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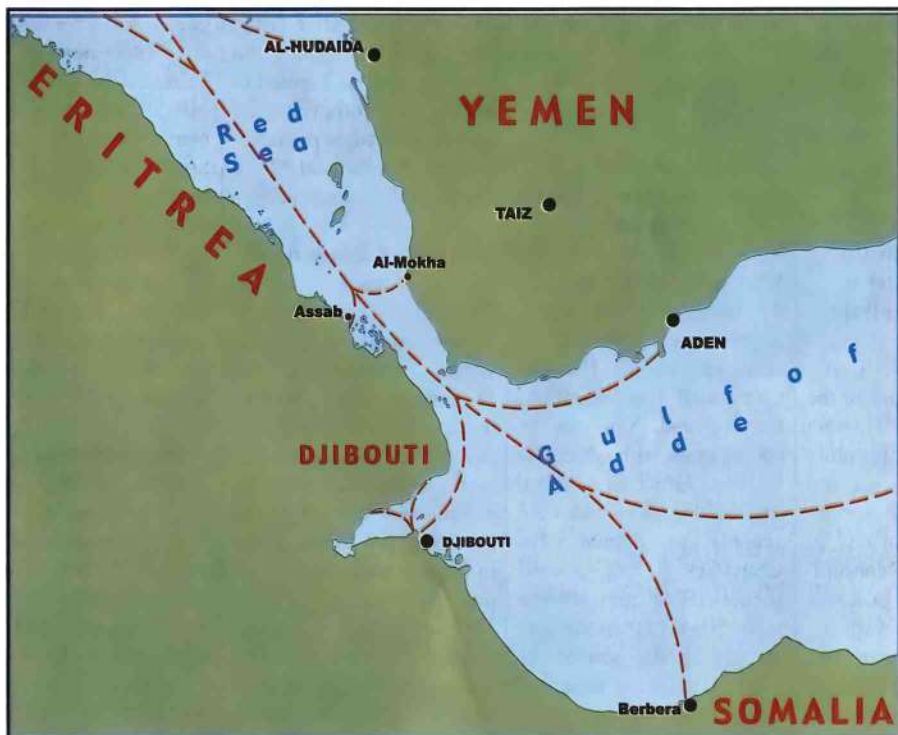
Monday, 27 March, 2000 - VOL. X • Issue No. 13 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

## ARAB SEA BLOCKADE AGAINST PORT OF ADEN?

Very soon Djibouti will hand over the entire administration of the Port of Djibouti to the Port of Dubai Authority (Jabal Ali) on a 20-year lease agreement, according to reliable sources. Press reports say that negotiations have been going on for some months between officials of the Port of Djibouti and the Port of Dubai.

In its February 12 issue the private business weekly Capital had reported that time was approaching for Ethiopians using the Port of Djibouti to stop dealing directly with Djiboutians. Also confirming this move is the private weekly Reporter. It reported in its February 13 issue that negotiations between authorities of Djibouti Port and Port of Dubai were then at an initial stage and the Djibouti party was quite meticulous about forms and conditions of the said partnership. If negotiations lead to positive result, the Port of Djibouti will have the advantage of obtaining higher performances and an increase in shipping calls, the weekly reported. The Reporter weekly had on the other hand wrote on February 13 that the Port of Djibouti authority invested 15 million U.S. dollars on infrastructure upgrading of the Port.

It seems that the Yemenis have not been given enough time for their happiness over the recent inauguration of the Free Zone of Aden Port on which the government spent almost 300 U.S. million dollars for acquiring modern equipment and to upgrade it. The news of the regional Arab-UAE-Djibouti new deal came as a surprise to the Yemenis. The establishment of a competing free zone at the Port of Djibouti, which is closer to the international maritime lanes under a lease agreement in favor of the United Arab Emirates, would



in itself pose a serious threat to the maritime role of the Port of Aden and its prospects of receiving hundreds of shipping calls navigating via Bab Al-Mandab Strait.

Any observer would immediately conclude that this latest agreement would ultimately mean laying an economic and commercial siege to the Yemeni Port of Aden at the Arabs hands, particularly if we take into consideration the amount of 260 million

U.S. dollars invested recently in developing and upgrading the Omani Port of Salalah. Blame should also be put on the Yemeni government for these recent developments. It has been very slow in implementing development and updating the Port of Aden and did not finish that in due time, a matter which encouraged other parties to seize the opportunity to carry out their present plans.

## US Warship Calls at Mua'lla!

An informed reliable source informed Yemen Times that an American rocket launcher is to arrive today in Aden port, Mu'alla. It is expected that its crew will conduct some tours in Aden.

On the other hand, two American destroyers arrived in Aden last Wednesday, March 14th

to be supplied with fuel, water and food. One of them departed on the morning of the same day, while the other departed at the sunset. An American diplomat in the American Embassy in Sana'a viewed this as routine measures that have nothing to do with the Yemeni-American military political relation-

ships. "They are rather business visits that can happen with any other country and this should not be fabricated by the media", the diplomat said.

Sources told Yemen Times that another big American destroyer is going to arrive in a visit to Aden in April 4th.

Scientists Confirm what Happened in Jabal Habashi's area:

## Landslides, Not Volcanic Activities

Al-Khaba area nearby Habashi mountain, governorate of Taiz was last week a scene of a dangerous geological phenomenon bewildered even researchers as well as residents of the area. That geological phenomenon posed a source of concern and anxiety to all because of the big rifts and cracks that took place in the area's mountains, the fall of rocks and soil drift down the slopes where many people live.



Three years ago small rifts began to appear in upper Al-Khaba area which is composed of agricultural soil taking the form of

terraces empty of houses and residents. But a year ago and specifically during the rainy season the small rifts got wider and changed into landslides of the agricultural masses of land and falling of rocks causing damage to farms and lands planted with qat and damage could cover other agricultural lands if the phenomenon continues.

The problem is now under study by a team composed of university professors from Taiz and engineers from the authority of water resources. The team has reached some preliminary conclusions related to this phenomenon.

- Rifts and cracks caused the formation of land depression extending along the area that is laden with earth behind the mountain.  
- The layer that is carrying the soil is muddy resting on basalt rocks saturated with water and helped the slide of the muddy layer.

- The random destruction and pasturing caused the removal of the vegetal cover and helped open the and widen the rifts.



The team proposed some solutions like opening canals leading to the main water course, planting the area with trees as a vegetal cover to fix the soil and prevent its slides, reclaiming the lands and filling up the rifts.

## Obaidah Sets up Tribal Barricades

Obaidah tribe is still imposing a tribal barricade, 5 kms away from Ma'areb on the main road linking Ma'areb, Sana'a to Bani Hareth tribes. It is reported that this tribal barricade was erected following tribal feuds enraged between the two tribes, Bani Al-Hareth and Obaidah. These feuds were said to be the result of employing some work-

ers and 15 cars from Obaidah tribe in Janah Hunt Oil field situated between Ma'areb and Shabwah. Bani Hareth tribes had stopped the employees and the cars belonging to Obaidah and prevented them from work under pretext that they have the priority for employment as the company is located on their lands. *Continued on Page 2*



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## Words of Wisdom

"Technology is the lifeline of our future. In many countries, political leaders and parties have made it a point to start small training centers for the youth. They call them cyber cafes or youth clubs or whatever. In Yemen, this has not happened."

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



## Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf  
Chief Editor

## The Missing Link!

During my stay in The Hague, Netherlands, I noticed that the world is changing; it is indeed improving, and improving rapidly. I saw the tall buildings, the new roads being built. The constructions never stop. I was amazed to see how these constructions go hand in hand with planting more trees, and improving the environment. The Dutch were able to have an industrialized cities covered with green parks and millions of tall trees. Whenever I leave my country towards Europe, the USA, or even neighboring countries like Jordan and UAE, I realize that the gap between my country and the mentioned countries widens. During all my visits I tried to compare between these countries and Yemen. I wanted to know why they—some, which have less resources—continue to develop and were they able to surpass my country. In my travels abroad, I realized that these countries share something in common. I believe that that very thing is the reason of their success in building modern states with modern infrastructures. I finally arrived to the conclusion of the missing link. Even though there might be so many missing links, the missing link I am talking about is of much greater significance that it should be emphasized and put separately. If that link is not gained and put together with the rest of the links, the country would continue to be held back in the process of modernization.

The missing link is our children. Indeed, raising children appropriately is the right step towards development. If you look at any developed country in the world you would realize how strong its education system is. These countries spend millions and trillions of dollars to raise a healthy, educated, and intellectual generation. Children are the basis of the future. And more than 60% of a child's behavior is a consequent result of the education he/she gets at school. Sometimes, when sightseeing cities such as New York, Rotterdam, or Dubai, I become jealous and want my country to have such modern tall buildings and clean and wide streets. But even if we were to build these buildings, construct these fancy roads, and establish clean green parks, without building our children's future through education, we will go nowhere. If we truly want our country to develop, we should start by educating our children. We should allocate as much as 50% of the overall budget to education of our children starting from first grade. We should teach them morals, sciences, and educate them in a manner close to idealism. This mechanism will work even if the children do not get the same education at home. On the contrary, there were incidents when children will be going back to their homes and influence their parents as well. We must not forget that studying at school is not a matter of reading books only. The school should be the second mother of a child. It should guide him to the right way of behavior, it should teach him how to treat others and how to respect himself and others. Schools should be the place where a child gains his personality and where he is taught the good morals that would make him a good world citizen.

Strong education of children is the common thing I noticed available in all the developed countries I have been to so far. They realized that without taking good care of the children, their country's achievements would not continue, and may simply collapse. We in Yemen are yet to realize the importance of educating children. To those who think that this is a long-term project I say, "There is no short-term solution that could get Yemen in the twenty first century along with developed states. There is no such thing as immediate solution, and Yemen can't turn to a modern state by night. It is our children whom we should work hard and focus on. It is they who can do it." Indeed, if we start from today, we can guarantee that within no more than 20 years, Yemen would become much better than it is today. The clock is ticking, and time is passing. As I always said, starting today is better than starting tomorrow, and starting tomorrow is better than starting next week. Do the leadership and government have the commitment to place the first stone in building a new Yemen by paying more attention to educating Yemeni children? Oh, how I wish they did and how I wish they would....

## In Brief

### Politician and Businessman Murdered

Last Saturday, Sheikh Hassan Mohammed Manna'a, Parliament Chief of the Islah Party, was assassinated in Sa'ada (350 km to the north of Sana'a). Some sources have stated that a man attacked him with a hail of shots while he was leaving his house in Sa'ada. The attacker was arrested and is now under interrogation. However, motives behind the murder and circumstances of the crime have not been revealed yet. Worry has aroused because Sheikh Manna'a was a prominent tribal personality in addition to being a great businessman.

### Mother Appeals the Interior Minister to Rescue Her Son from Torture

The mother F. A. S., 65-year-old sent a letter to the Interior Minister, Hussein Mohammed Arab appealing to him to rescue her son from the barbaric torture that befalls him in one of the police Jails in Mansora-Aden. This young man was arrested on March 14th by the policemen near his house, located on Nagwa Makawi zone, in al-Mansora. The mother mentioned that her son was forced to confess a theft charge. Her son has been subjected to various forms of severe torture like chaining him for 8 hours every day. She added that she as well as his lawyer was prevented to see him. She appeals to the Interior Minister to release her son immediately, otherwise she will appeal human rights organizations inside and outside the country to save the life of her son.

### Masdoos Threatens to Leave the Yemeni Socialist Party

The member of the Political Office of the Yemeni Socialist Party, Mr. Mohammed Haidara Masdos threatened to leave the party if the party does not redrafting the new documents, which will be approved in the fourth conference in next July. Political sources in Sana'a said that Masdos' decision of leaving the party comes amongst his criticism to the point of view presented by the member of the Political Office, Mr. Jar'allah Omar. This point of view says that the party must depend on the party forces inside the country, but it was rejected by Mr. Masdos and other members of the party, who

sees that the party must keep in touch with the leaders of the party outside the country. The distinguished figure of those leaders is Mr. Ali Salem Al-Bedh, who resides in Oman, and Haider Al-Attas, who resides in Saudi since the end of the war in 1994. The movement, chaired by Masdoos adopts essential matter on reforming unity system. He demands to pay attention to build new system for the state of unity, and to exploit large number of employees of the Northern and Eastern governorates.

### Training Workshop for School Teachers on World Heritage

Activities of the National Workshop for Training on the World Heritage begins today. The workshop is sponsored by the National Committee for Education, Culture and Sciences in coordination with UNESCO Regional Office in Amman. The workshop includes 13 schools as nucleus for UNESCO associated schools. The aim of the workshop is to train teachers on adding the subject of World Heritage to their curricula in a number of the Capital Secretariat schools.

### The Shiah Celebrate Al-Ghadeer Day For the First Time in Yemen

On the occasion of the Al-Ghadeer day, a ceremony organized by Brotherhood Islamic Association was held last Friday in Serwah town in Mareb. The event was attended by 500 persons. Mr. Mohammed Saleh Al-Zaedi, Chairman of the Preparation Committee delivered a speech, and welcomed the orthodox Caliph, Ali Bin Abi Taleb. He showed the importance of this day for the Islamic nation. This day meets the twelfth day of Dho Al-Heja h month of every year. In this day Prophet Mohammed delivered his final sermon in Al-Ghadeer area before his death.

Mr. Zaidi discussed rumors taken against Shiah in the area. He called upon people to read the books of the Islamic history, and to see what happened after the death of Prophet Mohammed. In addition, a number of religious lectures, popular songs were delivered in the ceremony to express virtues of Prophet Mohammed and Imam Ali. The activity of Shiah started in 1986, they have many mosques in different governorates. They have only one educational center, that is

Al-Kaotbar Cultural Islamic Center in Sana'a, founded on May, 1999.

### Seventeen Burn Cases by Gas in one Month

Dr. Abdullah Al-Hamidi, Al-Jomhori hospital Director said the total number of patients hospitalized of burns was 17 cases, all because of Gas. He told Yemen Times: "The reason behind these accidents is that the local gas cylinders lack the substance which can make one notice gas leak. Yemeni companies ignore these safety precautions although they are not costly. He also demanded the Consumers Protection Society and other human rights and freedom organizations to interfere and put an end to all these tragedies.

### Airports of Yemen developed

The total cost for developing Yemen airports in the past years amounted to 40 Million YR. This was used to develop technical facilities like communication networks, Radars, training, qualification and expanding departure and arrival rooms in Sana'a international airport. Mr. Hussain Al-Siagi, Deputy of the General Authority for Civil Aviation and Forecasting has stated that in concurrence with the development that the Free Zone is undergoing, Aden airport has been renovated. The renovation program consists of four phases and will end in the year 2001. So far, the first phase was accomplished with the paving of the runway in Aden International Airport which will be officially inaugurated on 22 May, 2000.

### Chairman of Countries Programs in UNDP Visits Yemen

Mr. Michael Smith, Chairman of Regional Office for Arab countries of the UNDP in New York visits Yemen from March 23-28, 2000 to attend a meeting of the countries held in the Republic of Yemen every five years. This meeting aims at reviewing the progress in the economic and administrative reform in Yemen, and also to support the UNDP program. This review concentrates on four fields. These fields include the natural resources, putting and end to poverty, creating of filling vacancies, building capacities in the field of judgement and institutional reform and administrating disasters. During the period 1997-2001, the UNDP and Yemeni government prepared a support for the five-year plan within the framework of

their cooperation, economic and administrative reform.

### German Ship Anchors in Aden Port

The Tourist German Ship (Dutchland) anchors in Aden port on March 25, 2000. This ship carries 472 tourists from different nationalities. It came from Salalah port in Oman. This tourist trip is a signal of the tourist boom that Yemeni is witnessing currently. A group of 134 tourists departed to the capital city of Sana'a. The rest of them are pursuing different programs to move inside the city of Aden to enjoy Yemeni historical landmarks, zones, and popular markets in Aden. Some tourists expressed happiness to visit Yemeni cities and see the historical landmarks of our country that attract tourists. They also expressed their happiness for the warm hospitality that they received when they arrived in Aden.

### Japan Contributes on Different Programs in Yemen

The Government of Japan extends to the Government of the Republic of Yemen a grant amounting to 4 million US Dollars for the execution of the project for Improvement of Medical Equipment for Maternal and Child Health in District Hospitals. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged at Wednesday, March 22, 2000, between H.E Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Minister of Planning and Development and H.E Mr. Akira Hoshi, Ambassador of Japan in Sana'a.

It is worth mentioning that the Government of Japan has supported Yemen's endeavor for improvement of maternal and child health care through its economic cooperation programs, including the grant assistance up to 226 million Yen for the execution of the project Improvement of Cold Chain System in Yemen.

On the other hand, the Government of Japan has decided to embark US\$ 450,000 out of Japan's contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Assistance in Mine Action for the Level One landmine Survey Project in Yemen. The objective of this project, which is implemented by United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), is to implement a Level 1 Survey in Yemen in order to accurately define the scope and impact of mine contamination in Yemen.

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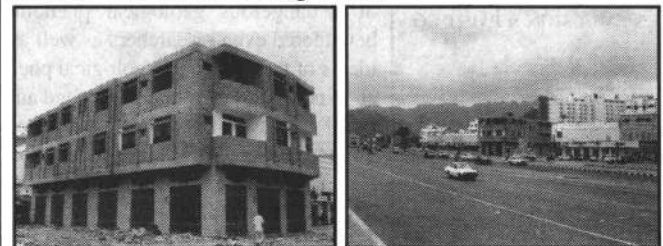
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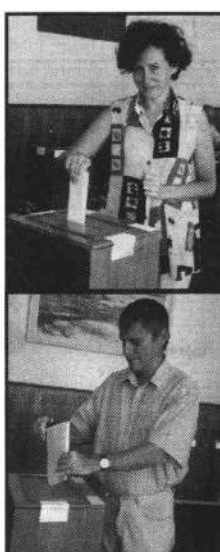
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## The Russian community in Yemen Take part in the Presidential Election

The Russian Community (RC) in Yemen took part in the Russian presidential elections that took place Yesterday in three polling centers in Sanaa, Aden and Taiz. The Russian community numbers in Yemen are estimated at 500,350 in Sanaa, 100 in Aden and the others in Taiz and the other cities. The RC cast its votes two days prior to the elections day to make use of the week end vacation. It estimated that participation rate in voting is 70% because some of them could not participate because of their being in remote areas. Around 108 million out of the Russian population 150 million were eligible to vote in the elections. Reports coming from Moscow today early morning show that the acting president of Russia Mr. Botin has got 51% of the votes while his strongest challenger the communist leader Mr. Jinady has got 35%.



Continued from page 1

### Obaidah Sets up Tribal Barricades

On the other hand, the Juhm tribe has lifted last Saturday a tribal barricade set up by Obaidah tribe on the same highway after mediators could settle the feuds raised as a result of seizing a bus driven by a man from Juhm and belongs to Nabrass Oil Company. The bus was seized a week ago by the Obaidh tribe at a pretext that the oil company has sacked 8 men from Obaidh tribe. It is reported that nine official military check-points were set up along the 70km Sana'a-Ma'areb highway. The authority posts are reported to be set up near the barricades set up by tribesmen every now and then. The phenomenon of tribal barricades has increased

recently claiming lives of some innocent passersby. The past tribal barricades including Nuhm, Hashed, Al-Haimah, Haraz, Al-Hada'a in Dhamar, Ma'areb had resulted in so many deaths and injuries. On the other hand, such incidents create an atmosphere of fear among passersby.

Tribes resort to such measures among themselves in case of tribal conflicts such as tribal kidnappings, assaults, tribes that do not adhere to the right, etc. However, the common tribal norms and customs do not sanction such measures except in rare cases such as killings after a reconciliation agreement and assaults that are not settled down according to the tribal norms. Tribal norms view such measures as the last measures, tribes should resort to after exhausting all other tribal means. These measures work as pressure on tribes so that they adhere to the right course of action. It is worth noting that the authority avoid interference in such cases so as not to indulge in conflicts with tribes as it was the case last January when the government tried to interfere with Nuhm tribe. Moreover, the government seems to prefer such fights among tribes so as to get them preoccupied and to weaken their power.

By: Hassan Al-Zaidy  
Yemen Times

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# Yemeni Press Scanner

**AL-AYYAM Independent**

## Gabal Habashi Landslips and Grooves Drive People Away

Al-Khabbah location at Gabal Habashi Mountain witnessed a very serious geological phenomenon that has confused its residents, researchers and those interested people who visited the area. It is the cause of anxiety among the population. Landslips, grooves and landslides in the Mountain are causing rocks and huge amounts of soil to fall downwards towards the lowlands were villages spread. Every body is trying to know the causes, but nobody knows for now.

Mr. Bashir Al-Barraq said that since the beginning of this year, this phenomenon, which had begun as very small grooves, became widened causing landslips and landslides that led to the destruction of many terraces and cultivations. The worst result of the phenomenon is the filling up with earth of the only source of drinking water in the area. The strange thing, another resident, Mr. Abdo Ahmed Noa' mani added, is that these grooves continue to extend towards neighboring agricultural lands. People are seeking help from government and demanding compensation for their losses and the damage of property.

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## US \$102 Million American Aid to Yemen.

H.E. the American Ambassador to Yemen Ms. Bodiene has confirmed that the United States is keen on economic cooperation with Yemen. She said that USAID should resume its activities in Yemen this year. The American agency is interested in selling provisions such as wheat in Yemen, which will help supporting

special programs for improving the conditions of Yemeni women, she said.

It is expected that the Minister of Planning and Development, Mr. Ahmed Sofan shall sign next month in Washington D.C. two agreements with the World Bank to provide two loans for supporting Social Bank for Development programs within the social security net for the poorer sectors of society.

## When Shall Nationalization Law Be Nullified?

The subject of nationalized houses didn't achieve any step forward. The issue is limited to Aden and several towns in southern and eastern governorates. At Mukalla, the original owners of the houses and those who own by them virtue of the Nationalization Law agreed to a set of right solutions and implemented them. These solutions were not extended to other governorates were the problem continue to brew.

## Kidnapped Abu Luhums and Gida'ans Released

Abu Luhum family kidnapped members were released on Sunday. They are Mr. Saba' Sinan Abu Luhum, Dr. Ubad Saleh Abu Luhum and Mr. Faisal Ahmed Abu Luhum. They were released upon orders by high authorities. Also the Gida'ans of Al-Haima were released a day before. They are Hussein Al-Zawwar, Abdulla Al-Zawwar and Ahmed Al-Ward who were released through tribal mediation.

In a statement to Al-Ayyam, Faisal Ahmed Abu Luhum expressed his and his companions' gratefulness to the political leadership [of Yemen] for its endeavor for their release.

## Peres: We normalized Relations with Yemen, which Made a Courageous Step

In a press conference held by the

Israeli ex-Prime Minister al The Hague, he said in an answer to a question by Al-Ayyam on normalizing relations with Yemen: "From the Israeli side we have normalized relations with Yemen. Yemen from its side has taken encouraging move by allowing Israelis of Yemeni origin to visit Yemen."

He added: " We hope that relations between Yemen and Israel shall be normalized... as for Israel, every thing that help move towards peace should be given priority."

## Workshop on Dealing with Anti-Women Violence

The Center for Supporting Issues of Women- The Institution for Supporting Civil and Democratic Orientation- organizes, in collaboration with the German Office for Development (GTZ) a workshop for journalists and Information personnel on how to deal with anti-women violent cases within society. The workshops shall at providing them with editing skills and methods of preparing special pages and programs.

The workshop is the first activity of the Program for Enhancing Press and Media awareness of Women Issues prepared by the Center at the country level in implementation of the recommendations of the Second. Conference on Opposing Anti-Women Violence, which was held last December.

## Masdoos Declares his Withdrawal from YSP

Mr. Mohammed Haidarah Masdoos, YSP Politburo member and ex-deputy Prime Minister declared his withdrawal from the Yemeni Socialist Party, unless its newly prepared documents are rewritten.

This position taken by Mr. Masdoos was stated in the notes he prepared on the political report to the fifth session of the party's Central Committee during 5-9 March, which was prepared by Garallah Omer, Politburo member and

chairman of the Political Dept., of which Al-Ayyam got a copy.

## 22ND. MAY PGC

### Getting Rid of Wearing Weapons

The Deputy Minister of Interior Mr. Mutahhar Al-Misri confirmed that his Ministry has drafted a law on the owning and bearing of weapons that already has been endorsed by the Council of Ministers and Parliament's Committee of Defense and Legal Affairs. The law shall be included in Parliament's agenda in the near future. He added that this law shall be the legal tool used by the pertinent security organs because Yemen is country ruled by law. Currently, he said, the security forces do execute inspection campaigns in governorates' capitals in order to limit the habit of bearing weapons. He called on the media to shed more light on this topic to spread a public opinion that disapproves of the practice.

## 26TH. SEPTEMBER Armed Forces Journal,

### Historical Dhamar - Harib Road Discovered

A second historical discovery in Dhamar Governorate was made this year when a team from the governorate's Antiquities Office discovered a historical location called Al-Millah. Al-Millah was an important station at which traders arriving from the east gathered before entering Dhamar. A 3 meter paved road was discovered south east of Al-Millah leading eastwards to Harib in Marib Governorate.

### Call to Absorb Yemen in the GCC

Dr. Mohammed Al-Rumaihi considered that the inclusion of Yemen inside the economical system of the Gulf Cooperation Council should strengthen the economic capabilities of the GCC countries.

Dr. Rumaihi, the General Secretary of the Kuwaiti National Council for Literature, Arts and Culture, confirmed in a lecture within the current Dubai Marketing Festival, that absorbing Yemen economically inside the economic system and interests in the Arabian Peninsula and Arab Gulf shall accomplish many positive proceeds to the GCC countries because of the huge and multi-dimensional economic and investment opportunities that Yemen owns.

## AL-THAWRAH Official

### The National Symposium for the Rights of the Child Convenes

The Higher Council for Maternity and Childhood arranges, in cooperation with the Ministries of Culture and Tourism, Information, Education and Social Security and Social Affairs next

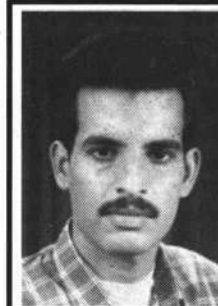
Monday the National Symposium for the Rights of the Child. The Symposium shall be held under the slogan: " Commitment to the rights of the child is a benefit for childhood, family and society".

Ms. Fathia Mohammed Abdulla, the Deputy Secretary General of the Higher Council told Al-Thawrah that the symposium aims at the explanation of the International Committee of the Rights of the Child and the acquainting with the health, educational and social rights of the child.

## Qatabanian Inscriptions Discovered on Saber Mountain

Several Qatabanian inscriptions were discovered at Al-Aroos location at the top of Saber Mountain, some of which go back to the 5th. Century B.C. at the beginning time of the Kingdom of Qataban, the Taiz Governorate Director of Antiquities, Mr. Mr. Al-Ezzi Musleh said. The subject of thdiscovered inscriptions is the building of a water tank inside Al-Aroos Castle at the summit of Saber Mountain. Mr. Musleh stressed that other inscriptions and findings can be discovered in this historic castle.

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره، اتقدم بخالص التعازي القلبية  
الى الاخوة الافاضل  
عبدالله أحمد غانم - وزير الشؤون القانونية  
طه أحمد غانم - محافظ محافظة عدن  
لوفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى  
والدتهم  
سائلا المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدها الله بواسع رحمته.  
ويسكنها فسيح جناته.  
وأن يلهمكم وذويكم الصبر والسلوان  
وأنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.  
الأسيف: مهندس / وليد عبدالعزيز السقاف



أجمل التهاني والتبريكات القلبية للاستاذ  
هشام محمد حسن القباطي  
بمناسبة خطوبته، وعقبى للفرحة الكبرى  
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## Zahrat Al-Zanbaq:

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Munir Al-Kahely was born on November 5, 1970. He has B.A Degree in English literature, and a Diploma in Computer science. He is married and has a cute child named Ahmed. He gave him this name as a token of tribute to his close friend Ahmed Hussein Al-Maqdani. With Munir Al-Kahely, who guides you between flowers and gifts, you will continue to remember those unforgettable moments forever. Munir Al-Kahely presents every kind of gifts and flowers. You do not have to travel to Dubai, Saudi, Egypt, Syria or even to the Great Wall of China. All of the antiquities and flowers of those countries are available at Zahrat Al-Zanbaq. Many conferences, seminars, and official receptions get their flora requirement from Zahrat Al-Zanbaq. In addition, Zahrat Al-Zanbaq house the facility for home delivery on wedding similar occasions.



Director: Munir Alkahely

Munir Al-Kahely proudly says: "I am the General Manager of Zahrat Al-Zanbaq Showroom; I have the ambition to please my customers and offer warm service to them. In fact I am lucky to get warm of my customers for the quality and the material and services offered to them. He concludes. He concludes: I am confident that we will continue to render our best services to our clientele and even if we are not alone, we shall strive to be the best".

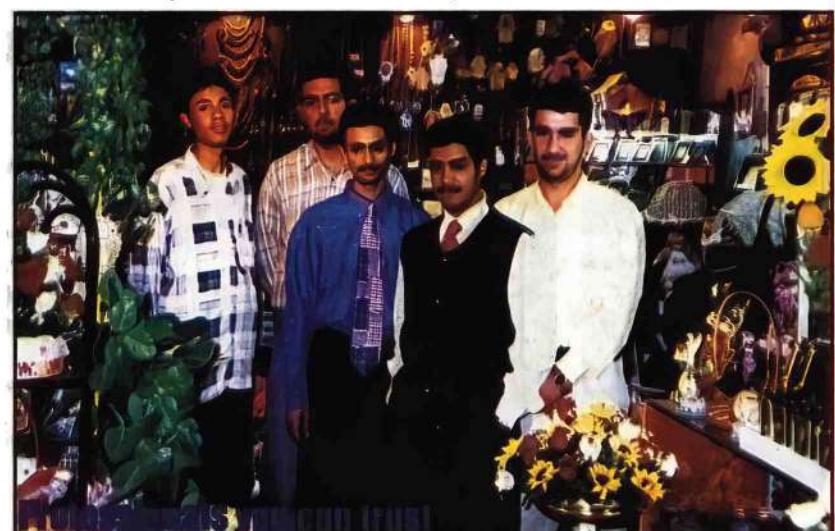
YT: What is your future plans?

Munir: We have a future plan to set up our units in different governorates and expand our activities. In the foreseeable future, we will open a new branch in Aden and three branches in different locations in Sana'a.

YT: Which sections of the society are your customers largely from?



Munir: Our customers are often high society. Our clients include Yemenis Arabs and foreigners. They are always in touch with us to get whatever they need with regard to new gifts and different kinds of flowers, but the big sizeable section of our customers are from segment of university students who constitute nearly 60% of our total clientele.



Now, dear customer, you would have unfailingly realized that with Munir Al-Kahely you will fail to get your favorite and attractive gifts that you may present to all kinds of people irrespective whether he is a patient or bridegroom? Why do you try Zahrat Al-Zanbaq to see the fascinating world of flowers and gifts?

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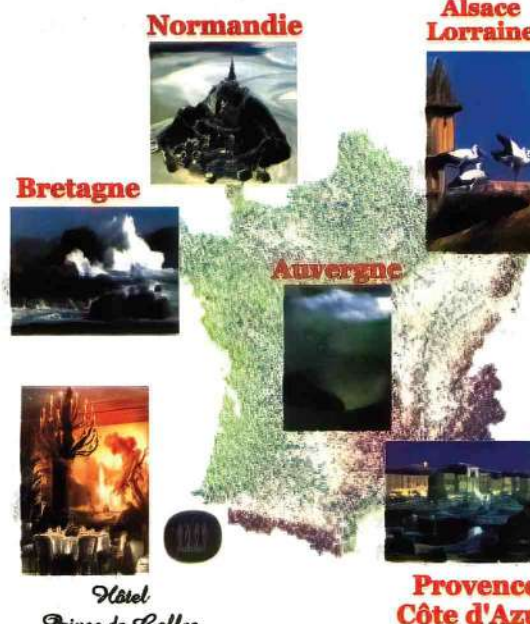
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Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Baidhani to Yemen Times

# “Yemen is in Dire Need of Political, Economic, Media, Administrative and Judicial Tackling”

Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Baidhani is one of the most important pillars of the Yemeni Revolution. He descends from a very well-educated family since his father had also a Ph.D. Dr. Baidhani represents a very important person that formulated the modern history of Yemen and therefore, talking with him means speaking with a generation. Dr. Baidhani is a holder of many qualifications that it is very difficult to find in the people of his time before the revolution. He has got a Diploma in Commerce 1945, B.A. in Law 1950, Diploma in the Political Economics 1952, Diploma in the Islamic Shariah 1953, Diploma in Economics and Politics, all from Cairo University and Ph.D in Economics from Germany. He took many posts before the Revolution in 1962 such as the consultant of the Yemeni Commission in Cairo, Yemen's Representative to the Arab League 1990-1955, Ambassador of Yemen to Germany 1955-1959, Ambassador of Yemen to Sudan and the Economic Advisor of the Imam Ahmad 1960. After the Revolution he was appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Revolution Leadership Council, Vice President of Yemen, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Economics. He is also the founder of the Yemen Bank for Development and Construction. To shed some light on some important issues related to Yemen, Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Managing Editor met Dr. Baidhani in his house in Cairo, Egypt and filed the following interview. Excerpts.

**Q: What in your opinion are the most prominent mistakes of 26 September Revolution?**

A: During the discussion of planning for the revolution with my colleagues who came to visit me in Cairo where I had taken refuge from persecution of the Imam, I had made it clear to them that it was no fault to admit that we are sons of the common people. When we would appear at the stage of power we would not at the beginning be able to fill the psychological vacuum of the masses who had been accustomed for over one thousand, two-hundred years to sanctify personalities, some of whom claimed to be descendants of the Prophet. I proposed setting up a Higher Defence Council (HDC) to part in power along with the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) and the council of ministers. The HDC should be composed of scholars and sheikhs of the tribes. The council was to be headed by chairman of the RCC and was meant to offer assistance to the RCC. I also proposed that membership of the HDC should include all members of the RCC, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, the ministers of defense, interior, airforce and the chief of staff of the armed forces as well as the minister for tribes affairs and the commander-in-chief of the National Guard. I had also suggested that Abdulsalam Sabra, col. Hassan Al-Amri and Ali Al-Matri take the responsibility of selecting the sheikhs of the northern part due to their close connection with them, and Abdulghani Mathar and Abdulqawi Hammam the selection of sheikhs of the southern and eastern parts for the same reason. Names of all those scholars and sheikhs were to be written on one list to be announced with communiqués of the revolution so that all the sheikhs and scholars would feel they were partners of power and successors to the Imam regime which was based on and monopolized by one person in the name of religion. Thus I had proposed laying the foundation stone of the structure of democracy and collective leadership in Yemen.

My revolutionary colleagues went back to Yemen to inform our other colleagues about that arrangement on which all had agreed. But very unfortunately when the revolution communiqués and formations were announced there was no mention of the HDC. On my arrival in Sana'a I disapproved that and asked Mr Al-Sallal to announce its formation of which he told me he had not been acquainted with communiqués and formations of the revolution. I then asked Abdulsalam Sabra about the reason behind not preparing the list of the HDC. He apologized by saying he was afraid to put down their names before the revolution lest they should be leaked to the

Imam and suggested to obtain their names from the ministry of treasury because the sheikhs' names were registered there. We were taken by surprise by the arrival of thousands of tribesmen in Sana'a, each of whom considered to be a scholar or sheikh. And due to their great numbers we were not able to honor them in the way they deserved according to their social status and patriotic intention to back up the revolution.

We realized that we had made a mistake when we sent invitation for attending the HDC without specifying the names of its members.

I assumed that the council's members would be around 200 of scholars and sheikhs of the tribes. Had it been accomplished according to the plan we had agreed upon before the revolution that would have realized my great dream represented by participation of all those in defending the revolution. The Judge Abdulsalam had made a mistake when he overlooked preparation of the list before eruption of the revolution and then we were all mistaken when we invited tribes chiefs without defining names of those eligible to take part in the council. We could not then provide enough lodging for the important tribesmen and therefore we were obliged to tell them that we would invite them to a later meeting. Their response was sheer disappointment. They returned to their places bearing a feeling of grudge towards the revolution and many of them have later begun fighting it. I think those were among the most gross mistakes of the revolution.

**Q: Could you spell out why you have left power a short while after the revolution?**

A: Firstly, right after the revolution I declared that we were not communists and would not be so, we were not socialists and would not be so. Our need of Egyptian forces support would not mean that we would adopt Egypt's socialist policy and our need of Soviet arms did not mean that we would follow its ideological theory. Secondly, Out of my understanding of international politics axioms and its red lines, I rejected the advice of president Gamal Abdunnasser to close down the U.S. and British embassies because their governments had not recognized our republican regime. That advice was interpreted as being under instruction from the Soviet Union so that the Yemen battlefield would expand and pave the way for the Soviet Union to reach the Gulf of Aden, a development of which that would engage us in conflict with the Atlantic Alliance which does not allow the Russian approach to Aden's strategic area and would not stand hand-folded against a threat to the Gulf petroleum. For that purpose I had exchanged letters with the U.S. president Kennedy and we reached an agreement stipulating recognition of our republican regime and withdrawal of the Egyptian forces to Egypt on condition that a number of armors and warplanes remain in Yemen. We had then established a 150 thousand strong men army of volunteers given training by Egyptian army men. Those correspondences were under knowledge of president Abdunnasser who welcomed the return of his troops from Yemen and the U.S. commitment to prevent enemies of the republic from infiltrating into our territories.

The U.S. had virtually recognized our republican regime on December 18, 1962 immediately after I had issued a statement announcing that we confine our activity to raising the living standard of our people and non-interference in our neighbors affairs. The U.S. helped us join the UN and started sending us economic assistance. The battlefronts in Yemen calmed down and the Egyptian army troops began their return to Egypt.

On January 18, 1963 president Al-Sallal asked me to convene the Revolutionary Command Council where I was surprised by the attendance of the Egyptian commander Brigadier Anwar Al-Qadi. I learnt that he had told Al-Sallal about our loss of many positions of the republic to its enemies. That was not true. The only wireless set of the Yemeni command was in my room and I was in contact with all positions day and night. My last contacts with them were immediately before attending that meeting. But the Egyptian commander insisted that his information was correct



and asked Al-Sallal to send a delegation to president Abdunnasser to halt withdrawal of the Egyptian troops from Yemen and to send more reinforcements.

I realized then that there was some sort of concoction aimed at deceiving president Abdunnasser to prevent the return of his troops to Egypt, strain the Yemeni-American relations and bring them back to the state of war that had stopped completely. I decided to lead that delegation to explain to president Abdunnasser the deceit and to continue withdrawing his forces particularly that it was a herald of improvement in the Egyptian-U.S. relations.

I arrived in Egypt at the head of a military delegation and explained that to president Abdunnasser who was convinced by viewpoint but asked me to stay in Egypt till he could straighten the attitude of president Al-Sallal who had secretly sent to Abdunnasser a letter with a member of the delegation. It has come out later that it was dictated on him by the Egyptian army commander. President Al-Sallal asked Nasser in the letter to keep me in Egypt under an allegation that I had promoted salaries of all government employees the security and armed forces by sevenfold and that threatened a deficit to the state budget. It appeared as if he did not know that I am an expert in economics and that prevention of corruption necessitates sufficiency of salaries. I managed to increase resources of the state by selling some of the deserted areas of land that were good for agrarian reform and founded the Yemeni Bank for Construction. Many Yemeni expatriates came back home with their money and expertise and began purchasing some of these lands and reforming them.

President Abdunnasser promised me that I would stay in Egypt only for a few days until correcting the information of president Al-Sallal. He received a letter from Khrushchev warning him that if Al-Baidhani went back to Yemen the Soviet Union would cease all its assistance to Egypt because Al-Baidhani's policy with the United States would "Americanize" the Arab Peninsula. The letter said the Soviet Union could not tolerate two setbacks against America in one year: one in Cuba when it was forced to dismantle its missiles and the other when it would be compelled to keep away from Aden in case our friendship with America continued. President Nasser asked me to tender my resignation to Al-Sallal and to stay in Egypt, saying the situation was an Egyptian dilemma in Yemen. I told him he was in an Egyptian dilemma in Egypt.

The course of events had proved that in the period till the setback June 5, 1967, Egypt was actually ruled by the followers of Field Marshal Amer who were also the major cause of the Syrian secession before the outbreak of the Yemeni revolution. They were compliant cat's-paw to the Soviet Union and could not tolerate my staying in Yemen in order to undertake ruling it by themselves in the name of Al-Sallal who had let them hold the reins of its leadership.

**Q: What was the nature of your relationship with Abdunnasser?**

A: It was friendly, but characterized by difference in opinion whether on international policy or the economic one. I was and still consider him a sincere Arab leader but he had sought the help from those whom he thought to be trustworthy and so they misled him and distanced himself from the experts. This is a phenomenon prevalent and controlling many rulers of developing countries.

**Q: What secrets of the revolution you have not unveiled till now?**

A: I still prefer not to reveal more that I have already done.

**Q: What are the causes behind the campaign against you and what you write launched by some official newspapers?**

A: Some of the president's entourage thinks that I vie with them on their posts. Some others think that I want to run for the presidency office, therefore they are all unanimous on attacking me on pages of government newspapers subject to their direct influence. I do not seek after anything of that kind but rather try to support the president so that the people get satisfied with him by their hearts. The majority of those around the president do not perceive that what preoccupies me is Yemen's development and solving its economic crisis. They seem they do not understand in this respect the scientific treatments I write. Or they do not want to solve the economic crisis because they are the beneficiaries from it, disregarding suffering of the people or future of the president.

**Q: How do you assess the current political and economic situation in Yemen and role of the opposition inside and outside, is it able to mobilize the public opinion?**

A: Yemen is suffering from a strangling and increasing economic crisis and is in dire need of political, economic, media, administrative and judicial tackling. The opposition role should be devoted to prepare these treatments, explain and publish them and call for their discussion. The opposition must work out national programs local and world variables need and infuse fresh blood into elements of the opposition parties, enhance their leaderships so that to qualify efficient cadres capable of executing the principle of peaceful transfer of power. The opposition should not exhaust its effort in replying to personal vituperations. Without that the opposition will not be capable of mobilizing the street, meaning to enlighten the citizens on using their peaceful democratic rights to choose the best that would solve their crisis and realize their development.

**Q: Some opposition leaderships abroad connected their return home to a condition of a change in the present structure of government, what is your comment on that?**

A: I do not agree that the opposition return

be conditional on any change. The grave economic crisis and the prevalent corruption would impose inevitability of political, economic, media, administrative and judicial reform. I hope this fact would be realized by the officials or would be imposed by suffering of the desperate unemployed, and that is what I am afraid of. The opposition return from abroad will help develop certainty of the officials and prepare efficient alternatives in the process of peaceful transfer of power.

**Q: How do you view the current program of economic reform in Yemen?**

A: There is no program for economic reform in Yemen. Raising prices itself does not lead to an economic reform but would rather result in a popular anger and revulsion. As for dealing with the budget deficit, it must not be at the expense of the hungry but rather by preparing an economic plan for developing the state's resources and putting an end to corruption. All platforms of the political parties, including the president's electoral platforms included that.

**Q: Are you opposed to the existing regime?**

A: Absolutely not. I am not opposed to this regime but calling for its good performance without having any personal aim and I pray to the Almighty God that the president would follow the steps that consolidate his regime and rule.

**Q: What is your opinion of the local authority law, are you in support of the 18-article Oath and Agreement Document adopted by the opposition before the war of 1994, as the opposition considers it a referendum for a national reconciliation?**

A: I do not think there is a local authority in our country but could be described as local administration. Local authority stipulates direct election by the people, of governors and local councils members. Any elected governor could not be ousted from his post but according decision by the residents of the governorate, represented by the elected local council, and it is not allowed to discharge any elected member of the local council but through a decision taken by the majority of the council. The constitution defines and regulates the central authority's supervision on the governors and members of the local councils and relationship of all those with the central government. The constitution also defines the cases of the request for lifting immunity of each of them and holding new elections for those to succeed the governor who loses his eligibility for reasons stipulated in the law.

As for the document of Oath and Agreement, it was not adopted by the opposition alone. All the national forces had taken part in preparing and approving it. Some of its articles, such as arresting those responsible for acts of physical liquidation, have been overstepped by time. Some of the document's articles have been actually implemented and rationalization of government performance is still requested and it is supposed to be speeded up. Nevertheless, it is not permissible to consider the remaining unimplemented articles as a condition for opposition return home. Their return would constitute a positive addition to create conviction for favoring implementation of the remainder articles within the framework of reciprocal national confidence and cooperation.

The actual practice leading to make the majority of people feel the reality of the national unity is the foundation on which

the united state, people and land, is based. Any written document is not enough to create such feeling, it is rather created by actual practice embodying equal citizenship. It also requires drawing up a comprehensive development plan covering all Yemen along with abolishing the clause in the constitution granting the ruling party the right to choose the one that nominally vie with it in the presidency elections, a matter that practically cancels the possibility of peaceful transfer of power.

**Q: What are the obstacles preventing you from assuming a government post in the present state?**

A: First of all I do not seek to have any government post and I do not want it because those controlling them would dislodge me from doing any useful work dealing with the economic crisis. The foes of reform would join forces to abort efforts of any reformer. The second point is that it is sufficient for me to continue warning in my writings against continuation of this crisis and showing signs of the possibility of solving it, which I think is the most significant patriotic and historic post.

**Q: Why does not Dr Al-Baidhani return to Yemen to practice his political activity there?**

A: I have actually returned to it, living in it and practicing my political and ideological activity from my house and office on its territories.

**Q: "Agonies of Yemen" is the title of your latest book, why did you give it this title?**

A: I wanted this title to be really expressive of what the majority of the sons of Yemen are suffering from. Yemen's woes are summed up in the increasing of unemployment of the intellectuals and non-intellectuals, aggravation of pains of hunger and some of the hungry are forced to pick up leftovers from trash boxes to allay their hunger. The roads are swarmed with beggars, children abandoned education, and there is spread of moral and criminal delinquency in quest of means for living. Hope is dwindled in the implementation of reform programs promoted by official mass media.

**Q: What are your prominent activities abroad, especially in Cairo?**

A: All of them are cultural activities; attending intellectual symposiums or giving lectures or press and radio and TV interviews to Egyptian and Arab media, not forgetting to mention my weekly articles in Al-Ayyam weekly of Yemen. Wherever I am in any city in the world I maintain a daily contact with my office in Sana'a. I benefit scientifically from my travels and meetings with thinkers of various orientations while sharing logic and governed by mentality open to any new thought. I also spend long time in Sana'a to renew my feeling of its reality and needs but unfortunately its cultural field is limited and censored by security authority.

**Q: Any final remarks?**

A: I wish the president to succeed in resolving Yemen's economic crisis and begin building its civilizational upswing. I hope to live to the day when I see all my Yemeni brothers in the opposition have returned home so that to participate, all of us with the president, in resolving its crisis, building its progress and consolidating its unity. Since national reconciliation was realized between the republicans and their adversaries and have become among its senior leaders after the martyrdom of over half million people, what then does hinder the return of those living abroad?

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# General Consequences and Implications on The Developing Countries



**Tawfiq Abdullah Al-Dubhani,**  
MSc. International Economics, SCOTLAND

## Final in a series

To demonstrate a satisfactory qualitative analysis in this regard we will for simplicity consider only one field of interest which represent at the same time an essential part with which all three institutes are associated. Before getting involved with the resulted consequences on the relevant country, it is worth addressing the most important fields of action of all three institutes, i.e. what are they operating? The WB recommend and/or impose the so-called Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) for a given country as a precondition for its loan. The SAPs may contain so many detailed measures to be executed in the loan recipient country, however, all these SAPs contain, among other things, all or part of the following reform measures: measures related to the devaluation of national currency, measures and regulations to reduce government intervention in economic activities and increase the rule of private sector, measures to correct market prices and measure to liberalize foreign trade and transitions. The IMF, as mentioned previously, has under its main duties to approve mainly short term loans for a certain country if this particular country can proof in performing accordingly with regard to pre identified program of reform. The IMF related SAPs are often consistent with those executed by the WB, nevertheless the IMF, in its operation, gives special attention in the context of its SAPs to the fields related to the market of money including international transactions of a given country with the rest of the world. The WTO, in its current status, may be considered as the last arrival main part of the new international order which is planed to lead the entire world in the 21st century. The WTO is still in the transition period to take over its underlying duties and fulfill its international rule. This is true at least for all developing countries as long as these countries will officially be subject to the WTO regime at the beginning of the year 2004. However, these country group are already confronted with WTO regime based on the required adjustments to adequately meet the obligations of the TWO in the year 2004. Under the main duties of the WTO, it will Legally reform the international trade to be based on certain rules and regulations. Further the WTO will be the most powerful reference organization for settling trade related disputes among its member countries which include almost all countries of the world. In summing up the interference of these three unilateral institutes in general terms, it may be said that despite series of overlapping and other specific activities the WB main activities are directed to the micro level in a given country, meanwhile the IMF is directing its activities to the macro level of that given society. The WTO will be focusing on the relation of that given country and complementary towards the same outcome. Therefore we have selected one of the most common fields in which all three institutes are involved. All three institutes included under their main duties world wide in different ways aspects related to liberalization of trade and investments. Based on this example it will be easy to undertake an analysis exploring the accumulated resulted consequences and implications for almost each developing country. This qualitative analysis is based on the general given characteristics of the majority of developing countries are accepting the reform approach as given.

Liberalization of trade and investments implies that the relevant country is allowing for import and export sectors to be less restricted or to function without any major interventions by the relevant government. Given the obvi-

ous weak infra-and institutional structures in the majority of developing countries, initially the import sector is likely to grow up faster than expected. On the other hand the export sector will most likely need to undergo a process of adjustment before it experiences a relative limited expansion in the long term. Moreover, the expansion of export sector will be possible provided it can overcome series of bureaucratic, technical and administrative. Additional difficulties are likely to limit the expected expansion of export sectors in different ways and degrees in different countries, such as non trade related measures in the imported country, export monopoly and the price competition in international markets, assuming market access is given. Some might argue that import sector will also be confronted with similar exogenous and endogenous problems which could limit its likely expansion. However, most of the related problems can be easily overcome in the short term, given the availability of the required financial resources in the imported country. Therefore, it is obvious that import sector would initially under all circumstances expand more and faster than export sector.

With regard to the liberalization of investment which is hardly to be separated from the liberalization of trade. The recommended and/or imposed measures, under the SAPs, by WB and/or IMF or as part of the main requirements under the WTO, consider trade and investment as one topic. In fact, according to new classical economic theories, this is economically well justified and any applied measures would consequently affect both aspects. Liberal investment implies that a country should encourage foreign investors and allow for foreign investments to participate in the domestic economic activities. This will lead apparently to more capital inflow for the recipient country which is highly appreciated. This can not be realized as it seem to be. To obtain the likely benefits resulted from a foreign investment, the concerned country should qualify itself accordingly. This would generally means that certain preconditions have to be prevailed under which a foreign investor can operate. In addition to certain regulations and measures related directly to investment, the concerned country should have approved or undertaken the necessary steps to restructuring the banking system. Foreign investments are requiring for their operation, beside many other assurances, the environment of political stability. Without listing all foreign investment requirements, it is to argue that developing countries, with few exceptions, will not be able to meet all these requirements in a proper way given their underdeveloped institutional structures and prevailed unstable social, economical and political conditions. Based on all these, this is likely to result, for many developing countries, in accepting foreign investments which would be mostly and consequently directed to unessential economic fields/or which will be very limited in volume and unsustainable. This, in turn, would to a large extent limit any expected positive impacts on the relevant economy. Up to this stage, many may not be fully satisfied with the above outlined behavioral description. For this reason, more satisfactory detailed qualitative analysis will be demonstrated below. In this regard, to see why and how this is likely to occur and to avoid unnecessary complications, we will remain by the same partial opposed structural reform, i.e. trade liberalization as it is part of the WB and/or IMF packages(s) and WTO regime.

Through liberal trade (and other reform measures) in a given develop-

ing country, all three institutes are arguing to aim insuring substantial benefits and stable economic performance for the relevant country. However, it is to argue here that this aim is used firmly as a tactic to cover and/or for achieving an unknown objective, despite the consistent related justifications based on the given economic theories. This objective has become more obvious in the second half of our last decade in this century. Most probably, it is to abolishing all diversification prevailed in the world socioeconomic and sociopolitical behavior and to impose and spread over the alternative system dominating in the western societies in order to facilitate the control mechanism of the entire world.

Referring to our analysis indicated above, import sector will immediately utilize the new given facilities, thus many importers will follow this signal. Hence import sector will grow up very fast in the short term. In the short term, resources in a given economy are constant. An expansion of import sector will lead consequently to a shift in resources towards it, leaving other economic sectors worse off. In extreme cases, some industries may shift their entire resources and employ them in the import sector. Given a short adjustment time, import sector tend to become highly competitive. This dynamic interactions will continue till it reaches a point, in which many local produced goods will not be able to compete with similar imported goods. The next most likely event would be for some domestic industry to shut down their production or at least to reduce their output, leading to increasing the rate of unemployed resources. In the medium and long terms, the overall adverse effects would reach the import sector too, assuming there is no intervention. Through gradual increasing of unemployment, the overall purchasing power and hence the aggregated demand will decrease including the demand for imported goods and services. This sharp reduction may sustain over time and import sector could decline to a level less than it was initially, i.e. to less than it was before adjustment measures were undertaken. In this case, the situation would be more serious than any time before, resulting in accumulated consequences in particular with regard to higher rates of unemployment, emerging of poverty feature among society members, damaging series of social and moral values and desegregation of dominated social relationships.

Concerning the export sector, with few exceptions of export firms which may be bound to the state related export or may be have special strength in nature, the export sector in general will underlay initially up and down fluctuation in performance. Ultimately, it will most likely in best cases experience an underestimated positive effects on the related economy, based on the reasons articulated above.

With regard to both local as well as foreign investments, although they might be attracted at initial phase through the imposed measures, they tend ultimately to be discouraged due to the overall given circumstances. In best case, any executed investment undertakings would probably try to adjust their output in order to maintain their existence as long as possible, however its unlikely for new investments to occur without fundamental changes in the given economic contractions within that economy. For any country which have entered in this dilemma of accelerated consequences, the overall situation can be described as a serious disaster because this process is mostly irreversible similar to the age of a human being. At this stage, it is to conclude that other measures, contained either under the WB or IMF adjustment packages which are often induced to the economy more or less together with those measures related to the liberalization of trade, discussed briefly here, tend to act in different ways in the same direction. This make the issue even more serious and more complicated to be

overviewed or demonstrated in an understandable manner. In some countries, based on predetermined macro economic key indicators, such kind of full or partial reforms has resulted in a relative improvement in the performance of the term balance of payments and in particular in the term of trade. It is therefore to argue here that this has been always the short term objective of the WB and the IMF from the imposed economic measures on developing economies. This is justified through the fact that these two institutes are feeling responsible to insure all entitled loans to be fully repaid which has been granted or approved for by them. Another evidence for this argument is the timing of putting loans for developing countries subject to economic measures in relation with dept crises. Actually, the aim has been more or less achieved regardless of the resulted costs of any given developing country.

Nevertheless and from an economic point of view, one might rise the argument on the rule of the relevant government to interfere in order to avoid certain consequences by using its given possible ways and means of power. In this context, the related government can do something, however, mainly financial resources will be a prerequisite for any anticipated action to firstly increase the level of investment, meaning that more financial capital inflow will be urgently needed. Thus, the concerned country has hardly an alternative source to acquire the needed capital but to refer to either the WB or the IMF. Hence, it can get the required financial source, provided it agree on sustaining the reform by imposing more and more measures up on its domestic economy. On this basis it seems that when a country start in getting involved in this course, it will never be able to go backwards. It rather has only one way to go, namely to agree up on the imposition of more and more measures and to remain in the same dilemma. Although these accumulated and complicated implications will vary from country to another depending on the specific given conditions of a given society. The final outcome and the general tendency, however, will be obvious of a given society. The final outcome and the general tendency, however, will be obvious, as it is already the case in some developing countries nowadays, i.e. the result is for these countries as a group could be generally described to becoming increasingly societies with the following main features:

1) Socially, due to the imposition of reform measures a major increasing part of society groups will get worse off leading to the gradual and fast abolishment of middle income group in the society. Ultimately, this will consequently leave the society with two relatively extreme social groups, i.e. one social group of society members representing the majority very poor individuals and one social group representing the minority rich individuals. Within this social structure, it is expected that the society will be confronted with various kind of what may be termed as social diseases such as losing of so far existed social values, increasing criminalism and individualism. These all will likely, under certain economic and political circumstances, result in creating an adequate social medium for the appearance of extreme radical organized political groups which may lead to political instability, political violence and many kind of social discriminations. In exceptional cases this may even result in the creation of unexpected military or dictatorship regime.

2) Economically, the majority of developing countries will sustain in experiencing poor economic performances which can be hardly overcome without increasingly and continuously additional external financial aid. Hence, in the long term these countries will be made more and more dependent on external capital supply to cover their increasing domestic demand and needs. The increasing demand will mainly result from the obvious gradual increase in public sec-

tor borrowing requirements (PSBR) and from the likely government failure which may have various sources such as inappropriate institutions, imperfect information systems, corruption of government officials and economic inefficiency. On the other hand, economic behavior will tend to rely more and more on international signals rather than to reflect domestic interests which may sometimes turn out to be serious for the national economy. In the long term, the economies of the developing countries will be deeply integrated with the so-called world economy so that the former can be remote controlled.

3) Politically, a developing country will be more and more dependent than any time before. A country independence in real term is expected to disappear from the political dictionary. More concern will be given by increasing numbers of developing countries to the way and approach through which they can get best and full integrated within the new international system. Any developing country which may refuse, for any reasons, to integrate itself in the world system, it will only represent a minor portion which may be neglected given its underestimated overall general effect on the rest of the world. Even this has been insured not to occur provided its economic interdependence from previous and current linkages and command through the international relevant bodies.

4) With respect to market structures, it is to be expected that many markets will be dominated with fast increasing monopolistic and oligopolestic power. Moreover, serious anticipated result will be the unavoidable involvement of international monopoly in ruling over major parts of the local markets. In fact, current behavior of many international concerts in the developed world with respect to the establishment of joint venture tend to confirm the expected future developments.

5) Nationally, the government of a developing country would tend to enhance its rule and will strengthen its political power, however it will represent and protects national interests only as long as they are consistent with or not distorting other international interests. From an economic point of view, any economic measure would, consequently, benefit one party on the cost of other party nationally or internationally. Such actions by the governments can, for many reasons, not be admitted or announced officially, however field specialists will be aware of these kind of policies in the relevant country.

6) On international level, an individual developing country will not be able to represent its own concern and problems given its relative underestimated weight within the international community as a whole. The Unknown world leadership tend to give attention to each individual country accordingly to a certain weight based on the degree of strength that each country can offer and on the level of participation of a given country in linking and influencing the pathway for the international unified system. Based on all these, almost all developing countries will have a decreasing weight in these respects. Therefore, many countries in

this group will in the long term tend to stay behind a major weighted developed country to seek for a charitable benefit which could be termed as a voluntary cold colonialism initiating the evolution of new historical era in the world history.

In summing up, it can be said that the current and future situations of the majority of developing countries will increasingly be confronted with various kind of social, economical and political instabilities. At this stage, many affected societies are still able, to certain extent, to absorb the costs resulted from up to date executed reforms by using their limited past savings, hoping of future expected recovery. Therefore, many problems could not yet be appear on the surface of disputes, although some critical issues can be realized in one society or other. Many relevant governments are aware of the dark perspectives, meanwhile they can not give up easily and leave the acquired political leaderships. Instead, they are trying to maintain their power as far as possible by means of initiating several diversified political reforms such as a so-called democratization and free elections which are often motivated and supported by the international community. At the same time, these governments, through its members, are using their family members based on their given ability to act adequately and accordingly. Despite all these, major developments are still on the way after all the required reforms have been satisfactory completed. The adjustments linked by the WB and IMF are representing only part of the story. These reforms have still to be completed accordingly and thereafter the WTO regime will come in the year 2004 to close the circle.

To conclude this rather open ended tragedy, one might think that this is a very pessimistic view and in accordance there will be nothing possible to be undertaken. Therefore, it is to be articulated at this stage that not only developing countries will suffer, sometimes later but surely major part of societies in the developed world will be affected too. There are reasons to argue in this way based on the representation of the new system under elaboration. It is neither the societies of the developed world nor it is the representative governments of the developed countries who are directly involved in the preparation or the execution of this system. The main beneficiaries from this system will largely be the invisible hands of the most powerful international monopoly and international concerts, although leading developed countries could yield partial benefits at initial stages. The governments of developed world have been linked to support this path over the last 5 decades for subjective and objective reasons. Finally it should be asked whether there are ways to escape from major expected consequences and/or to minimize the overall impacts on the developing world. Of course there are certain concepts to these issues. If applied accordingly and sufficient time for adjustments can be allowed, given the political willingness to act. These concepts can be discussed in more appropriate future occasions if necessary.

## ألف مبروك

نهني ونبارك للشباب الخلق

## فهد علوي السقاف

مناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف

المهندون:

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Adnan & Radhwan Al-Jonaid



## Good-bye Zayd Moute'e Dammage... The Novelist and the Human



Jalal Al-Shara'abi  
Yemen Times

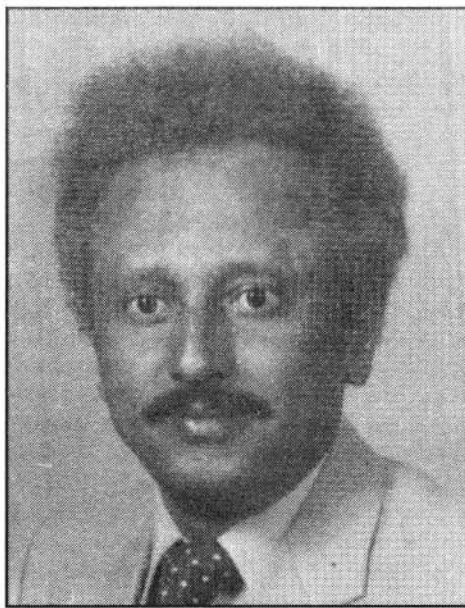
Last Monday one of its most prominent novelists bade farewell to his beloved country Yemen after a long struggle with blood cancer that started in the Mid 80s of this century. After the departure of <None> great novelist, Yemen and the entire Arab world have lost one of the stalwarts in literature. The career of Zayd Moute'e Dammage began in the city of Bani Sowaif in Egypt. He secretly left the city of Taiz to Cairo in 1985 to escape from the Imam. There, he was able to develop his mental skills and education. First, he wrote "Okdah", a story in which he exposed the stark reality of Cairo's city and its style of living. Then, the rest were local oriented stories in which he used local terms like 'Al-Mikhayah', 'Al-Samsarah', 'Al-Tahish' and many others which he usually explained in the margins. His first novel "Al-Rahinah" was published for the first time in 1984. He described the conditions during the reign of the Imam using a very interesting plot. He explained what goes on in the Imam's palace very skillfully mentioning all details. Then he ended the story with the escape of a Sheikh's son which symbolized his refusal to be a party to the corruption and class discrimination, despite all privileges and luxuries he enjoyed. The novelist has also written several

other novels like Al-Jisr group, Tahish Al-Hoban and Ahzan Al-Bint Mayasah as well as many others which have not been published. These include Jisr Al-Layl, Malik Al-Khabt, Sa'aed Al-Yemen and the play of Ayban.

Zayd was a suburban novelist, for the majority of his works embodied the suburban social milieu in all its aspects. He always portrays the suffering of the Yemeni people who have been smitten by poverty, illiteracy and disease. He has also written on the theme of loving one's country highlighted the virtue of patriotism. Now, one of his novels is taught as a textbook in Sana'a University. The UNESCO is monitoring its distribution in the Arab world. It has also been translated to eight languages like English, French and others not to mention that it is taught in many universities all around the world.

The Writers Unions has deeply condoled the death of this distinguished writer who has been struggling with the fatal disease for 15 years. The president in his condolence message said "Zayd Moute'e Dammage has, in his manners and literary works, showed a strong commitment to people and country's cases.

He was born in 1943 in Di Al-Mahmar village. In 1944, he was released from the network jail in Taiz and headed for Aden. There he cultivated a love for reading and writing and used his potential in criticizing the conditions of people under the rule of Imams. In the Arab literary world he was influenced by the writings of Gorgy Zaydan. He was also influenced by the writings of Victor Hugo and Chekov. He was elected as member



on the first parliament in 1971 and a governor for Al-Mahweet in 1975. In 1980 he worked as a Charge d'Affaires in the Yemeni embassy in Kuwait and before that in 1979 he worked as an ambassador in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has also been a member of the People's Parliament, of the Permanent Committee, of the Peace and Collaboration Council and of the Writers Union. In addition, he won the badge of literature and arts twice. He died in London last Tuesday and his body will be flown to Sana'a so that it will be buried in Al-Shohada'a graveyard. Zayd Dammage did not leave a monetary fortune of any kind but rather a literary one that he left for the coming generations. Yemen has really lost one of its noblest and most innovative men of letters who spent their entire life working for a case that they believed in.

## Bin Ojayl: The Man History Left Behind



Saleh Abdulbaqi,  
Yemen Times

Ahmed Bin Mousa Bin Ojayl lived in the 7th century A.H. in the epoch of Bani Rasool state. His family was well-known for great scientists; his father, grandfather, uncles and other relatives were pioneer scientists and jurists. Many of the writers who wrote about Ahmed Bin Mousa did not trace back his ancestry because, first, there were no reliable references and, second, he was very illustrious and that made them more concerned with his knowledge and books than his ancestry. However, the historian Abdul-Rahman Al-Hadrami has alluded to his ancestry and mentioned it reaching the 7th grandfather. He has seen some manuscripts of the ancestry of Ali Bin Mousa written by the jurist Ali Ahmed Bin Alawi himself narrating from the jurist Abdul-Kadir Al-Halabi.

Therefore, Sheikh Ahmed Bin Mousa Bin Ojayl was brought up in an educated environment where worship and ascism had a great effect on his life. He had also been taught by many local and Arab scientists. Despite the fact that there were many local Sheiks who taught him in Tihama and Najd, he had also traveled to Mecca and other places to gain more knowledge. Among the Sheiks who taught him were Mohammed Al-Mohalabi and Mohammed Bin Khalil Al-Saydalani. Al-Sharjahi has mentioned in one of his books that Sheikh Ahmed Bin Mousa has a book in which he included all his Sheiks and educators. In this book, he narrated their sayings and what he learned from them. Unfortunately, this book is still missing but Al-Hawlak was able to find a commonly used relation in Bait Al-Fakeeh which is called "Sanad Bin Ojayl Fi Shahih Al-Bokhari".

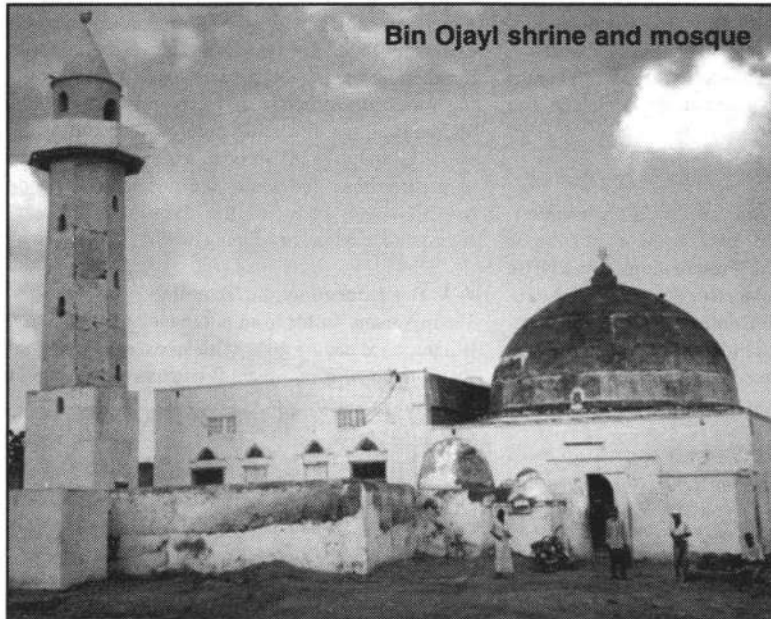
### His Education, Religious and political doctrine

Sheik Ahmed Bin Mousa enjoyed a religious education and great knowledge in jurisprudence and Hadith sciences as well as many other scientific and religious subjects and that was reflect-

ed on his scientific and intellectual writings. Ahmed Bin Mousa lived in the era of Bani Rasool which was known as the Science Era. Therefore, it is not uncommon that there were so many Islamic schools with all different sorts of specializations and the Yemeni people, as we know, are very interested in religious sciences.

If we were to thumb through the pages of the Yemeni history, which is rich with educational, humanitarian, Islamic and scientific knowledge, we would find that many others do not know a lot about it. I happened to read a book by Mr. Omar Al-Khayal, Secretary of the Educational Forum in Al-Fakeeh city, which was published lately in 1999 under the title The Jurist which History did not Treat Fairly. This book included many chapters and sections on the personal and scientific life of Sheikh Ahmed Bin Ojayl. From this book I could come out with the following important summary:

One might ask who is Bin Ojayl and where did his title come from? He is one of the most renowned jurists of Bani Ojayl. Those latter are one of the elite families of Tihama who lived in Mecca. They are very well known as a family of knowledge, asceticism and righteousness and many of their scientists and jurists were illustrious. Many historians like Al-Sharjahi and Al-Khazragi have mentioned Sheikh Ahmed Bin Mousa in their books who was well known during the ruling of Bani Rasool. He was also the one who established the famous city which is known until now by his name "Bait Al-Fakeeh" capital city of Al-Zaraneek. As for their title "Bani Ojayl", it goes back to Sheikh Omar Bin Ahmed Bin Hammed known as Omar Ojayl.



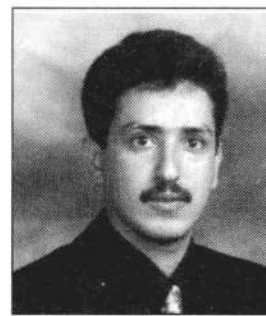
Bin Ojayl shrine and mosque

This latter is the grandfather of the brothers who were known for this title. Ojayl is a branch of Ma'azab, a well-known tribe in Tihama that can be traced back to Ek Bin Adnan. From Ek Bin Adnan branches Doa'al Bin Shinwah Bin Thoban. Then, three brothers branch from this tribe one of which is Zayed Bin Doa'al Bin Shinwah Bin Thoban and from this latter comes Ma'azab the Chief of the tribe who was known as Ma'azab Bin Obayd Bin Mohammed Al-Faris Bin Zayed Bin Doa'al. From here comes the grandfather of "Bani Ojayl" Omar Bin Hammed Bin Zarnak who comes from Ma'azab and was known by Omar Ojayl. They are "Zaraneek" from Bani Zarnak. The title Ojayl has a famous story which scientists and people in Bait Al-Fakeeh know by heart. Al-Sharjahi says that their grandfather Omar had cattle in his tribe "Ma'azab". One day he wanted to make his cattle drink but he could not since the bucket did not belong to him. Therefore, he slaughtered a calf "Ejl" and made a bucket from its skin to make his cattle drink. Ever since, his people started calling him Sahib Al-Ojayl and as time passed the title became Omar Ojayl which passed to his successors.

The Jurist Ahmed Bin Mousa Bin Ojayl He was known by the name of Abu Al-Abbass Ahmed Bin Mousa Bin Ali Bin Omar Bin Ojayl. Just like we mentioned before he was one of the most prominent jurists in the Era of Bani Rasool. He adopted the Shafe'ayah doctrines but he was not a bigot. He always remained detached from all the doctrine disputes between Al-Shafe'ayah, Al-Hanbaliyah, Al-Ashae'erah and Al-Zaydiah. He was very prudent and open-minded and he led an ascetic and worshipping life although he was not Souffee. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Mousa worked in farming and lived among ordinary people giving them advice and knowledge. He had never been biased to a prince or one of the many parties known at his time. He became a judge like his friend Ismail Al-Hadrami but he resigned later. He was very well-known that even princes and kings were looking forward to know him and he was always of great help to poor people in asking pardon for them because the princes of Bani Rasool were greatly respectful of him.

## Aden that we Dream of

In the city of Aden everything related to it has a special flavor. Walking in the streets of this city gives one an incomparable pleasure which cannot be found in any other city in Yemen. However, people still complain of the lack of many facilities and services they are in need of. Aden has become a Free Zone and has been attracting many investments. Unfortunately, many investors are looking



for better conditions and a stronger and more safe regulations and laws to take the risk of investment in it.

The first concern of any investor now is finding a strong supporter, i.e. (Powerful Personality in the government) because they cannot take the risk of losing all that they have established in years, in one moment. At all events, we shall still be hoping of finding better conditions for investment in all fields.

Hafid Al-Bikari  
Okaz Correspondent

## The International Consumer's Day Yemen to Join Membership of International Consumer Organization

Yasser M. Ahmed  
Yemen Times

Under the motto of "Who Choose Our Food?" Yemen celebrated Saturday March 25 the international consumer's day which fell on March 15. It was delayed by ten days because of Eid holidays. The motto was suggested by the International Consumer's Organization and was endorsed in its meeting held in Melbourne, Australia.

The celebration was sponsored by brigadier general Abdu Raboh Mansoor, vice president. The vice president highlighted in his speech that all should mobilize efforts to combat smuggling, especially in the field of medicine. He said "Such a phenomenon has actually posed great health hazards as smugglers tend to bury drugs under the earth in the desert before they smuggle them. So many drugs cross the expiry date in that condition." He pointed out the significance of the people's cooperation with the authority to combat this so as to put an end to this ugly phenomenon.

Then, Mr. Hamoud Kasem Al-Bokhaiti, vice chairman of the Yemeni Society of Consumers' Protection, delivered a speech quoting the UN's circular no 39/248 on 9/4/1985 which stressed the need to protect consumers. He asserted that the celebration took place at a time marked by many international economic changes that considerably affect consumers. He said "The most important of such changes is the globalization of economy, free market and removal of the constraints imposed on goods entering our national markets. The International Trade Organization is monitoring these changes which have a direct impact on the consumer's rights. We, especially in the developing countries, are affected much by these elements for a number of reasons, the most important of which are the following:

- 1) Inability of the local products to compete with their foreign counterparts, in addition to the fragile control and supervision on the products that commonly used.
  - 2) Poor consumption awareness on the part of the consumers.
  - 3) Strong smuggling base of all kinds of goods, especially food and drugs.
- Therefore, to face all these challenges, the International Consumer Organization has taken it upon itself to stress the importance of protecting consumers' rights in all meet-

ings and international conferences. Yemen has applied for joining this Organization and has taken concrete steps in this regard. It has met most of the conditions for gaining membership and what remains are just some formal procedures. Yemen is going to host the second conference of Arab Union for the Consumer. The conference is scheduled to be held in Sana'a next September with 19 Arab countries participating in the conference. There will also be some representatives from the international organization, Arab Countries League and the UN program for the western Asia and WIPO."

The vice chairman concluded his speech by thanking all those who contributed to make this ceremony a success.

Mr. Abdul Salam Ghaleb Al-Kamish, chairman of Standards and Specifications, said "The consumer's as well as manufacturer's rights are highly sacrosanct in our religion. We, in Yemen, have started enforcing the standards and specifications to preserve the consumer rights in accordance with a comprehensive standing order that meets all the international stipulations. Our celebration



today coincides with the celebration of the Arab Measures Day by all Arab Institutions. The organization has chosen its location to be in Rabat, Morocco. The celebration of this day was held under the motto of "Standards is the Passport of Arab Products".

The minister of Health, Dr. Abdul Wali Nasher in his address thanked all those who helped organize this ceremony. He referred to the dangers facing societies as a result of manufacturing food companies whose main obsession is quick profit even if this is at the expense of people's health.

Later engineer Ahmad Salem Al-Jabali, minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Mohammed Al-Zabidi, deputy of Civil Planning and Construction, Abdullah Ali Al-Sunaidar, vice chairman of Chambers of Commerce gave speeches emphasizing the need for activating the institutions that combat smuggling.

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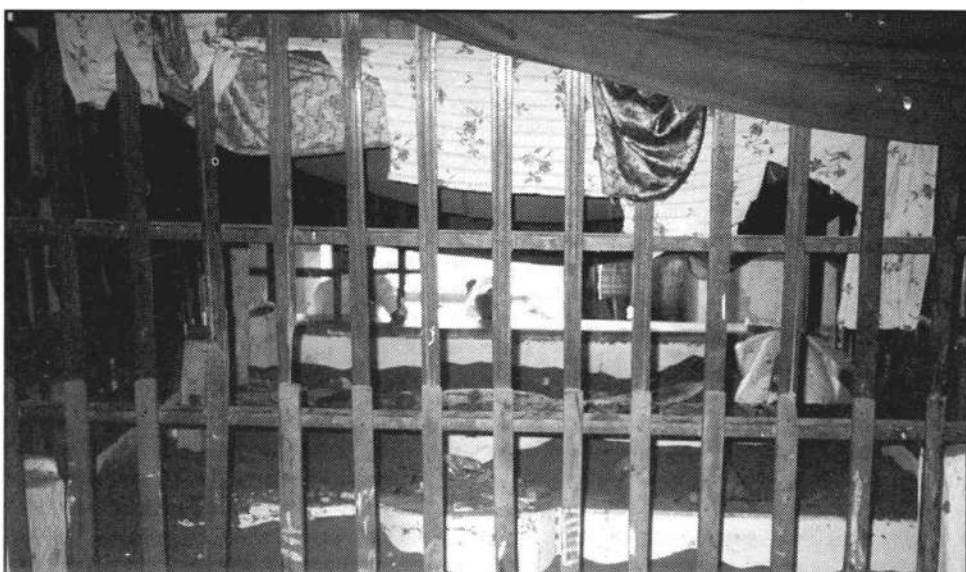
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# The Main Conclusion of the Second World Water Forum at the Hague, Mar 17-22

## IT IS NOT A WATER CRISIS, BUT RATHER A CRISIS OF MANAGEMENT!

Throughout the annals of human history, water has been the main cornerstone of civilizations, wealth and prosperity. The Arabian Peninsula is no exception. When reading about the old kingdoms of Sheba, and Egypt, we realize that agriculture, based on irrigation was the chief determinant of power. And agriculture would not have been there without sufficient water. Once water vanished from an area, tribes, or villagers in that area would be forced to flee it in search for a land with water and food. This continued through the years. Here in Yemen, we once had the great Kingdom of Sheba in Marib. Our ancestors were clever and thought of ways to build structures, such as the ancient dam of Marib that would preserve water for agricultural and livestock use. Today, we look back and see how wise our ancestors were and how foolish we are today. As soon as the pumping machines were imported to Yemen, we began using them hysterically pumping water from the underground. The inventor of the pumping machine - if alive, today would regret he had invented it in the first place. Yemen is ranked the fastest groundwater depleting country in the world today. We even abandoned the old ways of rainwater harnessing, which was among the most important ways to reserve water in the past. We found that with pumps, we could achieve the same objective of getting water any way, so why not do it. This narrow mindedness of ours, leads to making Yemen a country on the brink of total desertification.

If there were one conference we must have attended on this pertinent issue, it would, without doubt be the Second World Water Forum at The Hague during 17-22 March 2000, held under the motto "Water is Life." Hence, as one among the Yemeni journalists to cover this event, I concentrated, as I mentioned in previous articles, on Yemen, and the role of our delegation to push Yemen's case ahead of others insofar, as Yemen is the country dying for water and needs assistance in its program of water management. Even though I did not see what I expected from Yemeni participation at The Hague, I still believe that they have done a commendable job in representing Yemen in various sessions, including the youth session, which included 4 of our Yemeni girls drawing the attention of the participants to our critical conditions of water shortage in what was once called the Arabian Felix.

The least that could be said about the forum is that it was a spectacular event that indeed demonstrated the importance of water, and turned the world's attention to this vital element of life. With the participation of more than 4,800 participants of 158 delegations and 115 ministers, the forum was by far the biggest event I have attended so far. The all gathered in the Hague, Netherlands for the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference, a unique interactive event and platform for developing sustainable water management.

What astonished me most was not the number of people, but rather, the efficiency, elegance, and organization of the event. Not only was the excellent management of the event worth noting, but the organizers even took care of the smallest details, such as bringing about a few young women to the hall to demonstrate the value of water, etc. through some stimulating dances and postures.

The presence of Arab countries was quite evident. There seemed to be a bigger representation put highest priority on water resources, such as Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, and of course, Egypt.

Yemen's presence was equally impressive. Despite the



Future Vessel: Generation of Tomorrow

absence of the Yemeni Minister of Water, the delegation comprised 8 officials, 3 journalists, 4 young girls who participated in the gender sessions, and a researcher from the Technical University of Delft as well. All were keen to make good use of this unique opportunity by sharing ideas, learning from other countries' experiences, discussing possible solutions, and most of all, getting grips with the vital issue of water resources management in the most convenient way.

### The Surprise!

During the opening session, while the World Council Chairman Abu-Zeid was delivering his speech, two activists undressed on the stage, preventing him from delivering his speech.

In response to the extremely bizarre incident which disturbed the opening session of the conference, His Royal



The venue of the forum

Highness the Prince of Orange, chairman of the event said, "During the Second World Water Forum all individuals can vent their opinions on water related issues, but in a civilized manner." The activists wanted to demonstrate against the Itoiz Dam in Spain, and privatization of water. Even though the unusual mode of the protest was a negative act by the activists, but it had a positive effect even if unintentionally. The world attention turned to The Hague on leaving about the incident. The TV channels that did not enlist the forum in their agenda, had to do so after the incident. In other words, it was also a way to attract the world's attention: "There is something interesting and important happening in The Hague, so keep a close eye."

### Topics Discussed

Topics discussed at the Forum were of a great variety. The program was divided into 7 main categories: Plenary sessions, Regional Presentations, Water-Use presentations, Special Subjects, World Water Fair, Cultural events, Ministerial Conference, and other miscellaneous events. All in all, more than 85 sessions took place with a spectacular attendance and with increasing interest noticed in each session.

### TOPICS OF INTEREST TO YEMEN

Even though there were tens of topics, the topics that concerned Yemen were few. The following is a brief account of some of those pertinent issues:

#### 1- Groundwater

This was by far the most important session for Yemen simply because groundwater is almost the only source of water for the country. In other words, if groundwater is depleted, Yemen would become without water, hence would become a total desert. During the session on groundwater, a presentation was made and a book was distributed among the participants. The book entitled, "The Global Situation of Groundwater: Overview of Opportunities and Challenges" takes Yemen as its first example of a water crisis because of extreme groundwater depletion. Here I quote the paragraph on Yemen, "Groundwater problems in west and south Asia are as pernicious as or even worse than those in China. A groundwater basket case is Yemen. A recent World-Bank memorandum on water management in Yemen noted: 'The problem of groundwater mining represents a fundamental threat to the well-being of the Yemeni people'."

In the highland plains, for example, abstraction is estimated to exceed recharge by 400 percent" (Briscoe 1999). Yemen is probably the only country where groundwater abstraction exceeds the recharge for the country as a whole (ibid)."

#### 2- Rainwater Harvesting

As can be concluded from above, the continuous pumping of groundwater will cause a catastrophe if an alternative is not found. However, can rainwater harvesting be the solution? Could rainwater harvesting be the true solution for Yemen? Or is the decreasing amounts of rainwater year after year an obstacle towards achieving that? Yemen farmers in villages in many parts of the country depend on rainwater to grow their crops. However, not every season is blessed with sufficient rainwater. Even if it comes it does not come in the appropriate season to grow the crops. What is the solution then? How can we make good use of rainwater instead of totally depending on groundwater? Here is an extract from the book released on the occasion of the second World Water Forum entitled, From Vision to Action, "Rainwater harvesting could be an answer to water shortages in the new millennium. For centuries, people across the world have harvested rainwater for household, livestock, and agricultural uses. Before the advent of large centralized water supply systems, precious rainwater was collected from a variety of sources. Rainwater harvesting can be as simple as small dams to stop water flooding off a slope or as technically advanced as reservoir that stores excess water for drinking and irrigation. It offers a wealth of promising possibilities. What we need is more networking and promotion to ensure the widest possible participation."

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#### 3- Financing Water Infrastructure

Once I was told by one of the Yemeni participants in The Hague, "All we need is some financing of some water projects that, if managed efficiently, could prevent a water disaster." I replied, "There are always finances, there have always been, but the problem lies in managing these finances. We need a government that could be accountable, a government that is capable of safeguarding the project's implementation in a transparent environment open to the people."

Here I would like to verify my conclusion by referring to Mr. John Briscoe, the Head of the Delegation of the World Bank to the forum, and a prominent senior Water Advisor (see complete statement). "It is sometimes difficult to implement water infrastructures in countries like the USA where you have governments in function, and where you have rules and regulations. But in a situation like Yemen, where there is a tremendous dispersion between tribal groupings and where rules and laws are not fulfilled, it is even more difficult."

It is well known that the cost of new projects in real terms per cubic meter of water supplied has become extremely high. But that should never be a reason for abandoning them. The session concentrated on financing water infrastructure and exploring the potential of alternatives for financing future water infrastructure needed through public-private and national-international partnerships, and under the auspices of donors or organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF.)

2. These threats are not new. Nor are attempts to address them. Discussions and actions started in Mar del Plata in 1977, continued through Dublin and were consolidated into Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 in Rio in 1992. They were reaffirmed in Paris 1998, CSD-6 and in the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference. The process will continue in the meeting slated to be held in Bonn in 2002. ("Dublin+10"), through the 10-year review of implementation of Agenda 21, and beyond. These and other international forums have produced a number of agreements and principles that constitute the basis upon which this and future statements should be built. The goal of providing water security in the 21st Century is reflected in the acceptable animated participation and discussion by experts, stakeholders and government officials in many regions of the world. This process has profited from the seminar contributions of the World Water Council, while launched the World Water Vision process at the First World Water Forum in Marrakech, was the main force behind the formation of the World Commission on Water in the 21st Century and the development of the Framework for Action by the Global Water Partnership.

#### 4- Water Education and Training

We in Yemen, suffer from a tremendously high level of illiteracy, exceeding 60%, with an overwhelming majority of them in rural areas. What makes our conditions



The four Yemeni girls with the Dutch Ambassador

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even worse, is that farmers and people in charge of distributing water used in agriculture are among the uneducated sector. We need in our country to begin a long-term process of spreading awareness of the dangers of wasting water, extensive groundwater pumping, and inefficient irrigation techniques. The session was dedicated to demonstrating new state-of-the-art training modules regarding water education policy as well as the latest methods of knowledge and skills dissemination. We cannot afford teaching or training all farmers or water managers at the same time. We could start today a long-term process of educating the children and the next generations. However, there must be a starting point, we cannot afford the time spent on doing nothing. At least a committee should be formed today before tomorrow, and tomorrow before after tomorrow to focus on this issue.

#### 5-Youth Forum and Future Vessels

What made me appreciate the efforts of the organizers even more, was the importance they gave to the gender and youth activities. They even held a huge gathering of the future vessels, the children in the biggest hall to present the generations of tomorrow, their ideas, their suggestions, and their anger to the decision makers who have been ignoring the issue for too long. Wonderful statement by one of the girl of the future vessels worth noting, "Think of us, think of the future, think about living in a world without accessible water," a statement that should wake up the consciousness of our officials and decision-makers as well. Doesn't the estimation saying that in the year 2010, the capital city would dry, frighten or force the decision-makers into action? Amidst all of this, the future vessels representing Yemen was enriched by the, four girls from the Girls World Language School managed by Mrs. Carin Meerburg the wife of H.E. the Dutch Ambassador Arner Meerburg. They painted a promising picture of Yemen of tomorrow, caring for water, and giving it its importance it deserves. During the forum, the girls decorated and designed a wonderful blue board (see photo) including photos of children, women and normal citizens with

water, and also including a map indicating the level of depletion of groundwater. One of the Yemeni participants humorously said, "I believe these four girls represented Yemen better than the official delegation did. At least they did something tangible!" We would not comment on whether he was right or wrong, but we certainly congratulate the girls and their teacher, Mrs. Meerburg for their wonderful efforts.

#### The Ministerial Declaration

During the last two days of the conference, 115 ministers and country representatives met under the umbrella of the forum in the ministerial conference to work together to evolve a unified declaration that supports all the ideas and conclusions brought forward throughout the forum. They all agreed on the declaration, and committed themselves to have it on the top of their agenda for the coming months and years.

#### Ministerial Declaration of The Hague on Water Security in the 21st Century

1. Water is vital for life and health of people and ecosystems and is also a basic requirement for the development of countries, but around the world women, men and children lack access to adequate and safe water to meet their most basic needs. Water resources, and the related ecosystems that provide and sustain them, are under threat from pollution, unsustainable use, land-use changes, climate change and many other factors. The link between these threats and poverty is clear, for it is the poor who are hit first and hardest. This leads to one simple conclusion: business as usual is not an option. There is, of course, a huge diversity of needs and situations around the globe, but together we have one common goal: to provide water security in the 21st Century. This means ensuring that freshwater, coastal and related ecosystems are protected and improved; that sustainable development and political stability are promoted; that every person has access to enough safe water at an affordable cost to lead a healthy and productive life and that the vulnerable are protected from the risks of water-related hazards.

2. These threats are not new. Nor are attempts to address them. Discussions and actions started in Mar del Plata in 1977, continued through Dublin and were consolidated into Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 in Rio in 1992. They were reaffirmed in Paris 1998, CSD-6 and in the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference. The process will continue in the meeting slated to be held in Bonn in 2002. ("Dublin+10"), through the 10-year review of implementation of Agenda 21, and beyond. These and other international forums have produced a number of agreements and principles that constitute the basis upon which this and future statements should be built. The goal of providing water security in the 21st Century is reflected in the acceptable animated participation and discussion by experts, stakeholders and government officials in many regions of the world. This process has profited from the seminar contributions of the World Water Council, while launched the World Water Vision process at the First World Water Forum in Marrakech, was the main force behind the formation of the World Commission on Water in the 21st Century and the development of the Framework for Action by the Global Water Partnership.

3. To achieve water security, we face the following main challenges:  
**Meeting basic needs:** to recognize that access to safe and sufficient water and sanitation are basic human needs and are essential to health and well-being, and to empower people, especially women, through a participatory process of water management.  
**Securing the food supply:** to enhance food security, particularly for the poor and the vulnerable, through its more efficient mobilization and use, and the more equitable allocation of water for food production.  
**Protecting ecosystems:** to ensure the integrity of ecosystems through sustainable water resources management.  
**Sharing water resources:** to promote peaceful co-operation and develop synergies between different uses of water at all levels, whenever possible, within and, in the case of boundary and trans-boundary water resources, between states concerned, through sustainable river basin management or other appropriate approaches.  
**Managing risks:** to provide security from floods, droughts, pollution and other water-related hazards.  
**Valuing water:** to manage water in a way that reflects its social, environmental and cultural values for all its uses, and to move towards pricing water services to reflect the cost of their provision. This approach should take into account the need for equity and the basic needs of the poor and the vulnerable.

4. We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, recognize our gathering and this Declaration are part of a wider process, and are linked to a wide range of initiatives at all levels. We acknowledge the pivotal role that governments play in realizing actions to meet the challenges. We recognize the need for institutional, technological and financial innovations in order to meet

build a secure and sustainable water future. We will, individually and acting together, strive to achieve this and stimulate and facilitate the contributions of society as a whole. To this end, we note with appreciation that pledges were made at The Hague (attached to our declaration). This Declaration reflects the determination of our governments and represents a critical step in the process of providing water security for all.

5. The actions advocated here are based on **integrated water resources management**, that includes the planning and management of water resources, both conventional and non-conventional, and land. This takes account of social, economic and environmental factors and integrates surface water, groundwater and the ecosystems through which they flow. It recognizes the importance of water quality issues. In this, special attention should be paid to the poor, to the role, skills and needs of women and to vulnerable areas such as small island states, landlocked countries and desertified areas.

6. Integrated water resources management depends on collaboration and partnerships at all levels, from individual citizens to international organizations, based on a political commitment to, and wider societal awareness of, the need for water security and the sustainable management of water resources. To achieve integrated water resources management, there is a need for coherent national and, where appropriate, regional and international policies to overcome fragmentation, and for transparent and accountable institutions at all levels.

7. We will further advance the process of collaboration in order to turn agreed principles into action, based on partnerships and synergies among the government, citizens and other stakeholders. To this end:  
A. We will establish targets and strategies, as appropriate, to meet the challenges of achieving water security. As part of this effort, we support the development of indicators of progress at the national and sub-national level. In carrying this forward, we will take account of the valuable work done for the Second World Water Forum.

B. We will continue to support the UN system to reassess periodically the state of freshwater resources and related ecosystems, to assist countries, where appropriate, to develop systems to measure progress towards the realization of targets and to report in the biennial World Water Development Report as part of the overall monitoring of Agenda 21.  
C. We will work together with other stakeholders to develop a stronger water culture through greater awareness and commitment. We will identify best practices, based on enhanced research and knowledge generation capacities, knowledge dissemination through education and other channels and knowledge sharing between individuals, institutions and societies at all appropriate levels. This will include co-ordination at regional and other levels, as appropriate, to promote arrangements for coping with water-related disasters and for sharing experiences in water sector reform. It will also include international co-operation in technology transfers to, and capacity building in, developing countries.  
D. We will work together with stakeholders to increase the effectiveness of pollution control strategies based on polluter pays principles and to consider appropriate rules and procedures in the fields of liability and compensation for damage resulting from activities dangerous to water resources.  
E. Against the background of the preparatory work for and discussions in The Hague, we will work within multilateral institutions, particularly the UN system, International Financial Institutions and bodies established by Inter-Governmental Treaties, to strengthen water-related policies and programs that enhance water security, and to assist countries, as appropriate, to address the major challenges identified in this Declaration.

F. We call upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to further strengthen the co-ordination and coherence of activities on water issues within the UN system. We will adopt consistent positions in the respective governing bodies to enhance coherence in these activities.  
G. We call upon the Council of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to expand activities that are within the mandate of the GEF in relation to freshwater resources by catalyzing investments in national water management issues that have a beneficial impact on international waters.  
H. We welcome the contribution of the World Water Council in relation to the Vision and of the Global Water Partnership with respect to the development of the Framework for Action. We welcome follow-up actions by all relevant actors in an open, participatory and transparent manner that draws upon all major groups in society.

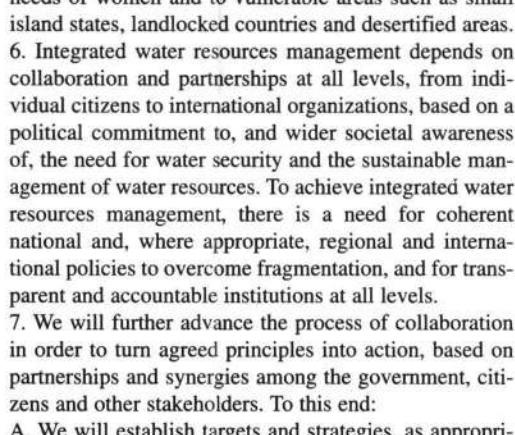
I. We note the statements (attached to this declaration) made by the representatives of the major groups and welcome them as a clear reflection of their readiness to work with us towards a secure water future for all.  
8. Recognizing that the actions referred to in paragraph 7, including progress on targets and strategies, are important and ambitious, we will review our progress periodically at appropriate fora, including the meeting in Bonn in 2002 and the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21.

9. The Ministerial Conference acknowledges with appreciation that a range of issues were discussed during the Second World Water Forum, and that the Chair of the Forum presented these issues to the Ministerial Conference. The importance of these issues is unquestionable; we will raise them for further consideration in relevant fora in the future and will consider their implications for our individual national situations.  
10. The challenges are formidable, but so are the opportunities. There are many experiences around the world that can be built on. What is needed is for us all to work together, to develop collaboration and partnerships, to

build a secure and sustainable water future. We will, individually and acting together, strive to achieve this and stimulate and facilitate the contributions of society as a whole. To this end, we note with appreciation that pledges were made at The Hague (attached to our declaration). This Declaration reflects the determination of our governments and represents a critical step in the process of providing water security for all.

11. We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, thank the government and people of The Netherlands for their vision and for their hospitality in hosting this conference and forum.

Agreed to on Wednesday 22 March, 2000.  
In The Hague, The Netherlands  
**World Bank Delegation Raises the Issue of Yemen**



The board produced by the young girls

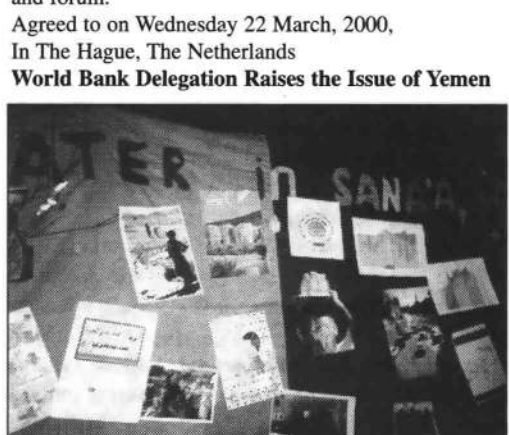
The World Bank deserves to be thanked for its effective role in presenting Yemen's conditions in a speech by James D. Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank in which he said, "In Yemen, once regarded as the garden of the Arabian peninsula, the introduction of diesel pumps over the last 30 years risks literally pumping the country dry. In the basin around Sana'a, for example, four times more water is pumped out than is recharged by streams and run-offs. Water levels are sinking several meters every year and, as in many cities of the developing world, poor people pay 5 times more for a bucket of water than it costs people in the Hague or Washington, D.C."

On the other side, Mr. John Briscoe, the Head of the Delegation of the World Bank gave a statement to the Yemeni Times, "There are two projects in Yemen for the World Bank, and I am very proud of engaging in them. These projects are a nightmare, and are very difficult. Taiz for example. We had a project around the city of Taiz. These are literally the sort that gives substance to the projects we are managing because Taiz gets water once every 40 days, if you could imagine. That is literally a fact. Outside the city, they drilled wells and pumped water into Taiz resulting in the drying up of Al-Haima area where there is no groundwater any more. After depleting the area there, the authorities are moving upstream. However, over there, normal people wear arms and Kalashnikovs and they are denying access of the government to their lands saying "No way, you dried up their land but you will not do the same to ours." Hence this is a tremendous problem because the city really needs water. We are engaged in the project in Taiz with tremendous debate within the bank as you might be aware. We are now moving to the Sanaa basin, where it is even bigger and more difficult. It is not easy answer to the question whether the World Bank would be capable of preventing the desertification of Yemen. What is happening now is that the government is coming to grips with it. We are working on it, and if you - Yemeni Times - have suggestions of how to get out of this deadlock please tell us."

**Controversy over Marib Dam**  
During the session of Water and History, the point of historically wrong decisions were brought about, and the first example of that was interestingly the Dam of Marib, where it is said that the reconstruction of the Marib dam did not take into consideration the change in climate, weather, and means of agriculture. What has been said is that the famous Great Dam of Marib and the new dam of Marib in Yemen provide one of the cases in which a traditionally well performing system is replaced by a new one that, however well constructed, fails to achieve its purpose(s). The wealth of the leading kingdoms of the Sabians in the first millennium BC came out of the intense trade, but their economic backbone was the sustainable irrigated oases with a blooming agriculture. The Great Dam conducts part of the flood into a canal system with two sluices on each end serving as entrances to the primary canals. Its purpose was thus to divert water and not to barrage a reservoir. A network of rectangular secondary canals distributed the water on the oasis and the surplus water was conducted back to the Wadi by massive built overflows. The final collapse of the great Dam happened at the time when Marib had lost its status as a capital and as the commercial centre along the frankincense trail and internal rumors had weakened the power of the leading group. When finally we wished for a project to revive the Sabeen irrigation system, it met with several problems and not all of these could be solved. The most severe ones came from the local tribal people who were reluctant to depend on superior organizations. As very few farmers make use of the new dam, only negative results are produced which is in sharp contrast with the old dam. The perceived storage capacity in an extremely arid region is a big mistake because as a large portion of the water gets lost, the salinity increases and water-related diseases will occur. Today, mankind failed where past generations succeeded.

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**World Bank Delegation Raises the Issue of Yemen**

The World Bank deserves to be thanked for its effective role in presenting Yemen's conditions in a speech by James D. Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank in which he said, "In Yemen, once regarded as the garden of the Arabian peninsula, the introduction of diesel pumps over the last 30 years risks literally pumping the country dry. In the basin around Sana'a, for example, four times more water is pumped out than is recharged by streams and run-offs. Water levels are sinking several meters every year and, as in many cities of the developing world, poor people pay 5 times more for a bucket of water than it costs people in the Hague or Washington, D.C."

On the other side, Mr. John Briscoe, the Head of the Delegation of the World Bank gave a statement to the Yemeni Times, "There are two projects in Yemen for the World Bank, and I am very proud of engaging in them. These projects are a nightmare, and are very difficult. Taiz for example. We had a project around the city of Taiz. These are literally the sort that gives substance to the projects we are managing because Taiz gets water once every 40 days, if you could imagine. That is literally a fact. Outside the city, they drilled wells and pumped water into Taiz resulting in the drying up of Al-Haima area where there is no groundwater any more. After depleting the area there, the authorities are moving upstream. However, over there, normal people wear arms and Kalashnikovs and they are denying access of the government to their lands saying "No way, you dried up their land but you will not do the same to ours." Hence this is a tremendous problem because the city really needs water. We are engaged in the project in Taiz with tremendous debate within the bank as you might be aware. We are now moving to the Sanaa basin, where it is even bigger and more difficult. It is not easy answer to the question whether the World Bank would be capable of preventing the desertification of Yemen. What is happening now is that the government is coming to grips with it. We are working on it, and if you - Yemeni Times - have suggestions of how to get out of this deadlock please tell us."

**Controversy over Marib Dam**  
During the session of Water and History, the point of historically wrong decisions were brought about, and the first example of that was interestingly the Dam of Marib, where it is said that the reconstruction of the Marib dam did not take into consideration the change in climate, weather, and means of agriculture. What has been said is that the famous Great Dam of Marib and the new dam of Marib in Yemen provide one of the cases in which a traditionally well performing system is replaced by a new one that, however well constructed, fails to achieve its purpose(s). The wealth of the leading kingdoms of the Sabians in the first millennium BC came out of the intense trade, but their economic backbone was the sustainable irrigated oases with a blooming agriculture. The Great Dam conducts part of the flood into a canal system with two sluices on each end serving as entrances to the primary canals. Its purpose was thus to divert water and not to barrage a reservoir. A network of rectangular secondary canals distributed the water on the oasis and the surplus water was conducted back to the Wadi by massive built overflows. The final collapse of the great Dam happened at the time when Marib had lost its status as a capital and as the commercial centre along the frankincense trail and internal rumors had weakened the power of the leading group. When finally we wished for a project to revive the Sabeen irrigation system, it met with several problems and not all of these could be solved. The most severe ones came from the local tribal people who were reluctant to depend on superior organizations. As very few farmers make use of the new dam, only negative results are produced which is in sharp contrast with the old dam. The perceived storage capacity in an extremely arid region is a big mistake because as a large portion of the water gets lost, the salinity increases and water-related diseases will occur. Today, mankind failed where past generations succeeded.

### Yemeni Head of Delegation, Mr. Jamal Abdo:

**"We need no more to wait for a water crisis to come. In fact, we are in the midst of it."**

Even though most of the sessions of the Second World Water Forum at the Hague concentrated on issues of concern to the world as a whole, Yemen, the country that stands in the front line among the first nations to be devastated by a water crisis, was seldom mentioned. This despite its suffering from extreme shortage of water. Taiz, the third main city of Yemen, for example, is an overpopulated city that has water delivered to its citizens once every 40 days. Hence, the water issue should be among the most important issues that the government should concentrate on. Yemenis can live without democracy, they can live without freedom of expression, they can live without human rights, but can they live without water? Giving the water issue the importance it deserved, most of the Arab countries sent their ministers of water to the second world water forum at the Hague. However, it was quite disappointing to realize the absence of the Yemeni Minister of Water in the forum. This despite the fact that Yemen is the country suffering from the most extreme levels of water shortage in the Arab world. A quote from a water expert could explain how critical the situation is, "We, as Yemen, are all the time ignored, isolated, and taken for granted. When will we ever realize that we are facing a disaster, that not only could result in the depletion of all what is left of underground water, but would result to a political, social, and environmental crisis that may never be healed"

During the forum, Yemen Times met the head of the Yemeni official delegation and the representative of Yemen in the ministerial conference, Mr. Jamal Abdo, Chairman of the General Committee of Water Resources, and filed the following interview.

#### Excerpts:

Q: Who and how many participants were there from the Yemeni side in the second world water forum?

A: There were 8 participants representatives of various sectors in the country. These include the general committee of water resources, rural water, water establishment, ministry of planning, and a participant representing NGOs in Yemen. There also were 4 young girls who participated in youth activities of the forum. Hence as you can see, the number was quite reasonable, so was the coverage of the activities of the forum. The forum, as you know, was so broad and had more than 80 subjects. We were only able to cover around 20 of them.

Q: What were the subjects and sessions you concentrated on most during the forum?

A: We made sure we covered sessions that were in relation with the region, such as sessions on the Arab countries and the Middle East. We sent a representative to the gender sessions. We also concentrated on issues that are of importance to our country's conditions, and that we suffer from. These include harvesting, agricultural use of water, rain harnessing, underground water, management of water sector by communities, groups and the government.

Q: How do you see the water crisis in Yemen and how do you think it would benefit from this forum?

A: We only were able to benefit from the knowledge we attained in this forum. We were not able to utilize in the forum to ask for new financial aid or to drive the attention of donors to our critical situation in the country. The forum was only intended for knowledge and sharing of ideas and not asking for financial assistance. It gave us the opportunity to learn from other countries, how they managed their crises, what are the straightforward solutions for countries like ours. Even the forum would help us realize some aspects of our problems and how to deal with them. Our problem is too complex and is caused by several factors that are each of tremendous difficulty to solve. Delegations of other countries are complaining about situations we see far better than our country's conditions. Our conditions cannot be compared to any other country in the world, as we are in a critical level of water shortage because of the lack of water resources, bad management, inexperience and unqualified management in dealing with water issues. Add to that the monopoly and taking advantage of citizens and the unavailability of guidelines of what people should have and consumption of water. All these are some problems we will try to tackle in the future.

Q: What about other Arab countries? How do you evaluate the participation of Arab countries in the forum?

A: There was no chance for each country to individually represent its case in the discussions of the forum. The forum did not take into consideration giving the chance to each country to represent its conditions and bring into focus its current situation. The most that was given to us, as Arab countries, was a session on the Middle East, a second on Arab countries, and a third on North Africa in the ministerial conference. Taking into account the huge number of participants, which exceeded 4,500, it was simply impossible to have each and every individual country to present its case or make a presentation on itself. Even though, some countries have provided comments on dams, others presented ideas regarding harvesting, etc. However, all of these were just extra pieces of information.

Q: The strongest and most concrete conclusion of the forum, also quoted by the Prince of Orange, the

chairman of the forum is that it is not a water crisis, but a management crisis? Do you believe this is true for Yemen?

A: When comparing this statement with Yemen's conditions, we realize it is in fact true. 50% of the amount of



# Some Sanskrit and Arabic Words and the Puzzles They Create



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Words, history informs us, tend to travel, often far and away from their birthplace meandering through continents and centuries in different shapes and senses, unrecognizable to untrained eyes and incurious minds. Outside nature, such words are the most interesting chameleons, which challenge and sometimes defy, successfully the scholarly ingenuity of the word-trackers whose mission in life is tracing and reconstructing their original shape in addition to deciphering their primordial sense. However, in most cases, the methods and techniques developed by the etymologists (that is, professional word-trackers) have, time and again, proved effective in reaching out far and deep into the history of such wandering words in order to identify their provenance and etymons. Nevertheless, conundrums and enigmas are not infrequently met with in this field of study as in others demanding greater rigor of research and deeper understanding of the nature of problems. Indeed, the existence of such problems in any discipline stimulates the refinement of its techniques of study and if old techniques fail, search for new methods of study is keenly pursued leading to fresh and more insightful researches. And of course their solution necessarily results in the extension of the horizon of the discipline itself. This is a report on a few riddles (so they seem to me at least) which involve some words in Arabic and Sanskrit and the answer to which might possibly entail revision of the received opinion on the relation between Arabic and Sanskrit. By courtesy of *Yemen Times*, I have had the opportunity in the past of reporting to its readers my investigations into the travels of a number of Arabic words in times past and their naturalization in Hindi, one of the major languages of the Indian sub-continent. I have also reported on a number of words of Indian origin, especially Sanskrit/Hindi, which have established themselves in Arabic and now form part of Arabic lexicon. To the best of my knowledge and belief, these reports based on the sound principles of etymological science are accurate and convincing. But in the course of my further investigations in the exchange of words between Arabic and Sanskrit/Hindi I have encountered a few rather puzzling problems, which have been simply stated as here under. Let us begin by first considering the following pair:

## (1) Sanskrit *Kalama*: Arabic *قلم*

Sir Monier-Williams 'A Sanskrit-English Dictionary' describes the meaning of Sanskrit of *Kalama* as follows: (i) a sort of rice (sown in May and June and ripening in December or January); (ii) a reed for writing with. The word is attested to have been used in these senses in ancient Sanskrit texts referred to by Sir Monier-Williams. In addition, he cites cognates from Greek and Latin, the two major languages of the Indo-European family. The Greek word *Kalamos* and the Latin word *Calamus* correspond to the Sanskrit word *Kalamas*; all three are nominative singular forms. That is Sanskrit, Greek and Latin agree on the form and meaning of the word in question; all three appear to have inherited it from the parent language, Proto-Indo-European. Naturally, the presumption is unavoidable that it is a very old Indo-European word dating back to the period when Latin, Greek and Sanskrit were one language; that is, they had not split from the parent language and separated from one another. In any case, the closeness of genetic relationship between the three

language, well-attested on other grounds, is beyond any doubt. Whether it be a lexical item or a grammatical process which is shared by Sanskrit, Greek and Latin, it must be presumed to have been inherited from the common stock and cannot be reasonably considered in all three. At the same time it cannot be considered a case of later borrowing in any of the languages from the other; the odds are heavy and far too many against such an assumption.

To be sure, there is another word in Sanskrit *Lekhani* meaning "an instrument for writing or painting, read-pen painting-brush, pen, pencil"; obviously, it is similar in meaning to Sanskrit *Kalama*, but it is obviously a derived rather than primitive word. It is derived from the root *Likh*, and it is an innovation in Sanskrit in this sense. Interestingly, the same dictionary of Sir Monier-Williams carries the Arabic word *qalam* by the side of Sanskrit *kalama*, but does not define it; that is, it does not state the meaning(s) of *qalam*. But the fact that it appears with Sanskrit *kalama* seems to suggest that the lexicographer was most certainly aware of the partial similarity between the form and meaning of Arabic *qalam* and Sanskrit *kalama*. Similarly between the two words is partial inasmuch as Arabic *qalam* [k]; [g], in phonetic terms, is a uvular consonant while [k] is a velar consonant. In respect of meaning, too, the similarity is partial, for Arabic *qalam* (قلم), to be sure, has the meaning "reed pen, pen", but has other meanings besides. Even so, the partial similarity is so striking that it cannot but prompt us to seriously entertain the hypothesis of borrowing from Indo-European language into Arabic. Specifically, *qalam* (قلم) may have been borrowed into Arabic from Latin or Greek, if not from Sanskrit of course it is open to someone to propose that Indo-European languages borrowed from Arabic, but then he would have to prove that the three Indo-European languages borrowed from Arabic at the same time with the same modification, phonetic and semantic, only one word, and this process has not recurred since. In either case assuming it to be a case of borrowing, the borrowing must date back to a very distant past, to prehistoric times, perhaps. But if we are prepared to travel to prehistoric times, we can also postulate that Arabic *qalam* (قلم) like Sanskrit *kalama*, Latin *calamus*, Greek *kalamos* continues the Proto-Indo-European word, but that can be done only on the hypothesis that Semitic and Indo-European languages had at one time a common ancestor a hypothesis that files in the face of received opinion in the field of historical and comparative linguistics of different language families. Thus, borrowing remains the only plausible hypothesis to account for the presence of Sanskrit *kalama* and Arabic *qalam* (قلم); but how do we decide the direction of the borrowing?

Our next pair of words is:

## (2) Sanskrit *badana*: Arabic *بادن*

Sanskrit *badana*, according to dictionaries, means "the face, mouth, countenance". In this sense the word has occurred in a number of ancient Sanskrit texts ranging from literacy to scientific.

Arabic *badan*, again according to dictionaries, has the sense of 'body, trunk, torso'. It too, is an old word attested in old Arabic texts.

The two words show partial similarity in form meaning. In form they differ only in respect of the first consonant: Sanskrit /v/ as against Arabic /b/; Sanskrit Labio-dental semi-vowel as against Arabic bilabial. For the rest they would be generally considered identical. In meaning they differ as a part of the body, Arabic *badan*. They are similar inasmuch as they name a part of or the whole of the human

body; they belong to the same semantic field, and quite closely connected. Now, at some time in the history of Sanskrit a phonetic change seems to have set in according to which /v/ in word-initial position was replaced by /b/. As one Sanskrit dictionary puts it: "it (i.e. v) is often confound and interchanged with labial /b/". For example, *vakeruka* into *bakeruka*, and so did many without any accompanying change in the meaning of these words. It was purely a phonetic change the lexical items affected by the change were in free variation. By the time Sanskrit gave way to Hindi, one of the daughter languages of Sanskrit, the change became much more extensive and /v/ in word-initial position of a large number of Sanskrit words came to be systematically replaced by /b/. The point of this digression is to show how Sanskrit *badana* was replaced by Hindi *badana*. However, at this stage, its meaning remained unchanged. That is, it continued to mean 'the face, mouth, countenance'; the old form changed, but its old meaning remained what it was earlier.

At this point in the history of Hindi, a number of Arabic words were borrowed into Hindi, and it is reasonable to believe that one of these words was *badan* meaning 'body, trunk, torso'. Thus, a pair of homophones came into being, which had two different sources and involved two different linguistic processes. However, in modern Hindi, at any rate, the two have merged together and have come to mean: 'body, trunk, torso'. But the question is: Is the sound shape of *badan* a borrowing from Arabic, or is it the meaning alone which has been borrowed? Perhaps, it makes no difference to those who use the word today, but to him who is interested in the travels of words across time and space, it does matter. However, it is rather hard for him to decide the direction the borrowing has gone without some more evidence than is available at the moment.

The third pair of Sanskrit and Arabic words that we propose to consider next is:

## (3) Sanskrit *ma*: Arabic *ما*

This pair differs from the preceding ones in being a pair of structural words in contrast to the pairs of content words discussed above. The content words are defined in a dictionary in terms of their referential meanings; structural words, on the other hand, are described in terms of their grammatical functions in the language. For example, prepositions and conjunctions of English are structural words in the grammar of English in contrast to nouns and verbs which refer to objects, states and actions in the world. It is a widely held view based on observation and experience that content words are more reality borrowed or lent than structural words, which are firmly integrated into the grammatical structure of the language. The purpose of these general observations is to provide a perspective on the nature of the problem we are two different, genetically unrelated, geographically of *ma* in Arabic and in Sanskrit, not only closely similar in form but also similar in grammatical function demands explanation. A plausible explanation may be suggested by assuming that one of the two languages has borrowed from the other; but *ma* being a structural word, borrowing by either of the two languages makes it rather unlikely. So how do we account of *ma* in Sanskrit and *ma* in Arabic? Let us first note the details of similarities.

Sanskrit *ma* is an indeclinable, invariable negative particle; it is a particle of negation and prohibition. It is cognate with Greek negative particle *me*. Sanskrit *ma* commonly occurs in the earliest stages of Sanskrit with the past tense forms (i.e. ....forms in particular) of verbs in subjunctive mood. At the later stages of Sanskrit,

however, when Vedic Subjunctive seems to have fallen out of use, *ma* is more frequently constructed with the imperative forms of verbs. Sometimes it is also used in place of the simple negative *na* used to deny a statement. Arabic *ma* is also an indeclinable, invariable negative particle; it usually occurs with the perfect forms of Arabic verbs, which are comparable to the artist forms of Sanskrit verbs. For example, *ma kataba* (ما كتب) 'He did not write' *ma dahaba* (ما ذهب) 'He did not go', and so on. The negativing function of *ma* is quite clear in constructions in which it occurs with the perfect forms of verbs like *zala* (زال) 'To cease', *ada* (عاد) 'To return' or *bagiya* (بقى) 'To remain'. Some examples are: *ma zala Hasuun dahiban* (ما زال حسن داهيبا) 'Hasan did not cease going (i.e. Hasan is still going); *ma ada yarjau* (ما عاد يرجع) 'He did not return again; *ma bagya ahadun* (ما بقي احد) 'No one remained. However, Arabic *ma* differs from Sanskrit *ma* insofar as it does not occur in construction with imperative forms of verbs. Even so the similarities between Sanskrit *ma* and Arabic *ma* are quite impressive. They need to be accounted for. If we seek to account for them by assuming separate and simultaneous developments towards similar ends in two genetically unrelated languages independent of each other, it would amount to making teleology a very important regulative principle operative in language systems. It would also implicitly deny the principle of arbitrariness widely held to characterize the relationship between linguistic forms and their meanings and functions. Thus, we are led to assume borrowing as the most plausible mechanism accounting for the similarities between Arabic *ma* and Sanskrit *ma*. But the question is: Which way did the borrowing go? The present writer does not claim to know it as yet.

The next pair in this series consists of:

## (4) Sanskrit *gard*: Arabic *غرد*

Let us begin by nothing the formal similarities and differences between the two words. Phonetically speaking, Sanskrit *gard* begins with a voiced velar stop consonant, while Arabic *garad* begins with a voiced velar/uvular fricative consonants. The differences in respect of the vowels in them are not substantive; for the most part they are a consequences of different lexicographical practices with regard to citation forms. For example, Sanskrit dictionaries cite the root form of verb, while Arabic dictionary cite the third person singular number perfect form of verb. Consequently, Sanskrit *gard* is the root form whereas Arabic *garad* is the third person singular number of the perfect form of the verb.

As regards the meaning of the Sanskrit *garad*, one dictionary states the following: 'To shout, give shout of joy, to emit any sound'. The meaning of Arabic *garad* according to one dictionary, is: 'to sing, twitter (bird), warble'. Obviously, the meanings are not identical; identity of meanings from two languages is a myth; nevertheless, there is a large measures of overlap between the meanings of Sanskrit *gard* and Arabic *garad*. Now, the similarities between the forms and meanings of the words under consideration here cannot be plausibly attributed to chance coincidence. At the same time these two words cannot be considered to be continuations, with certain modifications, of an inherited word from an earlier pre-historic common parent language. Sanskrit and Arabic are not deemed to have descended from a common parent language. Thus, we are left with the third possibility of borrowing from one language to another, but again, as before there is no way we can ascertain direction of borrowing: did Arabic borrow *garad* from Sanskrit *gard*, or Sanskrit from

Arabic, with appropriate modifications in sounds and meanings?

The preceding discussion of a few pairs of Sanskrit-Arabic words has tried to account for their similarities in form, function and meaning, but has, in each case, been constrained to reach the conclusion that no assumption other than that of borrowing appears plausible enough to be considered for the purpose of accounting for the similarities noted above. Even on this assumption, however, it has not been possible to decide the direction of the borrowing between Sanskrit and Arabic. Which one has borrowed from which other?

In contrast to the preceding Sanskrit-Arabic words of undecidable provenance, we now turn to those Sanskrit-Arabic words those similarity in form and meaning can be effectively decided in terms of borrowing. We shall begin with:

## (5) Sanskrit *vidaya*: Arabic *wadaa*

One dictionary of Sanskrit defines the meaning of *vidaya* as follows: (1) "division, distribution; (2) permission to go away, dismissal with good wishes (in this sense perhaps not a Sanskrit word)". The dictionary goes on to cite the Arabic word *wada* (وداع). Now Arabic *wada* (وداع) carries the following meaning: "farewell, leaving-taking, good-bye". It is obvious that the second meaning given in Monier-Williams dictionary of Sanskrit for the entry *vidaya* is very similar to the meaning of *wada* (وداع) given in Arabic dictionaries. However, the form of the Sanskrit word *vidaya*, and the verbal root from which it is derived are authentically Sanskrit. It seems reasonable to conclude that the close similarity between Sanskrit *vidaya* and the spoken form of Arabic *wada* (وداع) might have triggered the transfer of the Arabic meaning to the Sanskrit word-form. Alternatively, it might be argued that only the meaning but the form also of the Arabic word *wada* (وداع) could have been borrowed into Sanskrit itself, with certain sound modifications, of course. That there has been an awareness of the alienness of the meaning is evident from the attempts made by certain Sanskrit to replace this word with this meaning by neologisms, but without much success in popular usage. In this case then we can be quite certain that the meaning of Sanskrit *vidaya* is a borrowing from Arabic, if not the form of it.

## We shall consider now another pair of: (6) Sanskrit *lazavarta*: Arabic *lazaward*

*lazaward* (لازورد) is an Arabic word. Arabic dictionaries carry this word along with some of its derivation, like (i) *lazawardi* (لازوردي) and (ii) *lazawardiya* (لازوردية). We shall be concerned here with *lazaward* (لازورد), this form and meaning, simply because (i) and (ii) are transparently derived from it by means of suffixes incontestably Arabic in origin. In this sense *lazaward* (لازورد) is basis in form as well as in meaning.

The interestingly enough, a Sanskrit *lazavarta* too, which alternates with *rajavarta*. This alternation is sanctioned by the grammar of Sanskrit and it characterizes a sizable number of Sanskrit words. These two variant forms have one and the same significance or meaning. The meaning of *lazavarta* or *rajavarta* found in a dictionary of Sanskrit is: "lapis lazuli", exactly the same meaning as of Arabic *lazaward*. The Sanskrit dictionary describes the meaning of this word at some length; it says: "*lazavarta* is a kind of diamond or other gem (of an inferior quality said to come from the country of *virata*, and regarded as lucky possession though not esteemed as an ornament".

The similarity between Arabic and Sanskrit words, despite the differences between some of their con-

stituent sounds, is striking, both in form and meaning. We cannot attribute such a similarity to accident. Given the principle of the arbitrariness of linguistic signs, accidental similarity between words of the size of *lazaward* (لازورد) seems rather highly improbable. But, at the same time, it cannot be due to their common origin either. Thus, borrowing remains the only mechanism which might have brought about the similarity between Arabic *lazaward* (لازورد) and Sanskrit *lazavarta*. But before we decide on the direction of the borrowing, let us note some of the unusual features of Arabic *lazaward* (لازورد). First, it does not follow the canonical syllabic pattern of words in Arabic; next, Arabic dictionaries do not carry the verb root from which this noun can be derived. On these two counts of its phonological structure and grammatical construction *lazaward* appears quite alien to the Arabic language. It is an isolated word in Arabic. On the other hand, *lazavarta* conforms to the syllabic and grammatical structuring quite common to a large number of Sanskrit words. Therefore, we can reasonably conclude that *lazavarta* is original with the Sanskrit language, and that it has been borrowed into Arabic with some sound modifications. In this case then the fact of borrowing and the direction of borrowing do not seem liable to controversy.

The pair we shall next consists of:

## (7) Sanskrit *krimija*: Arabic *qirmiz*

Obviously, a deal of similarity exists between the surface forms of the two words mentioned in this section. Sanskrit *krimija* has a number of meanings, but the one that concerns us here is: "Lac red dye caused/ produced by insects". Very similar to it is the meaning of Arabic *qirmiz* (قرمز): that is, "the dried bodies of the female *kermes* insect, coccus ilicis, which yield a red dye stuff". *Qirmizi* (قرمزي) is of course derived from *qirmiz* (قرمز) its meaning in English is 'crimson, carmine, scarlet'. In fact, English "crimson" is ultimately traced to Arabic *qirmizi* (قرمزي) in etymological dictionaries. Besides, the cognates of Sanskrit *krimija* have been identified in a number of Indo-European languages, like Lithuanian, Russia, Latin, Gothic and Irish.

We however, intend to decide here whether Sanskrit *krimija* and Arabic *qirmiz* (قرمز) owe their close similarity in form and meaning to chance coincidence, common origin or to borrowing. Chance coincidence is inconceivable as an explanation of the phenomenon under consideration; it simply short-circuits the inquiry. Common origin is not demonstrable yet. Consequently, we are led to consider borrowing as the only reliable process which could account for the observed similarity between Sanskrit *krimija* and Arabic *qirmiz* (قرمز).

As in the case of *lazaward* (لازورد), we argue that Arabic *qirmiz* (قرمز) is an isolated word in Arabic. It is abnormal in respect of its syllabic structure; it occurs as a noun in Arabic, but there is no verb root from which we can derive it. On the other hand, Sanskrit *krimija* is one conforms to the regular phonological, grammatical and semantic ordering of elements and parts characteristic of Sanskrit. Indeed, Sanskrit *krimija* can be easily analyzed into two parts: *krimi* and *ja*. The two parts have their own separate and identifiable meaning: *krimi* means 'insect' and *ja* means 'produced from by'. The meaning of the whole word can be satisfactory computed from the meaning of its parts. In other words, the meaning of *krimija* in Sanskrit is clearly motivated, it is not arbitrary, which is the case with Arabic *qirmizi* (قرمزي). Therefore, we are inclined to conclude that Arabic *qirmiz* (قرمز) may be Sanskrit *krimija* borrowed into Arabic from Sanskrit.



## COMMON SENSE

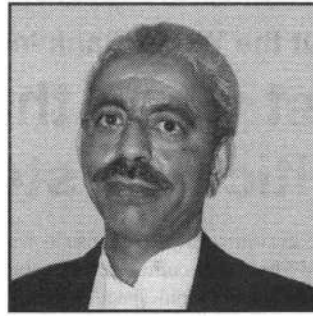
By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## A Monopoly on Suffering

No one in his right mind should ever be in a position to forgive Adolf Hitler for his distasteful disregard for human life, Jewish or otherwise and surely the German people are probably the last ones to want to forgive him for staining their phenomenal civilized and cultural achievements. In addition the German people will be the first ones to say that Hitler was also to be damned for leaving them an enduring headache, as he made them prisoners of systematic reparation payments for many generations to come as "compensation" for the barbarity the lunatic dictator inflicted on Jews over his 10 year field trip as the *Fuhrer* of the Third Reich (Mind you, the Jews were not the only victims of such racial and ethnic madness). Moreover the well-organized Zionist lobby has never failed to take advantage of the misdeeds (to Jews mainly) of Hitler to continuously impose upon the German post-Hitler governments a strong guilty stigma that continues to influence German policy, particularly towards the Middle East. One German once told this observer: "We Germans probably hate Hitler more than anyone else. He has forced upon us so many restrictions and restraints, because whatever we do, we have to be conscious that it does not irritate Jewish interest groups. If we wish to give the Palestinians US \$ 1 Million, we must give Israel US \$ 10 Million or else face severe attacks from Jewish organizations, especially from the United States".

If one goes through history rather quickly, one will find that there are probably no people who have been free from any suffering, which in many cases has approached genocide. Even today we are still confronted by cases of genocide and mass annihilation of people, such as what occurred in Bosnia or what happened in Rwanda or a little while back in Cambodia. Yet, the Catholic Church, or any other international body, is not being hammered not speaking against the senseless barbarity in any of those places. In fact, it would be unfair to expect that the Vatican would have been able to do anything to prevent or cease these and other barbarities. Yet the poor Pope, on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, has now been added to the growing list of those the Zionists lobby feels they can squeeze a dollar or two for the Vatican's "silence" more than half a century ago on what Hitler unleashed in Europe. I think this kind of embezzlement must not be continuously tolerated forever, for entails a serious handicap on those who practice it, as though the blood of all those helpless victims is cheap enough to be used by Zionist solicitors of funds for their spongy experiment in the Holy Land. Surely there must be some courtesy and respect accorded to a well regarded leader of a sizable chunk of the world community, even if he is from another religion. It goes without saying that Moslems have been victims of Catholic inquisitions of greater severity than that practiced against Jews throughout their history. It would not be a mistake today that if

it was not for Catholic persecutions of Moslems in Spain and Portugal and in many of the Far Eastern Dominions of the Iberian States (including East Timor and the Philippines, the majority of these states would be Moslems today! But alas Moslems are very tolerant and smut surely understand that all that occurred against other Moslems is because of their own weakness, first of all, and not because their enemies just were too vicious. On the other hand, Moslems suffered under the Crusades, who were unleashed against the "heathen" Moslems in the early years of the last Millennium by Pope Urban II, and chroniclers report that when the Crusades were able to enter Jerusalem, 90,000 skulls of the Moslem residents of the city were piled all over the city as decorations for the celebration of the victory. One can go on and on in recalling the many cases of ethnic cleansing that went on Southern Italy and Sicily where all the Moslems were either forced to convert to Christianity or face death, often by burning so as to give them a "taste of the inferno", as was the case in Spain and Portugal later [The Moslems or Saracens, as many Western orientalists like to call them, ruled Southern Italy and Sicily for 400 years and a sizable chunk of the Iberian Peninsula for 800 centuries). There are also cases of ethnic cleansing in Eastern Europe and Russia, which still continues to this day. In Greece, towards the last century, thousands of people, if not millions, were forced to convert or die. In



Rhodes today, Moslems are not allowed to use their mosques "except on Fridays" and no Moslem schools or organized activities are permitted whatsoever. In Serbia, chroniclers reported that Belgrade once had 300 minarets, which indicates a sizable Moslem community once thriving there alongside with all the other ethnic composition of the city. Not so surprising, though Islam was called the "religion of the Sword", non Moslem constituencies still exist today without recalling any real mass genocide or "ethnic cleansing" inflicted on any of the domains that made up the Moslem Empire in its various forms. The Mongols also let loose their terror in the Moslem world, as they did against everyone else that their fast cavalries literally whisked through. The Library of Baghdad was burned with 3 million volumes of accumulated scholarly treasure and God knows how many people burned with it. The heirs of the Genghis Khan adopted Islam and it became the state religion of many of the principalities governed by Mongol khans including the Moghul dynasty that ruled India for hundreds of years until the British took over India.

On the other hand other genocide of history were inflicted by the European settlers of North and South America, where the indigenous populations there were almost wiped out, along with a vast wealth of cultural heritage. The Spaniards and Portuguese found it difficult to fully annihilate the "Red Indian populations under them, so they just forcefully converted them to Christianity as an extension of the Inquisition they carried out in the Iberian Peninsula for hundreds of years against the Moslem populations there. Perhaps the lessons of toler-

ance, at least from a racial standpoint learned from the Moslems may have softened the Iberian conquistadors of and mainly carried out their genocide on economic (plunder) and religious grounds.

Yet the Popes of all these periods were also silent, if they in fact did not sanction many of the genocide. The Pope, at the time that Ferdinand and Isabella threw out the Moslems from Granada was so grateful to the Iberian twin states for driving the Moslems out of Western Europe that he divided all the "New World" between Spain and Portugal for their great loyalty to the Church. That is why Brazil is more Portuguese today than it is "Latin American Spanish, because Brazil came out to be on the side of the longitude line set by the Pope (I think his name was Clemens, but not sure now) as the dividing line accordingly. Yet, history will be history and surely, if people continued to seek apologies for all the atrocities that have been inflicted upon so many peoples, the whole population of the world would be busy working to meet "reparation" payments and writing letters of apologies for not stepping in to stop the carnage that has been repeated in just about every corner of the Earth over the millenniums that have crossed human history since Cain slew his brother Abel. Perhaps it was that precedent that encouraged the Israelis to unleash their barbarity against their helpless Semite brethren (Moslem and

Christians) in order that the Jews can have their "Promised Land" and take over the Holy lands of the three monotheistic faiths that produced the cultural heritage, from which the roots of modern civilization stem. Surely, this would be considered an act of justice, where the Lord Al-Mighty would not be Himself, if he would sanction the State of Zion at the expense of thousands of innocent lives and millions of homeless refugees, both Christians and Moslem Arab, who must pay the price for the atrocities that Hitler and many others committed against the Jews over the ages. Ironically, it was in the Arab and Moslem domains that Jewish communities continued to live and thrive for centuries, until the Jewish state came into being to bring uncalled for animosities to the region that delivered the message of Peace (one of the Lord's names), just so some arrogant embezzlers can find a home that will disregard the spirit and letter of the message that still has a long way to go before human suffering and intolerance are over with and people remember that suffering should not be an excuse for inflicting suffering and disrespecting the revered positions of masters of other faiths. But then, Israel will always be Israel. Peace, Shalom and Salam. It is not enough just to say it; one must imbue it with tolerance and forgiveness. That is what the Message is really all about; is it not?

## Training Workshop for Associated Schools in Yemen

By: Hooria Mashoor\*

Yemeni National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with UNESCO regional office in Amman launches a three-day (27-29 March, 2000), Training Workshop for 13 Associated Schools in Yemen on World Heritage. The objective of the workshop is to train principals, teachers and guidance on using new teaching materials to integrate World Heritage into secondary schools curricula. The subjects aims at involving young people in World Heritage conversation and to raise awareness among students and teachers about peace culture.

The concept of peace culture arose at the end of the cold war. The United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture, UNESCO had engaged in activities to promote a culture of peace from its beginnings when it was founded after the World War II to construct the defenses of peace in the minds of men and women. In this framework, schools are important partners. This includes students, teachers, administrators and parents. It is possible to integrate the concept of peace culture with the daily routine of the classroom and the school through displaying pictures, posters, discussions and songs expressing this positive attitude towards peace culture. They could run class

discussions and school projects reflecting aspects of peace culture. In our society we need to avoid aspects of violence and to widespread peace culture among children, youth, men and women.

UNESCO Associated Schools Project Net-work (ASP net) was established in 1953 with 33 schools from 15 countries. Then they expanded until they reached more than 5000 schools all over the world.

The main objectives of ASP net:

- carrying out innovative activities to develop new methods and resource material in favor of culture of peace and non-violence.
- developing a multiplier effect through information and networking in order to enable the national system of education to benefit from ASP net experiences.
- promoting intercultural learning and contact between schools worldwide.
- transforming UNESCO ideals and values to reality.

In Yemen we have begun forming ASP net at national level. Later on, we are managing to expand the national net to represent all governorate of the Republic.

\*Hooria Mashoor: General Manager of Organization and External Department in the National Commission for UNESCO Notional Coordinator of the ASP net.

## Ceilings Without Beams

By: Najma Ali

I may presume that the present reality of state institutions indicates that they are still incomplete with structure and organization, and are in great need of appropriate administration and efficient cadre. Active efforts must be exerted to straighten courses and reform administration and deficiencies prevalent in it. To revive the positive and constructive values in the society, and to get rid of all negative forms in this respect, it is necessary to work for upgrading the ideas needed for running work in such institutions. The objective will be to stand at the threshold of sound development.

Speaking about development, how to achieve it and what is the active power in our society for doing it, we would find out that renewal and updating human and material potentials is the major factor for fulfilling this end. Any construction and reform program should be based on development in order to be successful and fruitful.

In order to start comprehensive development and implement a program for construction and reform it is necessary to pinpoint the major obstacles facing the program. We have to explore the ways and exert serious efforts for eliminating them.

Another major hindrance in this regard is the weakness of planning, supervision and local control by the central apparatus, in addition to weakness of local administration. Conflicting laws and decisions have also led to instability of economic legislations. This has made all try to look for legal gaps to escape and try to outflank the regulations and try to find unofficial channels and twisted ways. One of the causes of some serious consequences is that of the adverse relationship between politics and economy. It appears clearly in subjecting economy to political factors and that clearly leads to serious consequences the price of which is paid by the innocent citizen. It is therefore inevitable and necessary to examine the relationship between politics and econ-

omy to be able to attain the level of comprehensive development and raise the standard of the people's life and provide dignified living.

There is no denying that the program of construction and reform has resulted in many accomplishments in the social services area, but the level of performance is unfortunately is still low. In the sector of education for instance, the level of reform did not work to connect education outputs with requirements of economic and social development, which could be ascribed to the big professional and specialization shortage. There is also weakness in relationship between the university and the society. There is also a remarkable.

Weakness is also traceable in the field of health services, whether in treatment services or in local management in that of health securities and non-supervision on private clinics and pharmacies. It could be concluded out of all this, the absence of active contribution for achieving comprehensive development that all peoples seek to realize.

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Manager of Economic Policy for Poverty Reduction at the World Bank Institute, Ishac Diwan to YT

## “ Civil Society Works Best when there is a Clear Democratic Political System”

The World Bank Institute (WBI) based in Washington DC has played a very important role in preparing for the MDF3 held in Cairo in early March.

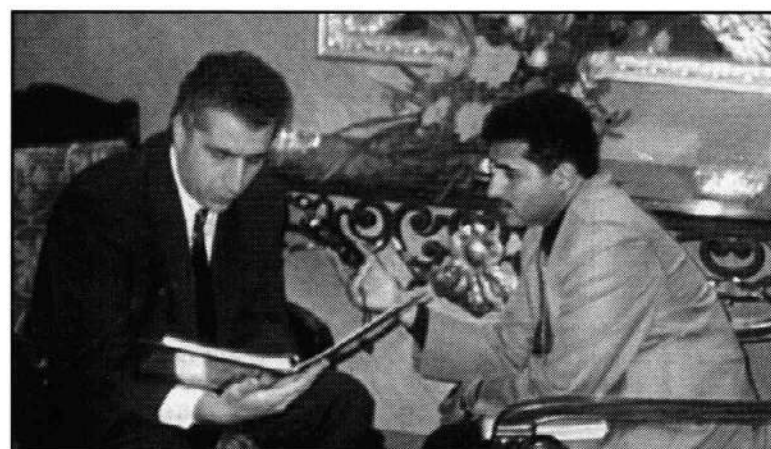
The WBI is a club which aims at spreading knowledge around the world. It also holds some important events to discuss important economic issues like that of the MDF. Mr. Ishac Diwan, Lebanese, is the Manager of Economic Policy for Poverty Reduction at the WBI. He has been working at the World Bank for the past ten years. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Managing Editor met him in Cairo and filed the following interview.

**Q: Would you please give us a background about how the idea of establishing this MDF came about, and what are the activities the MDF aims to achieve?**

**A:** There are many important persons in the association of think tanks for the independent institute in the region. They are in their countries. Unfortunately, we do not have a partner in Yemen, and we would very much like to have a partner in Yemen, and I hope that the next time when we meet, we will have one. So, these are ten think tanks, one from each country, and they all work on policy issues during the year on their own countries. We come together for the MDF to work together to share experiences, to have a regional space in which they

can communicate because as we know we have difficulties in some countries, but the regional space is all over the three years. There is too much to learn from others what has been their success, stories, what to imitate, what not to imitate, which expert you can rely on. This is what the whole idea of MDF is. It is to share knowledge, and there is symbiosis between the local and the regional. The local groups come and give their knowledge to others, and derive their legitimacy from this meeting and knowledge and meetings they come back home. Also it has encouraged collaborative efforts by these groups during the year. So, this is not one event, this is a program, and by holding a meeting every year, we want to assess what has been done

during this year and a half. I could give you many examples, but let me just pick two or three of the action of the MDF. One is the work that MDF partners have been doing on municipal governments, and governments in general. This work is led by the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies with the collaboration of the others. It has led last year, to putting together declaration, rights, and legal bases for free associations in the middle east with studies on each country in the region. That work has become very influential now, when the Jordanian parliament debates the right of associations, they look at this and at what other countries are doing, and they can compare the law in Lebanon, and the law in the other countries and pick the



right law. There are many examples of this source that have been created by dialogue, that is regional.

**Q: Globalization is dominating the whole world, how do you think that the Arab World could globalize or work according to this conception, what are the difficulties in your opinion that face the Arab World?**

**A:** Well, globalization is really all about cheaper communication costs. It has all been put by the increased collectivity. So, that not only goods and people, but ideas, capital and money and culture move around very fast. I think the region has not really joined the train yet, they are still very isolated from the rest of the world. For many reasons, now there is a lot to gain by us from globalization if we manage to join the club because we have the very rich culture, history, traditions and skilled people and we have a lot to serve to the world. You do not see our products anywhere, you do not see the beautiful Arab aesthetics in New York, you see others, and yet it would serve better than others, food, culture, music, products, beautiful Yemeni windows and designs. We have a lot of potential, we have to try to get organized through education, collectivity, internal stability and openness to take advantage of this. At the same time globalization increases our risks also. There is a risk of the region falling behind, becoming more violent and unstable because capital moves faster. If we do not do well, our money will leave and it has been leaving. Our people leave; we educate people in California as opposed to Beirut, Amman, Cairo or Sana'a. I would summarize by saying globalization is opportunities and risk. It is not giving us much choice now, we can not stay like that. Unless we run faster, we are going to fall behind.

**Q: What is the role of the World Bank in MDF?**

**A:** The World Bank is active as the secretariat for MDF1 and 2. MDF 3, we have really taken the back seat, we have helped raise some of the funds, we have put some of the financing, but most of them have been raised from around the world, including from the private sector in Egypt, from the region itself with the help of the partners, the Swedish government, the Italians and others have contributed, the details are seen in the program. I want to stress that MDF3 has been mostly put together by the ten partners that I told you about. They were organized they own their executive committee that met once a year during the whole year to monitor the various works, papers, and discussions that happened before. Every panel that you have seen here has been rehearsed before. All of this has been prepared, and that this meeting is only the pretext to get a lot of work going on during the year on all the topics that are on the program. The role of the bank has been very important, but is receding and becoming less and less, which is good because then this initiative is growing, becoming closer to adulthood, and it is owned by

the region. I want to remind you that you must have heard about the Dafos meeting that happens every year and attract leaders from the whole world. This is really the development Dafos of the region. The Dafos in Switzerland is forty-years old, we are three-years-old only and I feel we have done a lot in these three years.

**Q: You have been present in the first, second, and the third MDF, how are they different from each other, and how do you evaluate this MDF3?**

**A:** I think that this one is the most successful of the all because it was put together much more by people from the region. The material that was presented was much more relevant. What we heard in these past three years are some of the best thinkers from the region. The role of the bank has been to add to them some of the international thinkers. We can establish this relationship between local knowledge and global knowledge, which by the way is another important dimension of successful globalization. We can not just import knowledge from abroad. It is not relevant domestically. We have to adapt and adjust it to our needs. That is to my thinking is the way in which MDF3 is more successful than the previous ones. It has managed better to bring things from outside, but to also add to them the local.

**Q: What are the most important issues that have been addressed in this MDF3?**

**A:** The MDF3 organized around seven teams. This is how it works. There are seven teams that work in parallel, and it allows specialists to concentrate on specific issues. Then they come together in plenaries twice a day. So, that they see the place that the expertise occupies in the big picture. This means that they know how to belong to the big picture. The teams that we work on this year's are: the first one is a global trade and regionalism, the second is institutional reforms, the third is competitiveness or how to become more competitive, the fourth is civil society, the fifth is knowledge and development, then we have financing development, the whole financial sector, and the last one is the employment and labor issues. These were the seven teams. The central team that comes across is voices for change, partners for prosperity. It poses the question how can we take advantage of all these voices. Together as a partnership we can bring prosperity to this region.

**Q: What are the obstacles that are facing the civil society build-up in the Arab world?**

**A:** We have rich civil society because our people interacted, they are not like industrialized societies, living alone at home and watching the TV all the time, but at the same time in many of our countries, the legal system does not help associations to form, very often, they may be considered with suspicion, and so one important element is the legal system that allows associations to exist and to prosper. Otherwise, civil society works best when there is a clear democratic political system that invites them to participate in debates, invites them to strengthen and to energize the population. The civil society can not substitute for good political system. That is the second difficulty. If you work in that meeting, you would see, that there are wonderful people who are pushing the causes of the unprivileged, the women, the poor, the disabled.

**Q: Any last word?**

**A:** I really hope that we will find more support and people in Yemen that we can work with, and I hope that MDF5 would so be held in Yemen.

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## التقي مع نجوم باناسونيك

تقدم الآن باناسونيك مكونات صوتية منزلية تفخر بتصاميم أكثر تطوراً، أداء معزز، وصوت أكثر قوة. إضافة إلى أصناف الأنظمة الصغيرة المتعددة، فإن القائمة الجديدة تتميز بموديلات اسطوانة الفيديو المدمجة المتوافقة. مع هذه الأنظمة للمسرح المنزلي الصغير، معالج الإشارة الرقمية DSP المتعدد القنوات، المدى الكامل من الوظائف الأخرى القيمة، فإنك تكون على استعداد لمستوى جديد من التسلية السمعية والبصرية.

مكونات باناسونيك الصوتية النقال الحديثة هي الأخرى مصممة لأداء أكبر. أنها أصغر، أخف، أمتن وتزود بوقت استماع أطول من أي وقت مضى. أما فيما يخص اختيار الألوان، فإن هذه الموديلات الأنيقة تقدم أحسن تسلية صوتية بدون قيود أينما تكون.

القائمة الجديدة من باناسونيك - حلم المحبين للصوت والصورة يصبح حقيقة.



## SC-AK27

- ١- نظام تشغيل مكبر النغمات المنخفضة التردد الفائق مع تهيئة ٢ مكبرات صوت ذات ٢ اتجاهات
- ٢- خرج قدرة ستيريو قوي: ١٨٠٠ وات (PMPO) / ٩٠ وات (RMS) ٢x

## SC-AK67

- ١- نظام ٥ اسطوانات فيديو مدمجة مع إمكانية الفتح والتشغيل المباشر
- ٢- نظام تشغيل مكبر النغمات المنخفضة التردد الفائق مع تهيئة ٤ مكبرات صوت ذات ٤ اتجاهات



## SC-AK37

- ١- نظام ٥ اسطوانات فيديو مدمجة مع إمكانية الفتح والتشغيل المباشر
- ٢- محلل طيفي فراغي مزدوج
- ٣- مكبرات الصوت محيطية الشكل



## SC-AK87

- ١- نظام ٥ اسطوانات فيديو مدمجة مع مفتاح الفتح والتشغيل المباشر
- ٢- وظائف معالج الإشارة الرقمية DSP المتعدد القنوات لتأثيرات سمعية وبصرية متطورة
- ٣- قدرة دولبي ٣٣٠٠ وات (PMPO) / ٣٩٠ وات (RMS)، مكبرات صوت مركزية / محيطية



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## Long River is Discovered Between Hadramout and Al-Jawf

**A** French Researcher, Marie Louise who is working in National Center of Scientific Research in Paris, and a specialist of Oriental Prehistory did many surveys in the Ramlat es-Sabatayn. She started her discoveries in 1983. She discovered ancient lake and ancient river between Hadramout and Al-Jawf and the ancient occupations in this area which dates back to the Paleolithic times, may be more than 50000- years old. I have studied in Qatar for six seasons between 1976 and 1982 and have published a book captioned "Prehistory to Qatar in 1988" Yemen Times hosted this lady and conducted the following interview:

**Q: Could you please tell us some background about your discoveries in Yemen?**

**A:** I have been here in Yemen for a long time, since 1983 to conduct a survey about the Ramlat as-Sabatayn. I discovered the oldest occupation in this area. We also studied the photograph of Ramlat as- Sabatayn. We discovered after a long time the ancient lake and the ancient river. They are 8000-years old. One river was between Al-Jawf and Hadramout across the desert towards the Indian ocean. Now Jawf is one valley and Hadramout is another one, but long time ago it was only one river, and the center is Ramlat es- Sabatayn. The lake existed approximately 7000-years ago. I also found a



fire place, and we could date the ashes up to 7000-years ago. The primary study report concerning the lithic tools shows grinding stones, mortars, stone vessels, projectile points, arrow-heads like in Rub'el-Khali. Several fireplaces discovered in the site date back to (carbon 14) about 8000/7000 years ago as the result of a physical method. In addition, we found paintings of Baraqish as well.

**Q: Is there water in this river?**

**A:** Yes, but the water is not deep because there was an ancient lake and river. This lake has eventually been filled to hundreds before.

**Q: Would you please tell us about the kinds of stones you found in Yemen?**

**A:** Yemen has different varieties of stones like agate, flint, volcanic stones, black and light like glass and green stones.

**Q: Regarding the desert of Shabwa, do you think that water still exists there?**

**A:** Yes, water still exists there. It is under the ground, but not so deep.

**Q: Is there anyone who helped you during the continuous visits?**

**A:** Yes, my colleague gave me all of

the stone tools because my colleague was a specialist of Islamic ties, but when she made a survey, she discovered a precious stone and a lot of stone tools; she gave me these tools because it is difficult to find precious stones.

**Q: What are the difficulties that you face during your research in Yemen?**

**A:** The difficulties are based on finding precious sights because these sights are on the surface, and it is difficult to date that because on the surface they seem at the same level, but if you find the shelter tools, you have the chance to find aches.

**Q: What is the most important discovery you have found here in Yemen?**

**A:** As I mentioned before, we discovered an ancient lake and the ancient river in al-Jawf- Hadramout. The river in al-jawf- hadramout was one which existed a long time ago, not like the two now, and also there was an ancient lake in Sadda. This is very important for me because Yemen is an ancient country. Now it is a desert in the central area.

**Q: Do you have other plans in Yemen?**

**A:** No, but my research will be along Hadramout, to search along the river there. I am going to search how the river was there. It is very difficult work, so I will spend, may be, three weeks. We will live there like nomads, without comfort.

**Q: Would you like to add any other comments?**

**A:** Nothing, but I think that it was very important for me to discover that part of Yemen.

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- To assist in Industrial sales in Taiz.
- To manage and update customer records and record visits by route.
- To manage customer credit in line with Hasco & Shell policies.
- To assist in recruitment and training of all Branch staff.
- To represent Hasco & Shell's lubricants interests in the South region in the full development of sales potential in both retail and industrial markets.
- To work effectively with the Marketing Manager, Merchandising Manager and General Manager providing market feedback, assisting in the development and implementation of product, pricing, promotional and channel strategies.
- To be an active member of the Hasco & Shell management team contributing to general strategies, personnel policies, business development and planning etc.
- To work closely with merchandisers to maximize their market knowledge and relationship with the puncture shops etc. to generate increased sales through the wholesalers.

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all success in his journey  
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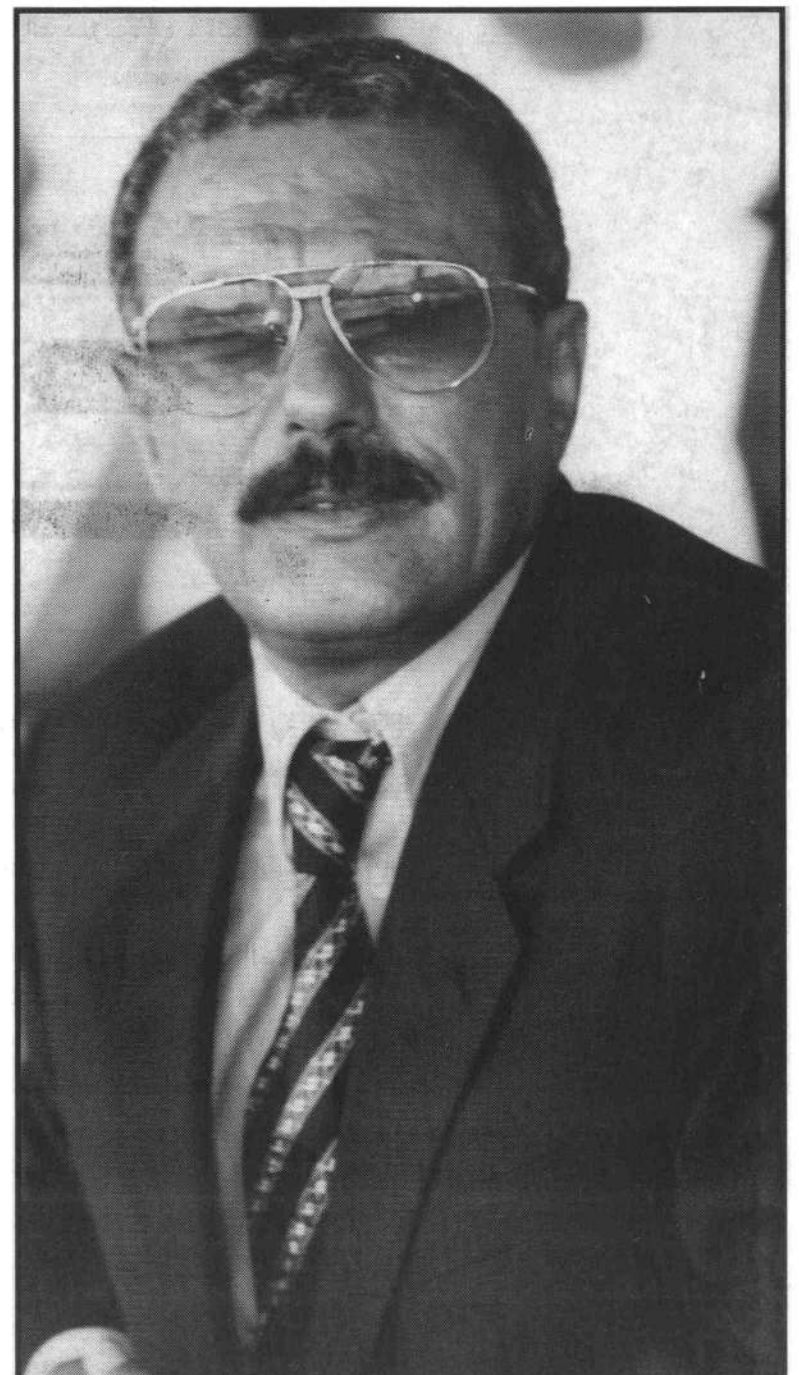
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الفريق علي عبدالله صالح

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تمنياتنا والوفد المرافق له بزيارة مثمره وناجحة تخدم التنمية الشاملة في اليمن.





## Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu  
Associate Professor  
College of Education, Mahweet

### What to say .....

#### Shopping at a Supermarket

**Mutee:** Hi, Amin. Will you help me for a minute, please?

**Amin:** Sure, Mutee. Nice to see you shopping. I haven't seen your father for a while. Is he sick?

**Mutee:** Yes. He isn't feeling well. That's why I'm here to do some grocery shopping. We're almost out of food.

**Amin:** Well, I'll do anything I can to help. What do you need?

**Mutee:** I think I know my way around the store, but I am not tall enough to reach some of the things on higher shelves. Also, I'm not very good at deciding which fruits and vegetables are ripe and which ones aren't. I guess that's all.

**Amin:** That's all right. Now, Mutee, why don't you do all the shopping you can do alone. When you want me to reach for a higher item, I'll help you.

(After a while)

**Amin:** Well, how are you doing, Mutee? Are you ready for my long reach yet?

**Mutee:** Actually, I'm doing pretty well. I've found almost everything, and it's been within reach. Thank you. See you later.

**Amin:** That's very nice. Thanks.

### II. How to say it correctly

Correct the errors, if any, in the following sentences:

- 1) Muteer being a poor man, he can't buy costly clothes.
- 2) Who did you say was digging the ground?
- 3) Mujahed's answers were more organized than Mohammed.
- 4) Ahmad has qualified himself as a doctor.
- 5) Some students take pride in keeping themselves away from the college.

#### Answers to Last Week's questions:

- 1) They repent that don't look before they leap.
- 2) None of us accepted his invitation.
- 3) He bought a beautiful pen and gave it to his sister.

- 4) This is the first time that I've seen you.
- 5) Divide the apple between him and me.

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

- 1) Subject to death.
- 2) Resulting in death.
- 3) Property inherited from one's father or ancestors.
- 4) A paper written by hand.
- 5) The result of a match in which neither party wins.

### Answers to last week's questions:

- 1) Expressions, especially of ancient times, which are not used except for special purposes: **Archaic**
- 2) Words which are no longer in use: **Obsolete**
- 3) The motive merely to get money: **Mercenary**
- 4) Existing forever without any beginning or end: **Eternal**
- 5) Animals which give suck to their young: **Mammals**

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

at sixes and sevens, to step into one's shoes, hands down, a square peg in a round hole, to take after.

### Answers to last week's questions:

**by fits and starts:** (doing a thing in short periods, from time to time, not regularly) If you do exercise by fits and starts, you may not get any spectacular result.

**by hook or by crook:** (By one means or another)

He is determined to achieve his objective by hook or by crook.

**in jeopardy:** (danger of harm or loss)

Our freedom may be in jeopardy unless we remain alert.

**open and above board:** (honest and legal)

The terms of the agreement are open and above board.

**Quotable Quote:**

"Natural abilities are like natural plants, that need pruning by study." - Francis Bacon.

## Mr. Gaitonde in conversation with Dr. P. N. Ramani: YOGA: The Science of Healthy Body and Sound Mind

**M**r Suresh D. Gaitonde, a well-trained Yoga instructor specially brought from India, conducts classes in Yoga at Taj Sheba Hotel, Sana'a. "Yoga is the science of sound mind and healthy body," says the sixty year old teacher, Mr Gaitonde, who was interviewed specially for the Yemen Times by Dr P.N. Ramani, Associate Professor of English, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University, Sana'a. In this interview, Mr Gaitonde explains, among other things, what yoga is, why it is necessary for everyone to practise it, and what its benefits are. Here are some excerpts from the exclusive interview.

Good afternoon, Mr Gaitonde.  
Good afternoon, Mr Ramani.

**Mr Gaitonde, I understand that you have been conducting a course in Yoga at Taj Sheba Hotel. Could you tell us briefly what Yoga is all about?**  
Yoga is the science of sound mind and healthy body. It is the science of holistic living, which aims at the harmonious development of the body, mind, and spirit. Yoga is the conscious art of



Dr. Ramani (left) talking to Mr. Gaitonde

self-discovery. It is a process by which the animal man ascends through the stages of the normal man, the superman, and the divine man. In short, it is the all-round development of one's personality at the physical, mental or intellectual, emotional, and spiritual levels.

**Why do you think yoga is the best option available to modern man?**

All over the world intelligent people are going towards Yoga. The question arises — why is it so? Modern life, with its emphasis on materialism and sensate culture, has brought artificiality in life — life of drugs and plastic flowers. The stress and strain of a rigid routine results in all sorts of abnormalities, tension, worry, anxiety, depression and various other afflictions. It is said that at least one person in every four consulting their doctors suffers from some form of nervous tension.

In olden days human beings lived to eat, sleep, and procreate. Now the modern era is of very sharp intellectual human beings. The people are in search of something that will give them the right direction and the way by which they can get solace or peace of mind. They found that Yoga in the East, that is in India, offered them the right direction, as I explained earlier. It was a great contribution of India to humanity and the world. Yoga is the need of the hour.

**What is the duration of this Yoga course you are conducting?**

There are two courses with different duration — one is for 18 days and the other for 10 days. The course is conducted for about an hour every day.

**Is it open to men, women and children of all ages? I am asking you because recently one gentleman was surprised that a younger friend of mine has been learning Yoga - he said it was only for the older people. What about people with certain abnormal physical conditions like high blood pressure, arthritis, or a weak heart? Can they also practise yoga?**

Yoga is for all human beings — man or woman, young or old, sick or healthy, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, sex, nationality — all can take advantage of it and can see the direct results, benefits and comforts it can give to them in their daily life.

**Could you tell us about your own background and training - where you are from, how and where you were trained?**

I come from a Hindu family settled in Panaji in the state of Goa in India. I started my Yoga training from my eldest brother with what is known as the Surya Namaskar (or the Sun Salutation). I learnt Yoga at the Lonavla Yoga Institute called Kaivalyadham, then at Sri Ramtatra Yoga Institute in Karnataka, and at the Yoga Institute in Bombay (now called Mumbai); practical Vedanta from Shanthi Ashram in Andhra Pradesh and Vivekananda Kendra Yoga Research Foundation in Bangalore. With all this training, however, I feel that as a teacher I must always be a student seeking knowledge and imparting it to my students.

**How did you happen to visit Sana'a?**

I was invited by Taj Sheba Hotel, Sana'a. I am particularly grateful to Mr Mayank Mehta, the General Manager, and Mr Prakash Shirekar, Manager of the Fitness Centre at the Hotel.

**How long have you been in Sana'a? Is this your first visit, or have you visited Sana'a earlier?**

I came to Sana'a on February 3rd and this is my first visit.

**What would you say are the general benefits of practising yoga? What is the most important**

**value? What would be its ultimate benefit?**

The practice of yoga helps to maintain the physical body in good condition, and makes an unhealthy body healthy. It makes the mind strong and able to endure pain and unhappiness, develops the power of concentration and stabilises the mind. It enables one to cope with the difficulties and problems of life more calmly and easily. It is almost a necessity for spiritual aspirants to awaken their psychic faculties.

By practising yoga, man will be able to free himself from the ailments associated with modern civilised life, such as constipation, rheumatism, stiffness, frustration and tension. In short, he will have more strength and energy to face the problems and responsibilities of life.

**I couldn't agree with you more. As one of the participants of your course, I would like to say that I feel more calm and relaxed than before, and I have better concentration too.**

Yes, better concentration and stability of the mind are the ultimate results of regular yoga practice.

**You may be aware of other physical exercise programs such as aerobics, jogging, and swimming. Some people consider Yoga as a set of contortions of the body - bending or twisting. This is what we gather from some books and the pictures in them. That is why many people may think that it is difficult to learn and practise it. Is this a correct understanding of yoga? In what way is yoga different from, if not superior to, those systems?**

Though yoga is becoming very popular, there is still certain amount of confusion and there are also certain wrong notions among the public about yoga.

Some think it is a system of stunt, gymnastic skill, limb twisting, sitting on iron nails, walking on burning coal, eating glass pieces, drinking nitric acid, lying buried in the ground, and so on. Another misconception is that yoga is considered as a form of exercise to promote good health and this finds great acceptance due to wide publicity through different media.

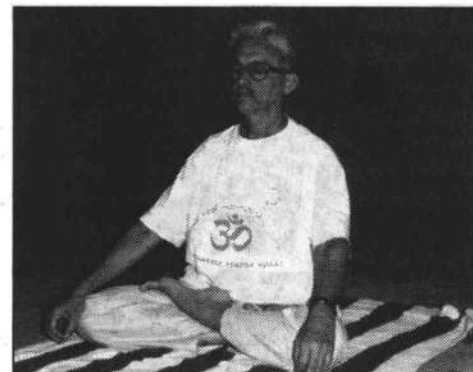
Yoga is much more than this. First, the other forms of physical exercise like jogging and aerobics require you to expend a lot of energy, but yoga helps you to conserve and control energy. Secondly, as a result, strenuous physical exercise makes you feel exhausted and worn out, while you feel quite fresh and relaxed after a session of yoga practice, never tired, exhausted, or sweating.

**It is said that asanas (or yogic postures) and physical exercises should not be combined. But in your course you gave us some general physical exercises like stretching and twisting. Why?**

In a short course, we give some general physical exercises to loosen your limbs and make them flexible enough for the asanas. But you should remember that after such exercises, you should relax your body for a sufficient length of time before starting the asanas. In fact, you should relax the body even between asanas.

**How does meditation fit into the method of yoga?**

Yoga prepares you for the highest form of meditation, but meditation per se, as it is taught in some centres, does not include yoga.



Mr. Gaitonde in Padmasana or the lotus posture

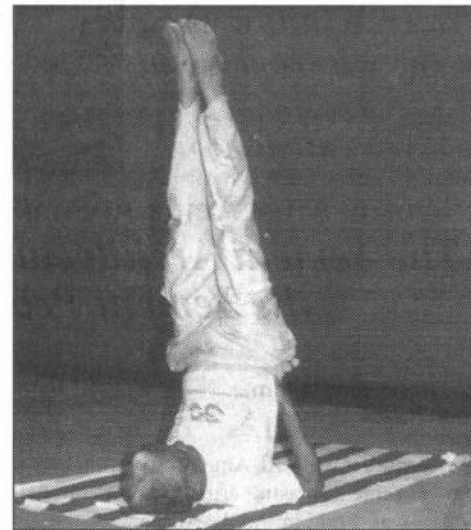
**This brings us to the next question: Can one learn and practise yoga by reading books on yoga or watching TV or video cassettes?**

Never practise yoga without the guidance of a trained and experienced teacher by reading from the books on yoga or watching TV, because, you see, in books or TV there is no scope for corrections if you do not understand something or do something wrongly, or if there are some problems in practising it.

**In essence, what is the underlying philosophy of yoga? Can you put it briefly and in simple language?**

Yoga is one of the systems of Indian philosophy and sage Patanjali is said to have compiled the essential features of yoga from the various Upanishads, in the form of sutras (aphorisms), thus making a vital contribution.

The Yoga comes from the verbal root "yuj", which means "joining" — Yujyate anena iti Yogah. Yoga is that which joins. In higher terms it means the joining of the individual with the Universal. In ordinary terms, it means living with equanimity in the situation one is placed as



Mr. Gaitonde in Sarvangasana or the stand-on-shoulder posture

ordained by Destiny!

Sri Aurobindo emphasizes the all-round development of human personality — at physical, mental or intellectual, emotional and spiritual levels. By yoga, he means a methodical effort towards self-perfection by the development of potential latent in the individual. Patanjali says that Yoga is a process of gaining control over mind. It is a means of calming down the mind.

Shri B K S Iyengar says that yoga is 'Education'. It is character-building. The term 'Education' has been derived from the Latin word "Educare", which means to unfold the talent, the potential, that is, drawing the best in man. To Shri J Krishnamurthy, Yoga is the path to bridge the conscious with the unconscious.

According to the Bhagavadgita, Yoga is dexterity in action. The dexterity is bound to keep one ready for action in a relaxed attitude and efficiency is the outcome of all such actions performed.

**Are there some special instructions to follow while learning or practising yoga - certain do's and don't's?**

Yes. You should wear loose and convenient clothes. You should not take any solid food for at least three hours, and liquids at least one hour before you start your practice. And for at least half an hour after the practice session you should not eat or drink, not take bath or swim, do not do any exercises. It is preferable to have a bath before the practice session.

Those who have some specific health problems should ask the instructor and get their doubts cleared. Ladies should not practise yoga techniques during their menstrual cycle. Care should be taken during pregnancy, immediately after abortions, delivery or operations. It is better to consult the instructor and get his guidance.

**It is said that Yoga has to be learnt over a long period of time and without any kind of pressure. Your own training perhaps lasted a long period. What then could you aim for in a short-term course such as the one you are conducting? What could be the value of such courses?**

I agree that the course is only for 18 days, but for lasting benefits, you must continue the practice. Continuity of practice is the secret of success.

**I have come across the term 'yogi'. Who is a real 'yogi'? Can anyone who practises yoga be called a 'yogi'?**

Persons who have stayed in totally enclosed spaces for a long time or perform some miracles like producing something from mid-air claim that they are all Yogis and it is often given credence by the layman because he himself cannot perform such feats. A yogi does not perform miracles or do anything showy either for publicity or for bread or for fame. He never exhibits his talents to prove his claims.

Merely by wearing a saffron-coloured dress one does not become a 'yogi'. In my opinion, a 'yogi' is one who is always a well-wisher of every fellow being and serves humanity selflessly.

**What would you like to say finally to the readers of Yemen Times?**

Modern man has numerous conveniences at his disposal to give him physical comfort and enjoyment. He works in a high-tech office, sleeps on a thick foam mattress, travels everywhere in a car, and watches television for recreation, but he uses sleeping pills and all kinds of medicine to get peace and rest, and to counteract the negative influence of modern life. But instead of peace, rest, relaxation, and real happiness, he gets a lot of physical, mental, and emotional tension. He can find no way to unburden himself of the frustrations and anxieties of life.

**Is there a way for him to find relief? Yes! Through YOGA.**

*For all those afflicted by worldly ills, yoga is the only alchemy.*

Besides, yoga is not a religion or a cult of India. By practising yoga, Hindus can become better Hindus, Christians can become better Christians, and Muslims can become better Muslims.

**Thank you, Mr Gaitonde. We are indeed grateful to you for giving us so much time for the interview.**

It has been my pleasure talking about a subject close to my heart.

## YOUTH FORUM

### A Time Bomb Called Qat



As a Yemeni citizen, I would like to join those fighting a horrible enemy threatening our beloved home, destroying every hope for progress and development, preventing us from observing what is going around us universally and regionally. This horrendous calamity is Qat. Firstly, I would like to recall a disastrous event which occurred in the year 1946, when an atom bomb was dropped by America on Hiroshima city. It was a heinous crime that destroyed the morale of the Japanese nation due to the destruction and deformation which affected every citizen. When fate threw the time bomb, called Qat in our

country, you could say that it was more cruel than America's act. What America had done at that time was obvious, planned and explicit. It became a painful memory. But what can we say about this tragedy which is ravaging every inch of this land? How can we face the new millennium? How can we coexist with the new phenomenon called globalization? The free trade economy - a world without borders! The free market, the multi-national companies, the political, cultural, social, and economic globalization!

As a third world country, Yemen should face up to this catastrophe. It is worth mentioning that many measures have been taken and decisions have been made aimed at getting rid of this pestilence. But are they enough to eradicate this evil which has gone

deep into our social fabric? On the contrary, I believe that many more efforts should be made and various means should be tried to convince thousands of farmers growing and selling Qat. New crops should be introduced, lots of jobs should be created, in short, the government, scholars, specialists, intellectuals, all have to participate in finding some of the effective answers to this and many other pending issues that hinder achieving national goal in the new millennium.

**Abdou Mohammed Talib**

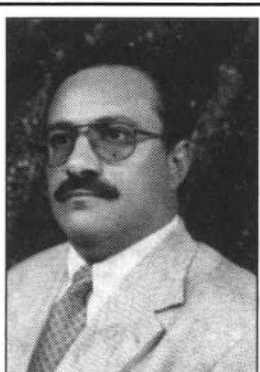
**"Dawn of a New Era"**

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

**Adeeb A.S. Qasem**  
Faculty of Engineering

### Our Campus: Retrospect and Prospect (Last week's instalment)

**Dr. Abdul Wasa'a**  
(Misspelt at source as Dr. Abdul Basa)  
Dean Faculty of Education, Sa'adah





The Yemeni Artist Amira Al-Ammari to YT:  
"The Yemeni Architecture Makes me Really Feel that  
the Yemeni People are real Artists"

By:  
Mohammed Bin Sallam,  
Yemen Times

**A**mira Ali Al-Ammari a Yemeni plastic artist who was born in Addis Ababa. She completed her elementary and secondary study in Saudi Arabia but she did her high school in Ethiopia.



In 1998, she graduated from Addis Ababa university plastic arts department. The Yemen Times has interviewed her and asked her about what does plastic art mean to her, what school she belongs to, number of paintings she has made, the reason of her visit to Yemen, does she practice any other job and what does the international day for women mean to her. She answered all these questions by saying,

"In the beginning, before joining the faculty of plastic art, painting was just a hobby but now I have become professional in plastic art. As for what school I belong to, I do not follow the style of any school so I would not have to work within certain limits. When I in the Emirates in 1994 I had participated in an exhibition held in Ethiopia at the French Cultural Council. That was my first successful art show because I had sold all my paintings. Then, I participated in an exhibition in Dubai, UAE in 1999. I have also held an art show in Yemen held on the occasion of the First Conference for Expatriates in 1999 and I was among the expatriates delegation. As regards my paintings, I have completed more than 500 during the 6 years that I have been working as an artist. I have sold some of those paintings to improve my living and kept many others, especially those that have special meaning to me. By my present visit to Yemen I want to apply for a scholarship from the Ministry of Expatriates. The ministry referred my application to the ministry of planning and by God will the scholarship would be either to France or Italy. In addition to my work in plastic art, I also work as an Advertising Designer in Dubai.

My latest art exhibition was held at the Journalists Syndicate Building on the Women's International Day. As for the Women's International Day. I do not believe in women's day or men's day because marking a woman's implies her being separated from man. Therefore, why there should be a day confirming women's segregation from men. Equality with men means to me freedom of opinion in making my decisions of traveling to any place I want. In general, women in the Arab world do not feel independent.



They live all their lives under the protection of men



and therefore they cannot make big achievements. Moreover, the Yemeni women suffer more than their fellows in the Gulf countries. In the Gulf states, various luxuries are available for them. I liken the Yemeni woman to the fence of the house that is indispensable. She bears the responsibility of the household and that of economic conditions which are directly reflected on her role. Finally, I would like to say that life in Yemen is beautiful and I hope I do not have to emigrate. I want to talk about the Yemeni architecture. I have noticed the development of Yemeni architecture which can be seen in every street. It makes me feel that the Yemeni people are really artists but there is nobody to appreciate that. I would like to thank the Yemen Times that is really Yemen's window on the entire world.

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