restricted somewhat because of the extreme politicization of university campuses. A majority of professors and students align themselves with either the ruling GPC party or the opposition Islaah party. Each group closely monitors the activities of the other. Top administrative positions usually are awarded to political allies of these two major parties.

b. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly & Association

There are no constitutional restrictions on the right to assemble peacefully; however, the Government limited this right in practice. The Government claims that it bans and disrupts some demonstrations to prevent them from degenerating into riots and violence. The Government requires a permit for these purposes, but it issues them routinely. Government informers monitor meetings and assemblies. Following the demonstrations of June and July 1998, the Government sent a draft law to Parliament in September 1998 that would impose significant limitations on the right to assemble and to demonstrate. The draft law was criticized by many lawyers, human rights activists, and members of Parliament. The Parliament continues to withhold action on this proposed law.

In April security authorities banned a rally by the Yemeni Socialist Party in Al Dali governorate to commemorate

tions.

There are no constitutional restrictions on the freedom of association, and the Government generally respects this right in practice. Associations must obtain an operating license from the Ministry of Labor, usually a routine matter.

c. Freedom of Religion

Islam is the state religion, and although followers of other religions are free to worship according to their beliefs, the Government places some restrictions on religious practice; it bans proselytizing by non-Muslims and forbids conversions.

Virtually all citizens are Muslims, either of the Zaydi branch of Shi'a Islam or the Shafa'i branch of Sunni Islam. There are also some Ismailis in the north. Private Islamic organizations may maintain ties to pan-Islamic organizations and operate schools, but the Government monitors their activities.

Most Christians are foreign residents, except for a few families of Indian origin in Aden. There are several churches and Hindu temples in Aden, but no non-Muslim public places of worship exist in the former North Yemen. The Government does not allow the building of new non-Muslim places of worship without permission. Church services are held regularly without harassment in private homes or facilities such as schools. However, security forces occasionally censor the mail of Christian clergy who minister to the foreign community, ostensibly to prevent proselytizing.

Christian missionaries operate in Yemen and most are dedicated to the provision of medical services; others are employed in teaching and social services.

Under Islam the conversion of a Muslim to another religion is considered apostasy, a crime punishable by death. There were no reports of cases in which the crime has been charged or prosecuted by government authorities. Nearly all of the country's once sizable Jewish population has emigrated. There are no legal restrictions on the few hundred Jews who remain, although there are traditional restrictions on places of residence and choice of employment (see Section 5).

Following unification of North and South Yemen in 1990, owners of property previously expropriated by the Communist government of the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, including religious organizations, were invited to seek restitution of their property. However, implementation of the process, including for religious institutions, has been extremely limited, and very few properties have been returned to any previous owner.

d. Freedom of Movement Within the Country, Foreign Travel, Migration, and Repatriation

There were some limits on freedom of movement. In general the Government does not obstruct domestic travel, although the army and security forces maintain checkpoints on major roads. There were no reports that security forces killed or injured persons at checkpoints during the year, as had been reported in previous years (see Section 1.a.).

In certain areas, armed tribesmen occasionally man checkpoints alongside military or security officials, and subject travelers to physical harassment, bribe demands, or theft.

The Government does not obstruct routinely foreign travel or the right to emigrate and return. However, journalists must have a permit to travel abroad. Women must obtain permission from a male relative before applying for a passport or departing the country. Enforcement of the restrictions on journalists and women is irregular.

Immigrants and refugees traveling within the country often are required by security officials at government checkpoints to show that they possess resident status or refugee identification cards.

The law does not include provisions for granting refugee or asylee status in accordance with the provisions of the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. However, the Government has granted refugee status to some persons and resettled them.

The Government in 1998 offered first asylum to 13,937 Somalis, who fled the fighting in that country. This brought the total number of registered Somali refugees in the country to 57,400. The Government also cooperated with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in assisting refugees from Eritrea (2,500 persons), Ethiopia (2,600 persons) and various other countries (150 persons). The Government permitted the UNHCR to monitor the situation of 2,000 Iraqis in Yemen.

Approximately 47,300 Somali refugees have been integrated into society and are no longer receiving food or financial assistance from the UNHCR. However, they still are eligible for medical treatment at UNHCR facilities in Aden and Sana'a. Also, the UNHCR provides small loans to refugee women who wish to initiate income-generating activities.

The UNHCR provides food and medical assistance for up to 10,500 Somalis and Ethiopians in a temporary refugee camp at al-Jahin in Abyan governorate. Children receive schooling in the camp, and adults are eligible for vocational training. The Government in 1998 approved a new UNHCR facility to be built at a site in Lahaj governorate, and at year's end, it was under construction. The UNHCR, in coordination with the Government, issues identification cards to Somali refugees and recognized cases of other nationalities.

The UNHCR reports that the Government consults with it prior to returning illegal immigrants to their countries of origin in order to avoid the involuntary repatriation of refugees with a credible fear of persecution. There were no reports of the forced return of persons to a country where they feared persecution. The UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of some Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees, as well as the voluntary return of 1,659 Somali refugees to areas of Somalia that are considered safe.


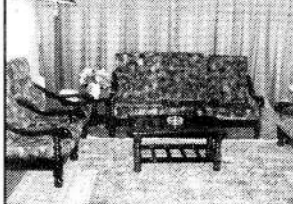

To continue next week.: Section 3

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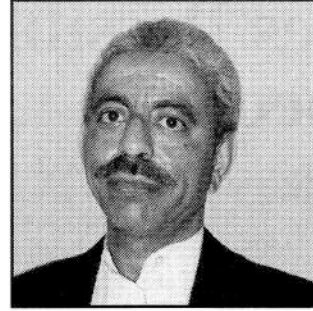
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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The Pilgrimage: A Universal Convention



The Fifth Pillar of Islam is one of the most phenomenal human religious experiences. It is a religious rite of several steps and measures that are geared to not only bring rewards to the worshipper in the hereafter, but also to provide the believer with a true sense of himself and a greater understanding of the world around him. For sure, the Hajj is the largest communal religious ritual practiced, not only for Moslems but also for all the religions of the world. The 4-5 day religious journey is more than a journey of salvation. It is a universal convention, where people from all walks of life from all over the world meet and interact together, listen to each other and feel the equality of mankind in its truest manifestations. Notwithstanding all the conveniences and facilities that the Saudi authorities have built in the areas where the pilgrims must stay for prescribed periods of time over the five day period, it is indeed difficult not to go through the journey without enduring some hardships, as it is just impossible to expect that 2 million people can be accommodated comfortably and leisurely at a given time no matter how many conveniences and facilities are built into the process. Moreover the rush to move over from one area to another before the limited time ends poses great strains on the facilities, no matter how abundant they are. Apart from the spiritual implications involved in the Hajj, one cannot fail to see that indeed the Hajj provides a true learning experience for men and women. For one there is the theme of the Unity of the Deity and the corresponding equality of mankind before the eyes of the Creator. When undergoing the Hajj, all Moslems are expected to forget their origins before coming to Mecca and the other areas that entail the journey of spiritual salvation. Being clothed in basically two unsewn or tailored pieces of cloth or towels (for the men), and in simple attire that covers all the body physique for women, except the face, the

Moslem worshipper is bound to comprehend that in the eyes of the world there are no kings or queens, movie idols or cultural and political celebrities. In the Hajj it is only man and God that exist together with the latter reigning supreme above all, and the former being totally under His mercy. In the Hajj, men are not gauged by their color, wealth, political prestige and influence. In the Hajj all people are the same and they have lost all their mundane attributes of glamour, prosperity and material wealth. In the Hajj, the only wealth to be found is the wealth obtained by all the good deeds that one pursues over time to gain the favor of only One King, the Creator of all the mountains and desert ground and blue sky that surrounds the pilgrimage sites, and man turns out to be no matter than the feeble creature that is equally exposed to the same elements of nature and the same prescribed rites that all Moslems must carry out as precisely as possible. In the Hajj people are to forget how to be angry and spiteful and all the bad language and curses that reflect anger, hate or even emotional pressure. As much as possible men and women should prevent talking to each other or trying to persuade each other of their own magnificence. In the Hajj, the only Magnificence to be found is the Magnificence of the Lord, and the only effective dialogue is a one way discourse with the Lord, as the worshipper is forced to realize that in the Day of Judgement, this is really how men will be put before their Lord and Master and will be forced to answer for all their transgressions and oppression of their fellow men. In the Hajj, men and women are equal in their search for salvation and mercy for all the times they have forgotten that in the end it is the Al-Mighty who will have the last word in the judgement of men and how they have used the gift of life and all the bounties one enjoys over the course of their lives to do well in serving their Lord and in promoting the welfare of humanity by all the resources that came under their con-

control. In the Hajj material mundane wealth is no parameter for distinction. It becomes meaningless as barbers and great industrialists stand side by side in the largest religious congregation of all times, reflecting how truly meek we are and showing that no matter how much wealth we gather and no matter how many assets we accumulate, legally or illegally, it may be more of a heavy burden than we have come to realize as the wealthy lavish in extravagance only to find that "One man's wealth is at the expense of another man's hunger. The Hajj is nothing more than an indication that all our pursuits in life are meaningless unless they are targeting the favor of the Lord and the development and welfare of mankind. In the Hajj, those who have plundered the resources of the world for their own selfish greed have truly transgressed on themselves, leaving behind only a record of their evil carnage to be taken over by reckless heirs who know full well that the owner of the estate had left for himself a bad record of gnawing upon the rights of many people in order to accumulate such wealth. It is an opportunity for evil doers to recollect their misdeeds and to contemplate how to go about correcting their dark past to make for all the bad marks that they have accumulated way up there in the Heavens, which will be put before their eyes when that final day of accounting to the Lord comes. From the moment that one joins the flow of pilgrims on their way to Mecca from all the corners of the world, one is bound to feel the aura of exuberance of millions of people throughout the world who have now become a part of a common experience unequalled by any experience. The cries of "We are here to answer Your Call, Oh One who has no partner", one is bound to be literally pulled out of the plastic mundane world we live in and to feel that in the end there is really nothing that matters, unless it is for seeking the favor of the Lord. Thus wealthy men are bound to ask themselves, Where did my wealth

come from; what am I doing with it; who does it really belong to; what of it do I take with me when I am thrown in the grave as quick as possible once my soul has departed? Yes, these and many other questions come into the minds of the wealthy as they are turned into merely a speck within a multitude that flows simultaneously from all the corners of the world to the Center of the Universe. For the not so wealthy, it is a chance to thank the Lord for not having to burden them with so much material wealth that could be a source of accountability with great undesirable consequences when all of mankind is laid out before the Lord, not being to look anywhere except to the Face of the Lord, in all of His Majesty, as he passes judgement on every step we have taken in the world, and for every word we have spoken and for every transgression inflicted. Thank God, Lord that you have left me without such wealth and kept me sustainable with just enough to keep me and loved ones going out of my own sweat and efforts. Thank God, Al-Mighty that when there was a chance for me to do what is to Your Delight, I did not hesitate to throw all of my resources at your disposal to relieve the agonies of my fellow Moslems or any other human beings who have become victims of natural calamity or the transgressions of their fellow men, who have forgotten that they are all subject to God's adjudication of all their deeds - good or bad! The Hajj is a journey of discipline, where men and women must exercise a significant level of self control, hiding their passions and emotions and even some of their physical cravings, which are permitted in the normal course of life, or else they have to sacrifice some of their material wealth as repentance for their lack of self control. When one reaches the Holy Land, one is bound to sense the poor humble status of men, no matter what status he or she may have at home. He or she is now nothing more than a part of an uncontrollable mob-like scene that is

International Center for Agricultural Research in the dry Areas (ICARDA)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICER Mountain Terraces Project Dhamar, Yemen

The Position

ICARDA is seeking a National Professional Officer (NPO) to work on the Mountain Terraces Project in Yemen supported by the International Development Research Center (IDRC), the government of Yemen, and ICARDA. The project involves research with communities in different agroecological zones. The NPO will also contribute to the development of research program and preparation of progress reports.

Although responsible directly to ICARDA for administrative and technical input, the NPO will report to the Director General of the Agricultural Research and Extension Authority (AREA), Yemen, and have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Take a leadership role in the design and implementation of the socio-economics component of the research.
- Coordinate project activities in Yemen.
- Assist the Director General of AREA in planning, implementing and reporting on the project of farmers' fields in different agroecological zones in Yemen.
- Prepare quarterly progress reports and an annual technical report on the project.

Required Qualifications and Experience

- Yemeni citizenship.
- Minimum M.Sc. Social Sciences (agricultural economics, agricultural development, rural development, rural sociology, rural anthropology, etc.).
- Minimum 5 years' experience (for candidates with Ph.D.) or 10 years' experience (for candidates with M.Sc.) with specialization in one of the above-mentioned fields.
- Fluency in Arabic and English (spoken and written).

Terms of appointment

The appointment will start not later than 1 April 2000 and be for one year, following successful completion of a three-month probationary period. The salary and benefits will be paid according to the United Nations (UN) employment terms and conditions.

Application

Qualified applicants are invited to send:

- 1) a cover letter of interest, including recent salary history
- 2) curriculum vitae
- 3) names, addresses, telex, fax and e-mail numbers of three professional referees,
- 4) photocopies (non-returnable) of other relevant supporting documents,

to:

Personnel Office
ICARDA, P. O. Box 5466, Aleppo, Syria
Telephone: (963-21) 2213477, 2225112
Fax: (963-21) 2213490, 2225105
E-mail: ICARDA-JOBS@CGIAR.ORG
Website: http://www.cgiar.org/icarda

REFERENCE: quote OS/0003/00 on the application (or in the subject line if applying by e-mail).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications must be received by 20 March 2000

ICARDA is an equal opportunity employer, and encourages applications from women.

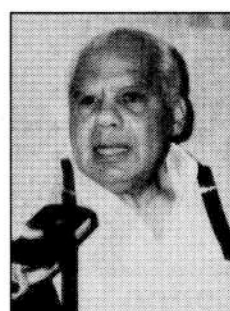
controlled only by pand full submission to the Majesty of the Lord. It is a magnificent scene as one realizes that in the end nothing really matters, except in how we compare with all these millions of people who have gathered where a billion people turn to five times a day in all the corners of the World also hoping that indeed they have answered the Call of the Lord and that they are in total obedience to

all his commandments. After such a truly magnificent mass gathering, without any priests or clerics to dictate their will upon the worshipper one is bound to realize that in this world where this great assembly is gathered in Mecca and the surrounding area, or in any other world for that matter we are driven to, there is only man and God facing each other and the latter truly rules Supreme above all.

Executive Secretary of ESCWA, Dr. Hazem El-Beblawi to the Yemen Times:

"The volume of activities that we are Involved in, in Yemen is not as much as we would like"

Dr. Hazem El-Beblawi, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN & Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) arrived in Yemen on February 27th, accompanied by a seven-member team of regional advisors, expert in various areas: environment, agriculture, telecommunications, information, technology, trade and social issues. ESCWA was established 25 years ago and it has just celebrated its 25th founding anniversary. It is one of five regional commissions, advocate, like other similar commissions, of economic and social development in the region. It embraces 13 member states all of which are Arab in Asia plus Egypt. Dr. Hazem and the accompanying team have discussed with Yemeni officials the needs of Yemen and how ESCWA can provide Yemen with needed technical assistance. They have also identified a few areas where the same experts, or may be others, will be coming to Yemen to help support the government in its endeavor for economic and social development. Hisham Al-Qubati of the Yemen Times interviewed him and filed this report:



meeting with all UN agencies working here and some representatives of donor countries to give them some idea about our program and what we are doing in Yemen in order to coordinate and to enforce our work. As a result there is a full recognition on part of Yemeni government. They need to draw more ESCWA expertise. We have already identified a few areas in the field of Trade and environment, the regional advisor will stay here for sometime. In other areas, each of the regional advisors is meeting with his counterpart to define the areas, the reports of which will be submitted to us in the future, proposing that they or others to come again.

Q: Can you give us an idea about the activities of the UN in Yemen?

A: I am in charge of the region only. I do not know in details what are those activities. But we are more concerned in the region and also with the member states of the organization. Our support is as part of our regional prospective plans. We look into problems of the region which are common to many countries. Then we will help. We also if we have pilot study which started in one place in order to generalize it in other places. So our prospective role is characterized by two things: one even if we give advice to one country, we

give this advice within a regional prospect. We give them advice taking into consideration what is happening in the neighboring countries and assert that the development will be complementary and coordinated. The other thing is that we are not a specialized agency in agriculture or population and so on. We are covering all these areas so when we help a country in one of these areas we give it a more multi-disciplinary rather than from a narrow perspective of one of these fields. So our strength and our weakness is that we try to bring the regional prospect in our work and we bring this integrated approach for our activities

Q: When did cooperation with Yemen start?

A: Cooperation with Yemen started from the very beginning of the regional commission. As a matter of fact, the first executive secretary of the regional commission ESCWA, was a Yemeni for more than 10 years. There is a long working relation between Yemen and the ESCWA. However, we felt that during the last few years, the volume of activities that we are giving to Yemen is not as we would have wished, particularly that we consider Yemen to be a priority area for us because it is one of two member states which are less-developed countries. So we should give them more attention than the rest of the region

Q: Do you think that Yemen has benefited from ESCWA's help?

A: I wish to hope so because otherwise our visit will be futile. Technical

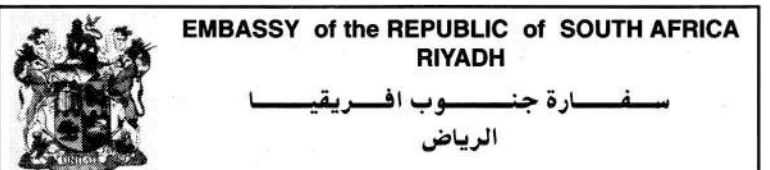
assistance can not be measured exactly and the message we are conveying is sometimes enforcing the message coming from other institutions such as the World Bank or other UN agencies. But spreading the same message more of the advice will bring some changes in the attitude, in the perception in the awareness but I can not say that Yemen has changed its policy because of ESCWA's advice or because of UNIDO's or the World Bank's. This is a cumulative activity. The end result of it is to change attitude to bring new ideas to have a more awareness of the real problem.

Q: Any last word?

A: Like everyone, from time to time we have to have a sort of soul searching. So ESCWA after 25 years is going through this kind of total reassessment of its work. This was particularly requested from the member states when we celebrated the 25th anniversary. To that affect, we just held in Beirut a brainstorming meeting among some eminent persons from different countries including Yemen to see how ESCWA can be more helpful to the member states in the new century. In this meeting, Muhsen Al-Aini was one of these participants and we identified over and above what we are doing as part of our routine work in the areas I have mentioned. It was indicated that there are at least three areas which needed some special attention. One area is related to the natural resources and in particular to the issue of the paradox of the region which is facing extreme shortage in water and relatively abundance in energy and how can we use this mixture of insufficiency in water and relative abundance in energy in order to promote the water future of the region taking into consideration the environmental and, of

course, to promote technology development in as far as to bring this forward. This is one line related to the question of natural resources but to concentrate on water in its relation to energy. One other area was related to the value system. When we discussed matters of development we learned to compile economic with social and there is no such a thing like economic development without social and human development. The question of our cultural values was also brought. This region owns some specific values, but, to what extent these values and norms are conducive or otherwise to development. But also this area or

these values are not given their part of the evolution and their part of the institutional aspect and this is to a great extent the outcome of the political and the economic institutions. The institutional aspect as to the relevant institutions needed for development such as an adequate information system, legal system and enforcement of the role of law and also the good governance and the respect of human rights. These are three areas which were indicated to us in the last meeting; one captures the natural resources, one captures the value system and one captures the institutional system



MEDIA RELEASE

The South African Government is pleased to announce that the Republic of Yemen has accepted the nomination of Mr. Mohamed Hassan Zubieri as its Honorary Consul in the Republic of Yemen. The Commission of Appointment was deposited with the Chief of Protocol of the Republic of Yemen on the 8th March 2000.

Mr. Zubieri is the Director General of Zubieri Trading Company based in Sana'a and a well-known scion of the Yemeni business community.

The Republic of South Africa likewise registers its appreciation to His Excellency Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen, as well as His Excellency Abdul Qadir Bajammal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, for having agreed to the appointment. This event marks an important milestone in relations between South Africa and the Republic of Yemen.

The consular office will be located at the headquarters of Zubieri Trading Company at Al-Qiyadah Street.

Consular hours will be from 09H00 to 12H00 from Saturdays through Thursdays.

Issued by the South African Embassy, Riyadh on 6th March 2000.

For contact please call:
Tel: 01-224051 - 01 - 223943
Fax: 01-221611 - 245838

Russian Envoy Discusses Possible Yemeni Role On Chechnya

Latest development in Chechnya forces Russia to provide the world in general, and countries sympathizing with Chechnya in particular, with full details about its military operations in Chechnya. Russians think that Yemen is able to play a role in the Chechnya issue. In this regard a representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry arrived in Sana'a last week, carrying a written message to Yemen's Foreign Minister, Abdul Kader Bajamal.

According to official sources, the visit aims at developing the bilateral relationship between the two countries as well as discussing matters related to Russia!

Mohammed Ben Sallam of the Yemen Times met with Alexey Podtserob envoy of the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs and filed the following interview:

Q: What is the purpose of your visit?

A: Russia cooperates with Yemen in different fields. Last year the representative of the Foreign Ministry in Russia reciprocated. I came to Yemen as a representative of the Foreign Minister of Russia to hand in a letter and discussed with the officials matters relating to the development of our relation at all levels. We discuss the problem in the Middle East, Iraq, Africa. We also talked about the situation in Kosovo and Chechnya, the prospect of further improvement in the mutual relationship. We value our friendship with Yemen. It is in fact a historical friendship. The first friendship treaty between Russia and an Arab country was with Yemen. We hope that this relation continues in future.

Q: Could you introduce yourself to the readers of YT?

A: I am a diplomat, have certificate as an ambassador. I work now at the Foreign Ministry, at the Middle East Department. Before that I was working in Algeria, Libya, Egypt, New York, and then again in Libya.



Q: What is the aim of this visit of yours?

A: As I said, we have a protocol of consultations amongst the Foreign Ministries. Last year it was the Yemeni representatives in Moscow, and now it is our turn to come here and continue the dialogue. I am here as the personal representative of the Foreign Minister, Evanoof. I have a message from Mr. Evanoof to Mr. Ba Jamal.

Q: How is the situation in Chechnya, and when do you think that the military operations would come to an end?

A: For the moment, the biggest part of Chechnya is liberated from the terrorists. There are some areas of resistance on their part in the mountains, but we believe that now we can see in the near future the end of the military operations. The fighters in Chechnya will try to organize a massacre against the federal forces, but I do not believe it to be successful because they do not have the support from the local population. Now, the position of the local population has changed in relation to the first war in Chechnya, and now the local population cooperate with the federal government forces, and authorities. However, I do not think that the military operations will not come to an end in the near future.

Q: Is the report true that some Yemeni youth are in the cadre of Chechnya forces, and that there are a number of Yemeni students in Moscow having connection with

fighters in Chechnya?

A: There are some Arab mercenaries who participate in fighting against the federal forces. I am not sure whether there are Yemenis, but we do not believe that the participation of such people is linked with the policy of one Arab state or an other. Mercenaries call mercenaries, no more than that. We do not accuse any Arab or Islamic government on these bases.

Q: We hear a report that Yemeni students in Moscow are enraged by the Russian police, what will you say about this?

A: I am sure it does not turn against the Yemenis in particular. You know that Chechnya territories are organized in Moscow. There were some buildings destroyed with a large number casualties. That is why special measures were taken by Moscow and federal authorities. So, this is not orientated against Yemenis or against any other nationality in Moscow. There is a special order to impound their passports. You have to have a passport with you. If you do not have, you may be taken to custody for some hours, only to establish your identity. The people who live in these buildings in Moscow, and there were Arabs, of course, from different countries and Russia who were subjected to such legal situations if they were without passports. So, I think that it is normal in special conditions; As far as I know from my contact with Arab embassies in Moscow including Yemeni embassy, it was not a problem. No body was arrested; it was a part of general restriction which applied to all. May be some Yemenis were taken into custody for sometime, but no more of it now. It was not meant to be any discrimination, especially not against Yemeni, Arabs or Muslims.

Q: How do you evaluate the mutual relationship at the political, economic, economic, and military levels?

A: In the political field, there are excellent relations between the two countries. We remember very well that the first Arab country with which we signed an agreement on friendship, was Yemen. One of the proof is of the growing friendship is my visit right now. Our dialogue is very friendly, and sincere in all the respects so far. Economic relations are concerned of course I believe that there are some prospects and some possibilities. There is a change in Russian economic policies in the economic sector. Before, it was a socialist economy, now it is a capitalist economy, a liberal economy. Now, we have to renew the cooperation under new conditions. It takes time, but by all means, we have a very good experience in building cooperation with Yemen. We in Russia know Yemen as a market that conditions all work here. That is why I am optimistic. In the cultural field there are great possibilities and, I am sure our cooperation would continue ever. As regards of the Yemeni students in Russia, for example. Yesterday, I left from Abu Dhabi by al-Yemenia; A lady spoke to me in Arabic in English. She said that she has written a book in Russian. Regarding military cooperation. Of course we have very good relations. We have historical relations. We have traditions, and I believe from the two parties, there is a continuous effort to develop these traditions.

Q: What is the quantum of assistance presented to Yemen, and what are these?

A: This is in the educational field. There are many scholarships presented to Yemen. We gave fifty seats to Yemeni students in Moscow; As you know there are a lot of Yemeni students who are studying there; It is impossible to count them.

Q: How do you look to the future of this relation?

A: With great optimism. We have

around seventy years of the relations with Yemen. They are fruitful relations in spite of all the changes here in Yemen, but we have a very successful tradition, so I am very optimistic because we know Yemen and Yemen knows us.

Q: Is there any intention of Russia to exempt Yemen from its debts as a second step?

A: As I know the total amount of debts was calculated, and the government of Yemen agreed to this settlement. It was settled on a bases very positive note for the Yemeni side.

Q: How many refugees left Chechnya, and when they come back, and what is the extent of additional resources required?

A: How to count the number of refugees? Between the first and the second Chechnya war, there were 300,000, who went out of Chechnya because there were no real government or real law, there was no real constitution or normal life for the people. During these wars, out of 300,000 Chechnyan who stayed in this Republic, it was more than one hundred thousand in Tagakistan. Now they want to return after the reconstruction. May be there are 60,000 people who are out of Chechnya because there are 700,000 from Chechnya who live in permanent places in Russia. There are a lot of businessmen, workers and so on. As I said, one of them is a candidate for presidency of the federation, and he will participate in the elections. We in the foreign ministry have from Chechnya, for example the chief of councilor section in Cairo. He is very effective. The extent of damage it is impossible to quantify. Grozni is destroyed of course, but we will do our best to rebuild it.

Q: How about human damages?

A: Amongst the federal forces the casualty was around 1500 persons, but amongst the population it is difficult to count, but it was more in Grozni.

Q: Who much time will you spend in

reconstructing Grozni?

A: I am not an engineer, so I do not know, but we have experienced hands to reconstruct that. So naturally it would take a lot of time, but it is impossible to give you the precise time frame.

Q: How many Chechnya fighters are there enrolled in the Russian army now?

A: They are 3000, but they are not only from Chechnya; There are a lot of mercenaries who are fighting against the federal forces.

Q: How many foreign fighters are fighting side by side with the Chechnyan people?

A: It is difficult to say because we know that they are foreigners. There are a number of nationalities enrolled as fighters, but all of them are not from Chechnya. So it is difficult to ask from where they are from.

Q: Who supported Chechnya in its war against Russia?

A: From the states, I think that there was no support, but we highly regard the position of the Islamic governments, and especially the position of the Yemeni government in this war. I think the support is from the non-governmental organizations, especially from the Islamic world. What I can say, for example regarding people like Bin Laden who supports this war.

Q: How about Saudi?

A: The minister of the Russian federation visited now Ryadh before few days. I was with him and we got very precious information from the Saudi part that they consider Chechnya situation as an internal Russian matter that they are for the integrity of Russia. More than that Saudi Arab gave humanitarian paid to refugees and all of this support is centralized. It was through official channel, through united committee to help Chechnya, through the committee of emergency.

Continued on page 17

CEW2000 and Epson New Products



Mr. Ahmed Al-Odaini, Vice Minister of Constructions, cuts the ribbon announcing the inauguration of CEW2000. On the left of Mr. Al-Odaini: Eng. Mohammed Al-Qassos, Director-General of the General Authority for Telecommunication and Eng. Nabil Al-Jarmouzi the Chairman of CEW.

CEW in Brief

Cew was established in 1992 and has since grown into one of Yemen's largest technical outlets.

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• **Commercial Dept.** The Commercial team offers the best services at the most competitive prices. Cew also has a chain of dealers working throughout Yemen



Epson new products for the year 2000

Where you can have the best solution output printers, what you see.. you get with color matching. Epson has announced lately a "true printing break through" stylus Photo 870 and stylus Photo 1270 "the latest additions to Epson's award-winning range of photo inkjet printers". Both printers are bundled with photo Reproduction Lab software which is the perfect tool to turn a home into a photo studio. In addition, "the new Expression 1600 and 1600 pro scanners and the EPL-2050, which has been designed for users with demanding printing requirements, particularly in the office work group environment". The EPL-N2050 provides true 1200 dpi output at 20 pages per minute, and comes with a host of features."



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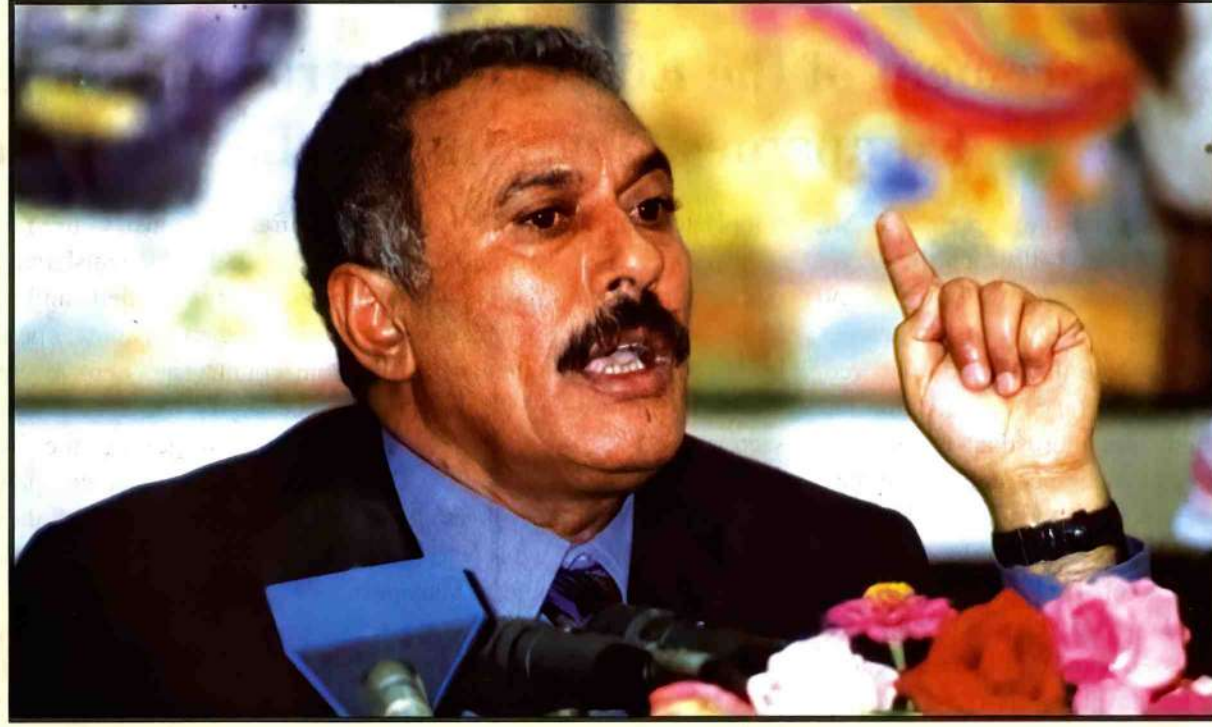
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بمناسبة حلول عيد الأضحى المبارك وكل عام و اليمن في تقدم ونماء

بلغار جومين اليمن / شركاء اليمن في إستخراج موارده الطبيعية





Arab Insurance Company

Enhancement of the Efficient Control and Supervision of Insurance Companies Operating in the Republic of Yemen

The Arab Insurance Company (AIC) which began operation in 1997 has taken the initiative in an effort of enhance the efficient control and supervision of insurance companies by offering support to the Ministry of Trade and Supply. This support has been in the following forms:-

- 1) The arrangement for an official of the Ministry of Trade and Supply to spend few weeks in Egypt to gain first hand knowledge in the procedures adopted by the Egyptian Commission for Control and Supervision of Insurance companies operating in Egypt.
- 2) The arrangement for the Chairman of the Commission for

drawing upon the expertise of Mr. Yahya Abdul Qaffur of the Egypt Commission for Control and Supervision Insurance Companies in Egypt who in addition to his recognized insurance qualification has behind him more than twenty five years of insurance and reinsurance experience, to conduct a Seminar under the sponsorship of the Minister of Trade and Supply Mr. Abdulaziz Al Kumaim who has expressed a keen attitude in enhancing the development of an efficient and effective system of control and supervision of insurance companies

Supply to control and supervise the industry in Yemen. This initiative by our company (AIC) has been a step in the right direction which is the bridging of the gaps between official public institution and the private sector.

From the opening speech made by Mr. Mohammed Abdul Karim Al Khatari who is the General Manager for the control and supervision of companies agencies at the Ministry of Trade and Supply, it is evident that myself and Mr. Al-Khatami share the same views because in his

insurance industry in Yemen by ensuring that the legislative is being effectively applied and that all insurance companies operating in the country are kept aware of the necessity of which I mentioned earlier not forgetting the important roles that insurance companies play in the enhancement of their country's economy.

Yemen Times also conducted an exclusive interview with Mr. Mohammed Moustafa the General Manager of the Arab Insurance Co. (AIC) who commented that the Yemen Ministry of Supply of Trade represented by its Minister Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Kumaim and its General Manager Mr. Mohammed Abdul karim Al-Khatari have exhibited natural awareness and a keen and rational approach in their welcoming of the conducting of such a seminar at their ministry and tapping on the experience of the Egyptian Commission for the Control and Supervision of Insurance Companies to enhance the efficient and effective application of control and supervising measures necessary to develop the insurance industry in the country. This ensuring that local insurance companies comply with the requirements of the law which should assist in the provision of financial guarantees and the maintenance of profession ethics for the social and economic betterment of the country. We are grateful to Egypt's commission for administration for it's kind assistance, which can be considered nourishing factor in the brotherly relation between the two

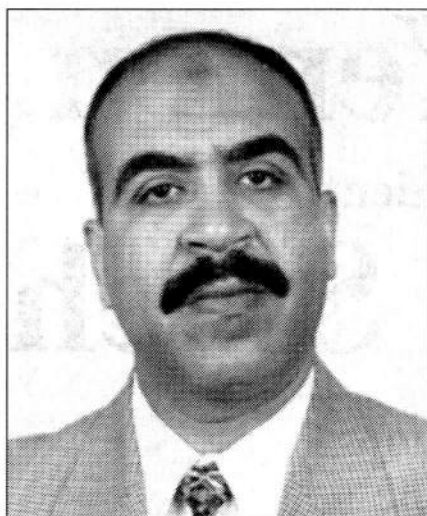
countries Egypt and Yemen.

An exclusive interview was also made with Mr. Abdullah Al-Maamari who is a board director of the Arab Insurance Company (AIC). In his opinion this seminar was important for the insurance industry. It emphasized the necessity for more effective control and supervision of the insurance industry in Yemen. This should assist local insurance companies in recognizing the importance of their roles in the development of the Yemen's economy.

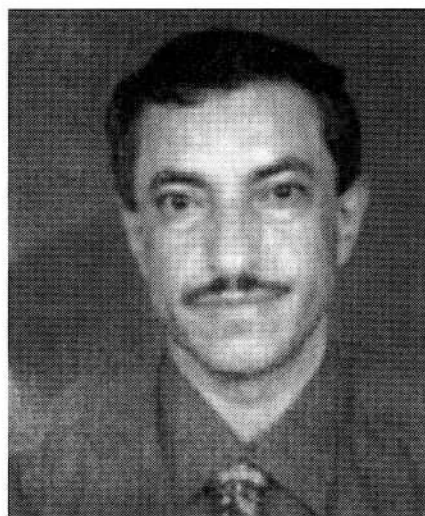
As one of the Board Director of the Arab Insurance Co. (AIC) I am proud of my company's modest contribution towards the achievement of a stable and efficient industry in Yemen which will only be realized if insurance companies take their moral and financial obligation seriously. In spite of our company's short experience in the Yemeni market if sincerely committed to the maintenance and rational enforcement of the insurance laws and practices. Because of its mature vision our company has succeeded in winning the confidence of a clientele ranging between local and foreign enterprises, public and private institutes and diplomatic missions in the country. I wish my company greater success in its efforts to serve the local insurance industry by complying with the requirements of the law and serving the economy to the best of its ability.



Dr. Ahmed Al Hamadani



Mr. Yahya Abdul Qaffur



Mr. Abdullah Al-Maamari

Control and Supervision of Insurance Companies in Egypt, Mr. Yahya Abdul Qaffur to conduct a seminar for employees of the Yemen Ministry of Trade and Supply which was held at the Ministry on Sana'a from Feb 26th to March 1st, 2000.

Yemen Times conducted an exclusive interview with Dr. Ahmed Al Hamadani the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Arab Insurance Company (AIC) who stated the following:

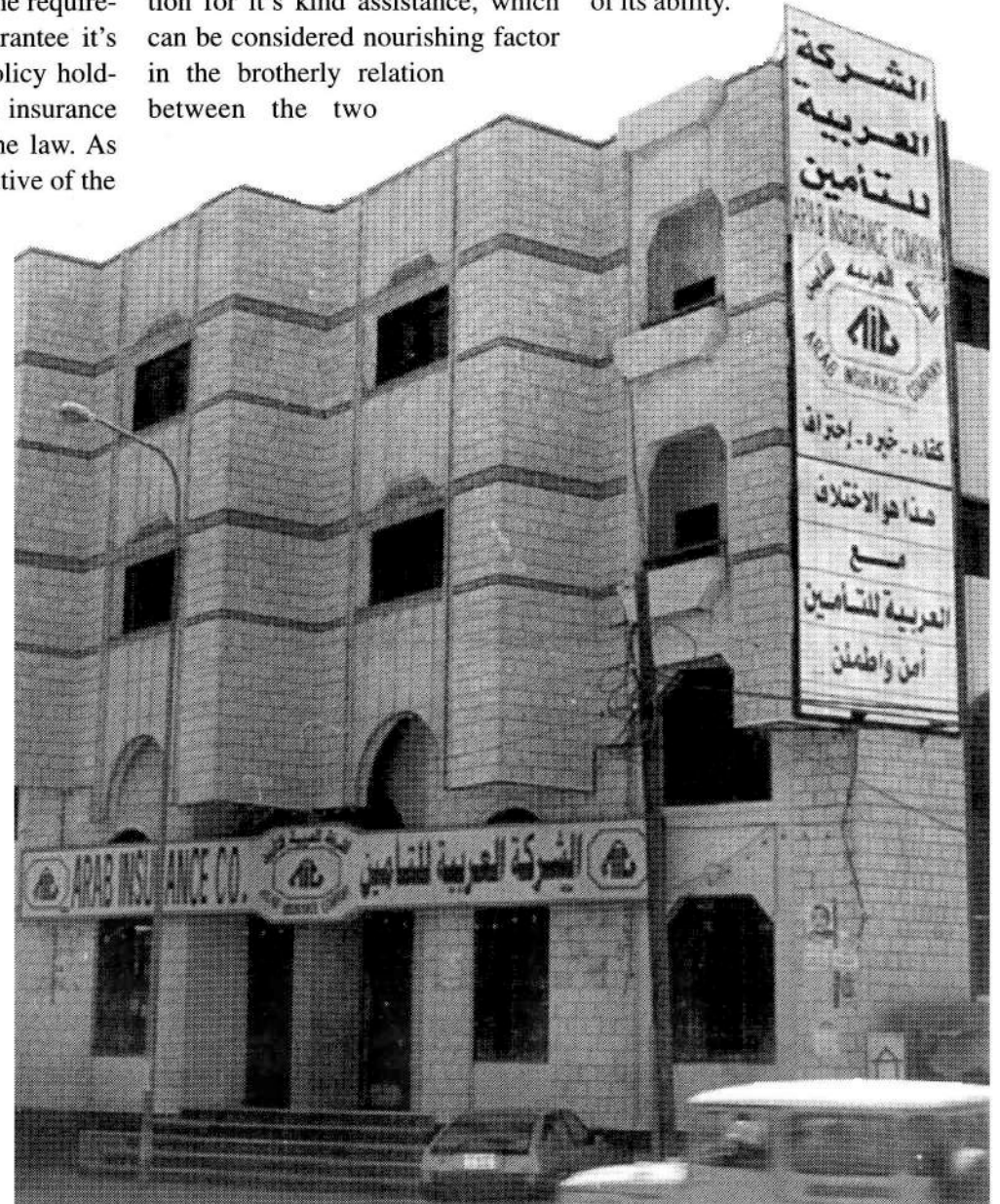
Our company is proud to have been the first insurance company in Yemen to have taken the initiative in

in Yemen.

Thereby injecting the legislation with virility.

It is my sincere opinion that to concerted efforts must be made to enhance the authoritative control and supervision of the insurance industry in Yemen, in order to prepare the technically and professionally to face the challenges which the country will be confronted with during the new millennium. Therefore the objective behind the organizing of such a seminar is to support what I have just mentioned by developing the capabilities of the staff of the Yemen Ministry of Trade and

words the conducting of such seminars are scientific contributions to the development of the Ministry's capabilities in executing the stipulation of Law No. 37/1992 superseded by Law No. 9 of 1997 which regulate the obligation of local insurance companies in maintaining adequate reserves to comply with the requirements of the law to guarantee it's obligation towards it's policy holders and to as certain that insurance fractions conform with the law. As chairman and chief Executive of the AIC. I feel it is on obligation to assist in any way we can in the enhancement of the

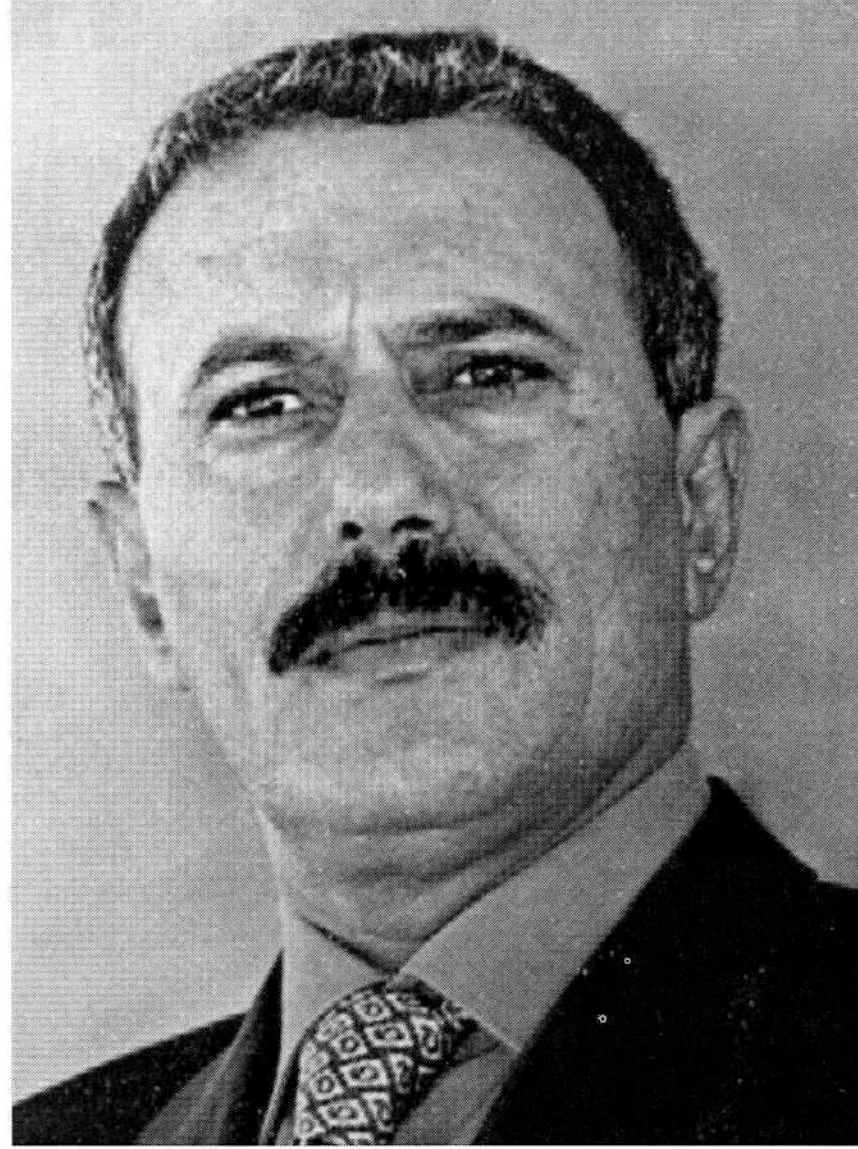


Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamadani,
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**President
Ali Abdullah Saleh**

The Prime Minister Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani
and the Government,
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmer
and Parliament,
Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani
and Consultative Council
and the Yemeni people

on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak
Many Happy Returns



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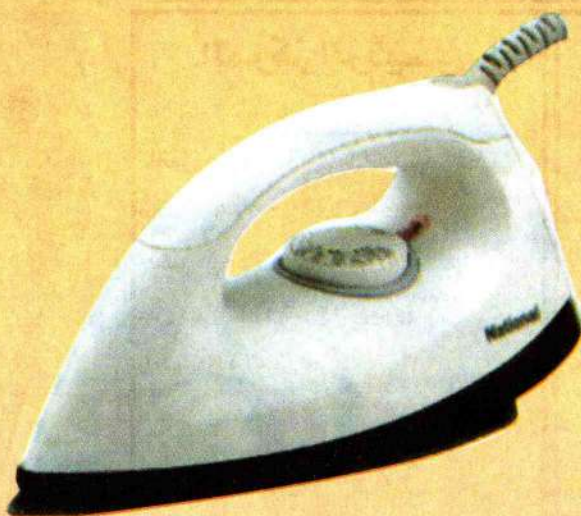
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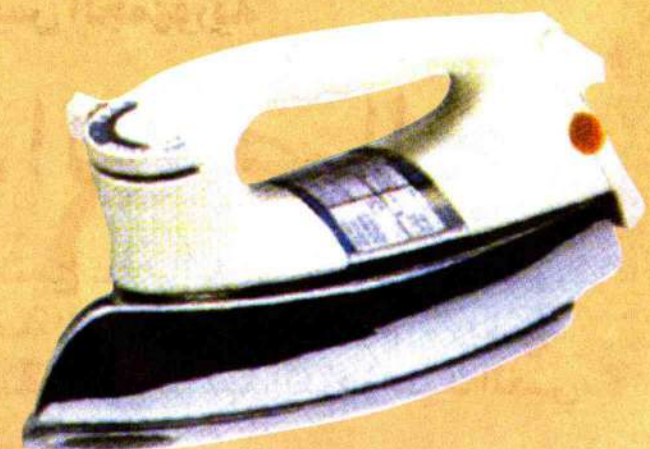
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Continued from Page 8:

Observing The International Women's Day in Yemen

Q: There are many calls and slogans on women's rights, develop and upgrade their conditions and roles in society, how is it possible to achieve that, given the fact of having the biggest rate of illiteracy?

A: Suppose there is 75% of illiterate men and women in Yemen, in this case the state should take the responsibility of illiteracy eradication. The state should work for eradication of all sorts of illiteracy not only of reading and writing. There is a mutual ignorance and misunderstanding of the relationship between man and woman. Regarding the development process, man is considered as a self-reliant productive force. So, women's effort and role is devoted to produce certain other things. For example, women in rural areas shoulder the responsibility of caring for their houses and families, this means that women should not acquire other signifi-

cant positions or play more important role. Man should not believe that he is the one and only master of the household. How can we find developing programs and projects for women that enable participate in the development process. In addition to this, how can women get their rights through the different syndicates available all over the country while they are out of their activities. There is a missing link in women's work and this is the reason behind her inability of playing a vital role in development.



Manal Mohammed Al-Kindi:

The International Women's Day is very important occasion. It represents people recognition of women's achievements. Women have been deprived of their rights for

generations owing to old traditions and concepts. These traditions and concepts are utterly not related to the religion of Islam. Islam has honored women and gave them a high status in the society. It does not stipulate unjust social differences between man and woman.

Numerousness of slogans and calls in favor of women and their status and rights are nor not important as the serious action towards upgrading her conditions. This can be achieved through studying women's affairs and give them opportunities to show their abilities and skills. Women constitute half of the society and they are capable of sharing men in building and developing the society. The most significant factor in this respect is the work for educating women and let them be active member capable of accomplishing the development of society on equal footing with men.

Continued from Page 12:

Russian Envoy Discusses Possible Yemeni Role on Chechnya

Q: Do you think that America supports Chechnya?

A: I do not believe that because they did nothing to support us in the first war. Any internal conflict in Russia is not of interest to the United States because the American prefer to deal with stable Russia. We are a nuclear power, we are a permanent member of the security Council. We still are a great power. The American have a lot of problems I do not think that the American is interested to have the region under external control.

Q: How can Russia solve the situation inside Chechnya in order to preserve its unity with Chechnya?

A: There are a lot of possibilities. We are a federation and we have different Republics, and for the Republics, there are a lot of possibilities how to organize their relations with the federal government. According to our constitution, they may receive authorities. A very good example here is in Tagakistan; It has authorities. The same will be with Chechnya. This is left to Chechnya how to resolve this question. Of course it will be a Republic inside Russia; Then about external relations. This is according to the Russian constitution. The priority should be given to the federal and central government in general, but the possibility is that inside Chechnya we are going to have economic relation with the outside world, to organize a big deal with any other federal country.

Q: What is the position of Russia concerning Iraqi economic sanctions, and why does not Russia take a serious position to put an end to this blockage while it is a permanent member in the Security Council?

A: We believe that it is necessary to verify the matter to substantiate or refute of complaints leveled by Iraq with the security council resolutions, especially in the first war, and on this basis to go to the declaration of sanctions. We believe that a lot could be done in this field, and may be, these resolutions of the Security Council are generally implemented. In is necessary not to go ahead, not to continue the present situations. About our steps, it is impossible to implement these without the cooperation between Iraq, the Security Council. And the United Nations in general. There is why we were not against the resolution of the United Nations. There are a lot of things that are not positive in United Nations resolution, but there must be a cooperation between the two sides.

Q: Any other comments you like to add?

A: Yes, I would say that the world has become too close and we are now in the 21st century. This century will be the century of cooperation amongst the different civilizations, cultures, and religions. So, the experience of Russia is very important. We have our ancient civilization. We lived during centuries with other people, cultures, and religions. Two main elements of Russian civilization are the Russian orthodox culture and the Islamic culture. That is why I emphasize that the beginning of the coexistence of our civilization began with Russia.

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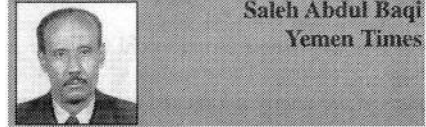
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Children's Culture Lost!



Saleh Abdul Baqi
Yemen Times

Children are the most precious gift by God. We feel happy for their happiness and heavy-hearted for their sadness. They are the promising blooms and future builders. They must be grown up in an atmosphere of love and understanding. What is seen nowadays is they suffer from the absence of many entertainment and cultural activities that help mold their characters and personalities. Such activities have become no more than sweet memories to children who in comparison with children in other countries seem to lack the basic needs of life. Many countries pay more attention to children and their culture. Yemen used to be one of those countries, but it seems to have retired

from taking care of its children. Children cultural activities flourished in the 70s until the middle of the 80s. Aden used to be the cultural center for children. They found a chance to produce at the time. All the cultural and art activities provided for children yielded fruits eventually, especially, in the field of drama, short story, music, story, etc. and all that helped rooting the national identity within themselves. Those cultural and art products of children and teenagers reflect how such activities are helpful in children maturation. All these encouraged people specialized in juvenile's literature to publish many children's books, stories, etc. Ministries of Culture and Education did their best to support children's activities and to spread children's cultural centers in Aden and other southern governorates and provided them with children's books. They also encouraged the school theater. Children participated in many

carnivals, festivals and shows, especially on the Child International Day that became an annual celebration on which many activities and competitions were organized for children. Those activities formed a cultural as well as civilized phenomenon in the country. After unification, we thought that support would be even more. To our astonishment, such activities were neither supported nor preserved. Authors of juvenile's literature complain that the authorities concerned have not kept its word in publishing their work. It is very painful to see children of many countries have access to the interment, while children in Yemen are neglected and ignored. Children have their own share in all cultural programs of the Arab countries. They also have their own sides in book exhibitions. It is natural to find thousands of children's books in book exhibition due to the importance of children's culture. Still have we hope that this kind of literature will find its due attention from the authorities concerned.

Another First Form of the Universal Group of Companies

Mr. Alwan Al Shaibani, Chairman of the Universal Group of Companies inaugurated the Business Travel Center. This is the first time in Yemen that any travel agency has opened a dedicated office to cater to the needs of the business traveler. Mr. Alwan Al Shaibani said that the center would be a one-stop shop for any travel related service, with particular focus on corporate

travel. He also added that this pioneering effort would go a long way in setting new standards for the travel agencies in Yemen. On another level, at the recently held annual meeting in New York, American Airlines Yemen was the proud winner of two prestigious awards. This was the first time that Yemen had won any award. Mr. Omar M. Omar MD Universal Group of Companies accepted the first award for best sales effort in a challenging market for the year 1999. The second award was given to American

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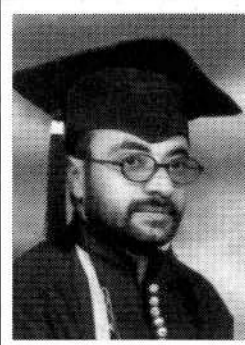
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الرجاء التعليم على المربع المناسب: للبيع مطلوب متواجد للتترك للايجار/استئجار
الرجاء التعليم على المربع المناسب: وظيفة مطلوبة وظيفة شاغرة سيارة/دراجة عادية/نارية/ناقلة...
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مدرس خصوصي/استشاري (قانونية، عامة...) /صداقة بالمراسلة سيك/كهربائي/نجار/راسم/سائق/خادمة...
غير ذلك... (الرجاء التوضيح المختصر)
تفاصيل الاعلان (ليس أكثر من 200 حرف أو 25 كلمة أو 5 اسطر عمودية):

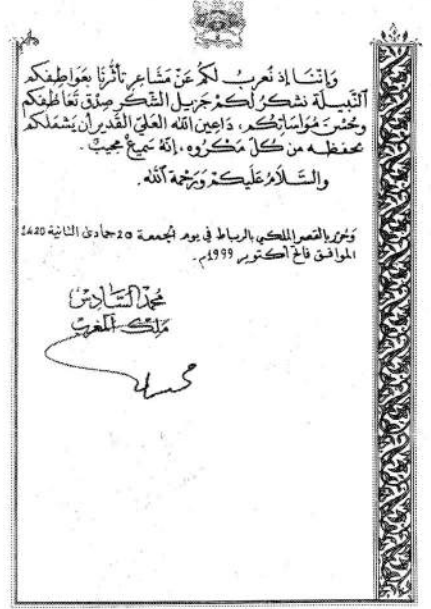
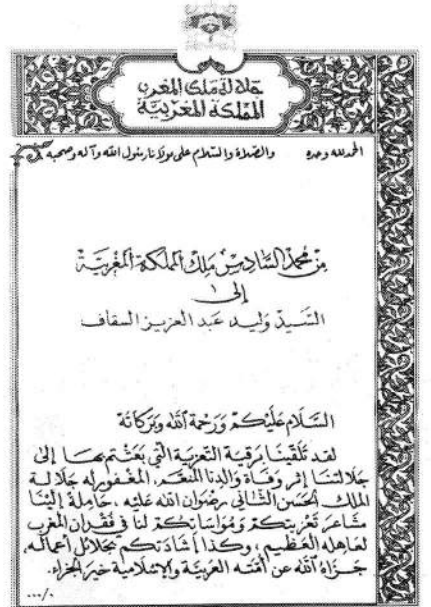
عنوان التواصل:

الرجاء قس هذا الكوبيون وارساله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز (ص.ميد 2579 - صنعاء) - لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ببارت (288681/2/3) هذا الكوبيون قابل للاستعمال حتى تاريخ 5 مارس 2000م.

بسبب الأقبال الكبير، سننشر مواد الخدمة الاعلانية (املاه) اسبوعياً ابتداءً من الاسبوع القادم

Thank you, your Majesty

His Majesty King Mohamed the Sixth, King of Morocco in a generous act replied to our condolence message with a personally signed hand-written letter of gratitude. To him we say, "Thank you your majesty."



CONDOLLENCE



It is with deep sorrow that the German Technical Cooperation Projects staff have learned the sudden death of Mr. Jan Bol, peace be upon his soul. And it is with the deepest grief that we send our condolences to Mr. Jan Bol's family, the Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands and all the staff members of the Embassy.

Dr. Helmut Grosskreutz, Director
Mr. Samir A. Habib, Deputy Director
GTZ



VACANCY

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sub-Office Aden is looking for a

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Under the supervision of Head of Office, the incumbent performs the following secretarial functions:

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- 2) Arranges meeting both internal & external, some involving high-ranking officials, and takes minutes and/or notes at meetings.
- 3) Prepares informal translations and may act as interpreter.
- 4) Takes dictation using shorthand on a variety of subject-matters and transcribes, ensuring that spelling, punctuation and format are correct.
Types correspondence, documents and reports, some of which are highly confidential.
- 5) Drafts non-substantives correspondence and ensure follow-up.
- 6) Clears correspondence for conformity with established procedures and accuracy of statements before being signed by supervisor.
- 7) Select and makes pertinent abstracts and undertakes searches for information.
- 8) Keeps lists of names, addresses and telephone numbers of ministries, government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.
- 9) Makes travel arrangements for the supervisor and performs liaison duties with other units.
- 10) Performs other duties as required.

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Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet

I. What to say.....

Expressing Gratitude

You want to thank your teacher. As a result of his help and guidance you have secured first position in your class.

"I don't know how to thank you, sir. Without your help and support I wouldn't have got this distinction."
"I thank you very much, sir. It was so kind and considerate of you to have given me your valued time and support."
"Many thanks, sir. It was so thoughtful and kind of you to have led me to success. Hereafter I'll be all the more sincere and diligent in my studies."
"I am short of words to thank you, sir. May your loving attention for me continue ever after. I promise to do my best to deserve your affection."
"Words fail to thank you, sir for the favor received."
"I am much obliged to you for your help. Without it I wouldn't have got this honor."
"Sir, it's so kind of you to have encouraged me. It's your inspiring words which raised my spirit."
"Thanks a lot, sir. It was a privilege to be under your tutelage. I am committed to work hard for the next year as well. I have no words to express my gratitude to you."

II. How to say it correctly....

1. Neither of the three candidates are fit for the post.
2. The man standing beside the Minister is a friend of me.
3. Such boys who are lazy hardly succeed in life.
4. Abdul's parents are richer than Khalid.
5. We went to Aden and enjoyed.

Answers to last week's questions.

1. He prefers coffee to tea.
2. She resembles her father.
3. I bought the book in Aden.
4. Never before had I seen such a nice picture.

III. How to express it in one word...

1. A man whose manners are more like those of a woman.
2. A medicine to counteract the effect of poison, or to prevent a disease from having an effect.
3. Remedy for all diseases, troubles, etc.
4. A speech made without preparation.
5. A language that is no longer spoken.

Answers to last week's questions:

1. Something unlawful or forbidden: **Illicit**
2. Bringing into, taking out of, a country goods contrary to law: **Contraband**
3. That which cannot be penetrated: **Impenetrable**
4. Person pretending to be what he is not: **Impostor**
5. Of marks, stains, ink, that cannot be rubbed out or removed: **Indelible**

IV. Use the following phrases in sentences of your own:

Cats and dogs, helter and skelter, dead wood, to beat about the bush, be between the devil and the deep sea.

Answers to last week's Spelling-check question:

1. judgment 2. disease 3. cradle 4. grammar 5. justice

Quotable Quote:

"Winners don't do different things. They do things differently."

CAMPUS NEWS

We invite news clippings highlighting important academic events such as meetings, workshops, symposia, competitions, and so on organized at different academic institutions for publication in this column.

Developing A Learner-Centered Approach in Classrooms

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate professor
College of Education,
Mahweet

Educators all the world over are greatly concerned over exploring effective and efficient methods of teaching which would result in learners' learning. As a result of constant thinking, theorizing and classroom experimentation various approaches, methods and techniques have emerged over the past decades to suit different teaching-learning contexts. A classroom teacher is expected to be familiar with all those to be able to choose from among them the ones that suits him/her, considering the constraints of his/her teaching-learning situation. In other words, the classroom teacher needs to adopt an 'eclectic' approach as there is no 'best' method of teaching.

There is a broad agreement among theoreticians, educational planners and classroom teachers that if we want to make the foreign language classroom a place which facilitates the language acquisition, we have to adopt a learner-centered approach, discarding the traditional teacher-centered approach. Now, what does a learner-centered approach imply?

A learner-centered approach, as the term suggests, involves in the first place devising and adopting ways and means so as to make the learner an active participant in the learning process. The central premise of this approach is that learners' communicative ability is developed through their involvement in a range of meaningful, realistic, worthwhile and attainable tasks. This means that in order to make teachers' 'input' learners' 'intake', we have to make the learners 'participate' in the various language activities in the classroom. So, our efforts should be to put Ahmed (any foreign language learner) in the driver's seat, asking him to experience learning by doing.

In the second place, a learner-centered approach envisages motivating the learners to want to learn. As we all know, it is possible to drag the horse to

the pond, but it is not possible to make him drink. We have to produce in the learner a genuine desire to learn the foreign language by clarifying how he/she would benefit from learning it (instrumental motivation) and how to promote a generic love for it (integrative motivation). Once the ball is set in motion, it would roll itself. Once the learner's interest is activated, he/she would find ways by himself/herself to get more of the language.

In the third place, the approach emphasizes building up a congenial environment saturated with the targeted foreign language to trigger unconscious acquisition of the foreign language. All we have to do is to try and build up the knowledge and experience of the learners to make him a fitting recipient of knowledge. Acquisition of the grammatical structures in the target language is not enough unless it is backed by opportunities for their practical use in normal, real life contexts. In view of this, the learner centered approach, in the fourth place, emphasizes the development of learners' ability to use the target language appropriately and accurately and willingly for the purpose of effective communication.

All this obviously call for granting greater autonomy to language learners. We must realize that they are no longer 'empty mugs to be filled with knowledge' by the teacher, or innocent 'guinea pigs' to be led along the route of learning, but in some ways leaders, decision makers, problem solvers who know where they are going and why, as well as how to achieve the goal. In other words, a learner centered approach acknowledges that all learners have a hidden agenda to learn. The best that we, parents or teachers, can do for them is to let learners assume greater responsibility in learning. We can achieve this by:

- a) letting them learn the ways of coping with their present linguistic resources and how to build on these;
- b) helping them to learn the ways of coping when their existing linguistic resources are not adequate;
- c) teaching them sound study skills/learning strategies;
- d) promoting in them the ability to monitor their progress and assess

their own performance; e) developing in them the ability to identify and solve learning problems.

If we succeed in our mission to fulfill the above, greater learner autonomy can be achieved, making the learner more self-reliant and less dependent on external help. We have to bear in mind that learner autonomy is a gradual process which needs to be patiently and carefully fostered by the teacher.

In order to be meaningful participants in the learning process, the learners themselves must be aware of the following golden rules of efficient learning:

- a) language learning is necessarily a process of discovery. One moves from the known to something which is unknown;
- b) Active participation in the classroom is a must for effective language learning. Hence they should not feel shy. They should feel free to interact with others without any inhibition;
- c) Doing/making mistakes is very natural to the learning process. No one has ever learnt anything new without making mistakes at some stage of learning. But one should carefully learn from the mistakes and not repeat those in future instances of language use.
- d) Learning in a group is more useful than to learn alone. Classroom interaction should be seen as a pre-step to social interaction.
- e) There are three phases to learn something:
 - i) Learn it (through exposure)
 - ii) Assimilate it (through memorization, internalization)
 - iii) Use it (through practical contexts of application)
- f) Learning about learning strategies is important because that gives them an insight into how they learn and how to quicken the process of learning
- g) It is not desirable to depend on the teacher for everything. Students must develop the self confidence to find solutions to their own problems. Only then can they enjoy the fun and excitement of being autonomous learners.

YOUTH FORUM

Reflections
My years withered like faded roses,
My loneliness grew, when I was not aware.
One day I saw the bare truth of my life on the mirror!
My conscience has already pricked me,
For along time.
In the dark corners of the life,
I have lived in vain.
What has been unfolding in the corridor of my life,
Till now
I could not know!!!
savanora@yahoo.com

One day Fanaya went to a wise man. She asked for some advice. She told the wise man that her husband did not love her. The wise man listened to her. He answered, "I'll tell you what you must do. But first I want you to bring me some hairs from the tail of a lion." Fanaya went away. She was very sad. She thought that it was almost impossible to get hair from the lion. However, she said, "I'll try to do it." The first time she went to the forest, she was afraid of the lion. She brought him some meat to eat. She also did so on the second day. She stood behind a tree and watched the lion eat the meat. On the third day she brought a sheep. She stood near the sheep while the lion ate it. On the fourth day, she held the meat in her hands. She didn't run away. Slowly she and the lion became good friends. She brought food to him every day. She sat near him while he ate. One day she pulled some hair from the

lion's tail while he was eating. She gave him some more meat. Then she pulled a little more hair from his tail. The lion did not even notice her. Fanaya was very happy. She brought the lion's hair to the wise man's house. She gave him the hair and said, "Here is the hair from the lion's tail. What must I do now?" The wise man smiled "You became friends with the lion. You were very careful. You became friends very slowly. Now you must become friends with your husband in the same way."
By\ Khalid Husain Gobran

Love's Magic
You have transformed me to something rich and strange by the magic touch of your love. So stay and do not go away for I cannot imagine a life without you.
Abdul Ghafoor Nagib Al-Hakimi
Engineering college, Sana'a

The Woman and the Lion
A long time ago a woman named Fanaya lived in Debre. She was sad because her husband didn't love her. He never spoke to her. He never said, "Good morning" to her. In the evening he ate his dinner and went to sleep. He didn't even look at her.

أزواج الالمعات
ازكى التهاني واطيب التبريكات نرفها
للدكتور
منار عبدالقني السقاف
بمناسبة زفافه الميمون
فالف الف مباروك وبالرفاه والبنين
المهنونون :
كافة الاهل والاصدقاء

محمد عبدالرحمن المقرمي
يهني الاخوة
عمار عبده شهمان
صلاح نعمان عبده
سمير احمد سعيد
بمناسبة عقد القران
وقرب الزفاف
الف مباروك

تهني وتبارك للاخوين
صلاح مصلاح الصيادي
بمناسبة الزفاف
والمهندس عبدالقني السلامي
بمناسبة الخطوبة
المهنونون:
عقيد ركن/ مرزوق الصيادي,
انور عبدالقوي الصيادي
وجميع ال الصيادي

اجمل التهاني والتبريكات
مقدمة للاخ
يحيى محمد المراني
وذلك بمناسبة ارتزاقه
المولود الجديد الذي اسماه
«علاء»
المهنونون:
عبدالفتاح اسماعيل علي,
عبداللطيف ابو غانم,
العقيد/ عبدالجبار محمد
المراني

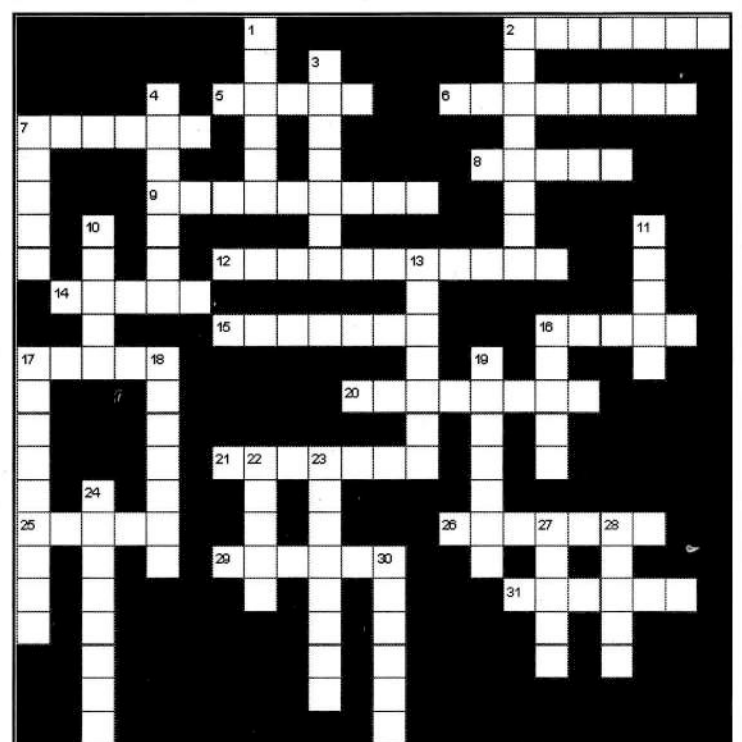
الف الف مباروك والدكتوراه وعقبى للأستاذية
نبارك للاخ الدكتور
علي عبدالله الشباطي
لحصوله على درجة الدكتوراه
من جامعة الخرطوم في مجال
التربية.
فالف الف مباروك
وعقبى للأستاذية:
المهنونون: عبده عبدالجليل,
احمد عبدالجليل,
عبدالله عبده عبدالجليل,
عبدالحكيم عبده عبدالجليل,
وجميع الاهل

تعزية
أحر التعازي والمواساة نتقدم بها إلى
د/ عبدالعزیز ظرموم
وذلك لوفاة شقيقته المجانج
أذخها الله فسيح جناته وأنهم أهلها
وذويها الصبر والسلوان
الأسيفون
وليد عبدالعزیز السقاف,
ريدان عبدالعزیز السقاف,
وجميع سكان عمارات الأوقاف

يا ابتها النفس المجلتة ارجعي إلى ربك راضية مرضية فاجعلي في عبادتي واجعلي جنتي
بإلحاح الحزن والأسنى وبقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تلقينا نبأ وفاة
الدكتور/ طه أحمد أبو زيد
وما يسعنا إلا أن نتقدم بالعزاء الخالص لولديه البارين محمد وزيد وإلى أمهله
وذويه داعين الله أن يدخله جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان
وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون...
الأسيفون
وليد عبدالعزیز السقاف
ريدان عبدالعزیز السقاف
جميع الجيران في مساكن الأوقاف
وجميع دكاترة جامعة صنعاء

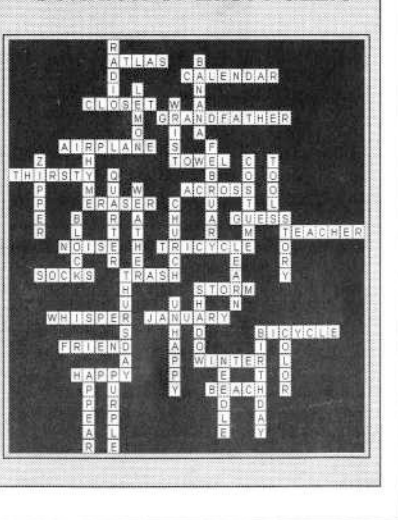
Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS CLUES:**
2. When I do something rude I am
 5. I like to listen to My sister plays..... on the piano.
 6. I turned nine years old today. I had a party and a cake.
 7. I am at math than reading.
 8. I look at the..... to see what time it is.
 9. I called my grandmother on the..... I answer the..... when it rings.
 12. I have twos. One is my mother's mother. The other is my father's mother.
 14. Ais a measure of time. There are twelves in a year.
 15. I gave my sister a on her birthday.
 16. We live in a We have a kitchen, a living room, and bedrooms in our.....
 17. I sleep at..... It is dark and I can see the moon and stars through my window.
 20. is the second month of the year. It is a winter month.
 21. I will a secret to you I will say it softly.
 25. I amduring the day. I am not sleep.
 26. The letter B comes..... A and C in the alphabet.
 29. is a day of the week. It comes between Thursday and Saturday.
 31. I have four.....s and a thumb on my hand.



- DOWN CLUES:**
1. A is a shape with four equal sides
 2. I flew to Florida in an
 3. The room in our house where we cook our food is the.....
 4. A..... is a doctor who takes care of teeth.
 7. Ants live..... the ground. The live under the ground.
 10. I am standing..... my friends. I am in the middle of them.
 11. My dog makes when it sees a bird. It barks at the bird.
 13. is the tenth month of the year. It is a fall month.

Solution of Last Puzzle



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Orchids in Yemen Part 2

Barbara Evans



When, in Sana'a, you face east and consider that the Arabian peninsula, which is bordered to the north by Jordan and the drier parts of Iraq, is mostly an extremely arid plateau of huge expanses of sand and rocky desert which seem devoid of vegetation of any sort, then the quest for and discovery of orchids would seem as bizarre as any story dreamed up by Dean Swift in Gulliver's Lilliputian wonderland of three hundred years ago. However, if you face west and consider the magnificent green mountain ranges and looking beyond, as it were, over the Red Sea to Ethiopia, to the verdant mountains of Africa, then you begin to understand that Yemen is an interface, and the discovery of orchids would not be impossible. Here particularly, in the south western corner of Africa, the Ethiopian montane flora mingled with that of the northern Asiatic and European types before both the last great ice age, and the African and Persian Gulf rifts left indelible scars on the land. In 1981 we had come to Yemen in ignorance, knowing nothing of the flora; but our saving grace was that we had lived in Ethiopia and explored its many habitat, whether finding in the southern Bali Mountains- albeit giant ones, walking through along under damp banks in the northern mountain gullies such as at Bole. Then

again, whilst living in Kenya, we had seen geraniums and buttercups growing in upland moorland, alongside streams and tracks by forest edges. Later still, in Malawi wild lilies, delphiniums even brambles were clues to the cosmopolitan nature of these flora in general. Here too in highland grassland some even on top of Mount Mulanje, we had found over a hundred ground orchids, each almost specific to one habitat, so that in fact we came to Yemen with somewhat practiced eyes. It was on one of our first trip out, to Jebel Raymah, in 1982 that the huge richness of the Yemeni flora became apparent. Climbing up across the giant terraces towards the top- the road was not then complete- wild roses, geranium and pelargonium entranced us, wild herbs perfumed our way. We did not realize that two of the known total of twenty two Arabian orchids had been found, only once, on this mountain. *Disa pulchella*, with colourful scarlet flowers and *Habenaria clavicornis*, a green orchid. Thus, with 'rarity' the name we ventured forth again from Sana'a and found not only orchids, but flowers, ferns and even fungi that held affinities with the great families of Africa, Asia and Europe. Cowslips and maidenhair fern grow coyly in the damp and sheltered mouths of caves; they border overhung springs along mountain

paths, where man and beasts of burden -often a team of one donkey and one camel- take refreshment from crystal clear pools of ice cold water. Along the crevices and cracks above such springs we found to our amazement the one and only 'Arabian' orchids whose distribution spans continents, extending from the Himalayas to the mountains of Ethiopia and Afro-oriental region in Somalia. Although widespread it may be, its hold is but tenuous, for even in Cyprus and Europe it is a very rare orchid. This *Epipactis veratrifolia*, however, is one of the most widespread Yemeni orchids. The first time we saw it, was not on Raymah but bordering one of those narrow mountainside man-made channels which follow with purpose the cultivated, humid and sometimes richly overgrown, tree-shaded terraces to the east of Jabel and Nabi Shu'ayb. It is found among verdure and its green in habit when thus well watered. The otherwise green flower shows exotic traces of deep purple around the rim, and becomes pendulous with age. The whole plant fades with time to buffish yellow, which is in keeping with neighbouring grasses which are hay-like in drought, a fact we discovered when once more we found this plant in dry-season situations, flowers long gone, near Kawakaban, Bab al Ajjar and Bab al Ayn. Though not a spectacular plant it is a great survivor and unique indicator of times past. The contrast in size of each of these locally rare orchids adds to the excitement of the quest. One could be forgiven for overlooking for the two six-inch orchids I've mentioned in my first arti-

cle, *Holthrix aphylla* and *Habenaria lefebureana*, for their very size indicates elusiveness. But when twenty or thirty people walk past a group of brazen four or five foot green stems, a many-flowered spray of 'traditionally' orchidaceous flowers, pink, purple, white, a plant thought of by some, as "very beautiful", and miss it- can there be forgiveness? We were out with the birdwatchers, who of all people might be considered observant (though beauty is in the eye of the beholder!). It was an unusually gregarious (for us) weekend in Taiz in 1989, and we were setting out for a walk a few miles west of the town. Lingered towards the back of the group, looking at one plant and another, and occasionally at birds, even we almost missed it as our gaze was fixed earthwards rather than the obverse; the orchid was at head-level, shoulder-level, eye-level. Yes! There is forgiveness, for after all, it was very perfectly entwined in a clump of cactus-like *Euphorbia*, and its lithophytic habit was unnoticed at first because the whole plant was so beautiful camouflaged as it sprawled on rocks, amongst the thorns. No doubt this, and its universally drought resistant habit, its dry leathery pseudobulbs, and stiff leaves, is a major factor in its fairly widespread survival in Yemen. Its perfume, however, is unexpected and sweetly pleasant. A young Dutch friend with us, whose job it was, amongst others, to create an Herbarium, a Yemeni national collection, at their agricultural station near Dhamar, was ecstatic; so much so, that as a farewell present when, not long after, sadly we left the country, he gave us an enlarged and framed photograph of this lovely orchid.

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