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Monday, 4th of September, 2000 - VOL. X • Issue No. 36 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Oil Pumping Station in Marib Attacked


A tribal source confirmed that an attack with RPGs and bazookas was launched at oil pumping station number (2) in the Serwah area in Marib governorate last Saturday morning in an attempt to explode and destroy it. The attack, which missed its destination and did not cause any harm to the station, is said to may have been launched in response to the military escalation at the (25) region in Serwah which resulted in launched attacks against villagers houses about 40 days ago. The military units in Serwah had destroyed 10 houses and burnt 5 others after a group

from Al-Zayidi kidnapped 4 officers belonging to the Sanhan tribe, and were taken to Marib, causing tension to increase and continuous attacks to take place. The military units currently residing in Serwah responded swiftly and strongly to the attack and confrontation between the military forces and villagers is expected to escalate in the coming few days. On the other hand, the same tribal source added that the tribesmen are exerting pressure on the government to pay them compensation for the destruction and burning of their houses and properties.

TORTURED TO DEATH

Relatives of Sabah Seif Salem have appealed to Minister of Interior, attorney general and chairman of Ibb's prosecution to investigate into the death of their relative, Sabah Sabah, who belongs to Al-Akhdam (Yemenis of African origin) sector of people, died last Monday in jail in Al-Udain district of Ibb after being physically tortured to force her confess practicing adultery. Appellants expressed their hope that their "black color" would not prevent justice to be on their side. On the other hand, tens of the victim's relatives gathered in front of the General Security Office in Ibb demanding investigation into this matter. For his part, director of General Security Office in Ibb, urged the health office of the governorate to provide a forensic doctor for a post-mortum. In addition, he summoned director of security office of Al-Udain district for interrogation.

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Know The President Up Close
Yemen Times Publishes Excerpts from the President's Interview to Arrajul magazine
TURN TO PAGE 15



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Biedh, Attas, and Noman, Included in Central Committee
Mokbil's Leadership of YSP, Renewed

The Yemeni Socialist Party renewed for the second time the leadership of Mr. Ali Saleh Abad "Mokbil" of the party, as Secretary-General. The 4th general congress of the party that concluded its meetings Saturday elected the exiled former secretary-general of the party, former vice-president Ali Salem Al-Biedh, former prime minister Haider Abu Bakr Al-Attas, former parliament speaker Yassin Saeed Noman, and Ahmed Mohammed Al-Seeli as members of the party's new central committee. The YSP declared in its final statement its rejection of the constitutional amendments, and reiterated its call for national reconciliation and the elimination of the impacts of the 1994 civil war.

The party's statement emphasized the importance of unifying the internal front as a decisive condition for the success of any approach to rectifying the unity course. On the land and sea borders treaty concluded between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the YSP congress stated that the common interest of the both countries and peoples lied in a secure and prosperous future. It added that the settlement of disputes and establishment of relations based between the two neighbors should be based on confidence and mutual interests. The Socialist party's statement also demanded the government to consider the political parties as partners in discussions dealing with the country's future. It also stressed the importance of resolving domestic issues, especially that all border problems have been resolved. **More on P5**

Two Senior YSP Officials Withdraw From Congress
Two senior YSP members had withdrawn from the Party's 4th congress in the wake of disputes that emerged at the very beginning of the convention last Wednesday. The two central committee members Hassan Ahmed Ba'oom and Muhammed Haidera Masdoos were at loggerheads with the Secretary General Mr. Ali Saleh Obad "Mokbil", leading to the exchange of insults. Talking to Yemen Times, Mr. Ba'oom, 1st Secretary of the party in Hadramout Province said: "My withdrawal came as the chairman of the congress rejected a request related to rectification of the course of Unification." He added that he will continue his struggle from within the Party or from outside through different ways. YT, which attended the deliberations session also learnt that out of the 2,486 delegates, Ba'oom and Masdoos withdrew together with more than 30 delegates. A committee comprising YSP Politburo Members Ali Munnassar and Abdulla Baider, was delegated to hold consultations with the two members; but the outcome is yet unknown.

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Remove The Guillotine, Press Wants to Have a Say

Laying an emphasis on the significance of the right of expression and freedom of press that represent important pillars of human rights, Mr. Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the English-language weekly Yemen Times said, "without those freedoms, it was obvious that the press would not be able to disclose violations and excesses." He added, "If these basic rights within the human rights are not granted to the press, journalists will always feel that the guillotine is lurking above their heads." He emphasized the importance of boosting the freedom of opinion and expression in Yemen. The press in Yemen must be given guarantees allowing it to express opinions and write about various violations including those committed by senior officials. Mr. Saqqaf's remarks came in the seminar the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate held on Saturday and which was attended by Chairman of the Board of Directors of Saba News Agency Mr. Hussain Al-Awadhi, Editor-in-Chief of "Al-Usoob" weekly Mr. Hassan Al-Udaini, and former chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Mr. Abdulbari Taber. The seminar was held to discuss the topic of "Press and Human Rights in Yemen". Mr. Saqqaf also called for the need of reconsidering the Press and Publications Law, allowing it to be more flexible; thus reducing the number of civil suits filed at different courts against newspapers. Yemen Times Editor-in-Chief also called the attention that there are other causes of the weak performance of the press in the field of human rights, citing non-availability of well-informed sources; particularly at the side of the government. He also mentioned that cooperation between the press and human rights organizations must strengthen. **Continued on Page 2**

"Haji" Sought After Break-out Drama

The Somali citizen, Muhammed Omer Haji, indicted of apostasy, escaped prison last week and fled to New Zealand, security sources in Aden Province said. The sources considered as more probable that Haji, who converted from Islam to Christianity, received local and foreign help to escape the conviction expected to be issued against him by the court in Tawahi district of Aden. Information maintained that Haji appeared in New Zealand last Wednesday noon where he arrived via a European state. It is understood that Haji had entered Yemen and settled in Aden following the civil war in Somalia in the early 90s. He was employed at a church in Tawahi area where he then decided to embrace Christianity. This stirred clamor in Aden City following the campaigns launched by mosque preachers demanding Haji's execution. The news of Haji's apostasy went in line with news of missionary activities through western humane organizations. Haji had earlier denied having changed his name into "George" and claimed to continue to be a Muslim; but Somali refugees close to him refuted his allegations. Haji's trial had begun three months ago. The sources ascribed his continued disappearance from the court to interference from higher authorities which feared the negative result: Haji's execution. The sources referred to the appeals on Haji's release the Government received from humanitarian organizations and western churches whereas the UN High Commissioner for Refugees had delegated a liaison officer to follow-up Haji's trial proceedings. The sources claimed that Haji's getaway had been planned weeks ago through obstructing court proceedings on several occasions by precluding his appearance before the court. Sources have further said that the court has held the prosecution responsible for being derelict. It had also signaled to return the suit file to prosecution. The same sources anticipate that Haji's escape operation will cause a crisis between the Government, the political parties and national organizations. Parties and national organizations accuse the government of favoring the west, craving after grants even if these would come at the expense of the Yemeni society's norms.

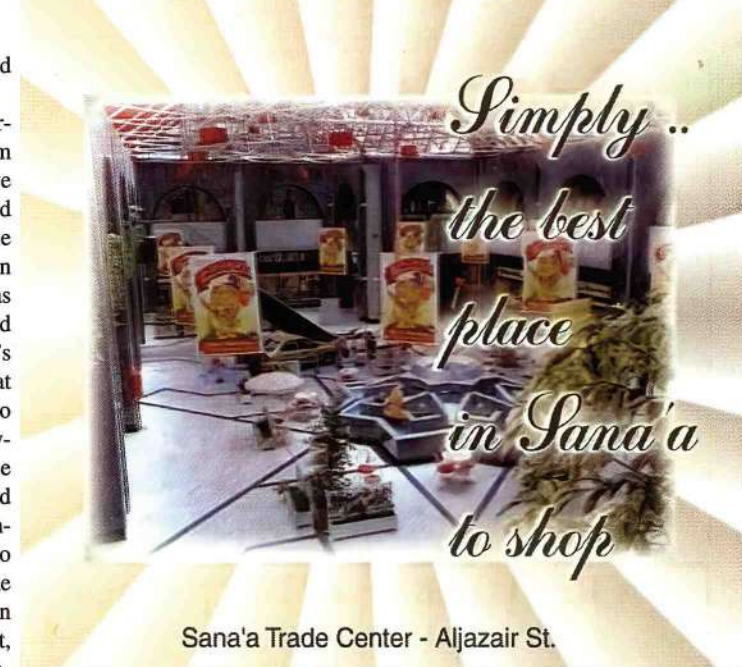
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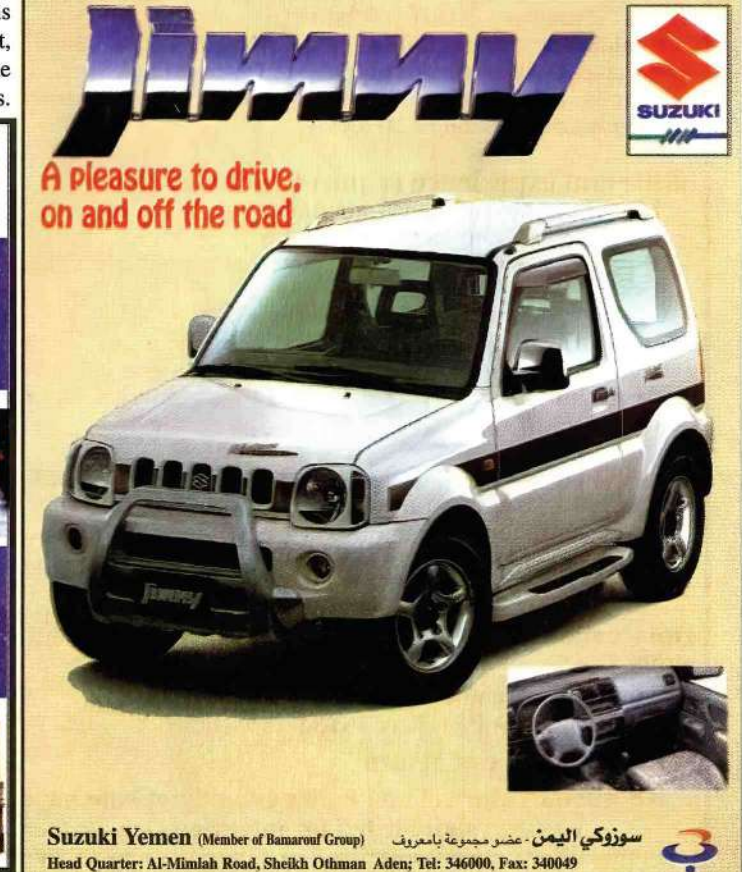
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New Japanese Debt Relief Grant Aid to Yemen

The Government of Japan extends to the Government of the Republic of Yemen the Debt Relief Grant Aid amounting one hundred forty eight million nine hundred ninety three thousand Yen (¥148,993,000.) based on the resolution made by the Trade & Development Board (TDB) of the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD) to adopt debt relief measures for countries which have been facing serious difficulties in servicing their debts. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged Last Monday between Mr. Ahmad Mohammed Sofan, Minister of Planning & Development of the Republic of Yemen and Mr. Akira

Hoshi, Ambassador of Japan to Sana'a. The Yemeni government will use this grant exclusively for the purchase of products that contribute to the development of Yemen's economy and the enhancement of the welfare of its people. Since 1979 when Yemen started to repay its Yen loans which had financed the rural water supply projects, the project for the construction of Ras Katneeb power station and the project for the construction of the berth of Hodeidah Port, Japan has been providing the Republic of Yemen with grants in amounts equal to the total interest and principal repaid.

Acquaintance Party at The Elephant Bay Beach Resort

An acquaintance party was organized by the Elephant Bay Beach Resort last Saturday for public and private companies and establishments in Aden. The party included variety of entertainment activities such as songs, draws, etc. In a statement to the Yemen Times, sales manager of the Resort and party organizer, Mr. Mohammed Salah As'ad said the party aimed at strengthening relations between companies and the Elephant Bay Beach Resort. He added that the party provided companies with a chance to introduce themselves to others and talk about their activities. The party was attended by a good number of chairmen, directors, secretaries and employees of the biggest companies and establishments in Aden. At the end of his statement he expressed his gratitude to co-sponsors of the party: Egypt Air, Yemen Times, Hertz Rent A Car, Taj Sheba Hotel, National Cigarettes & Matches Industry, Amideast Institute for Languages, Teleyemen, Lucky Printing Press and 3s (sea, sun & sand) Tours. For their part, attendants spoke highly about the party during which they found an opportunity to propagate their activities. They also expressed their deep thanks to sponsors of the event.

Elephant Bay Beach Resort



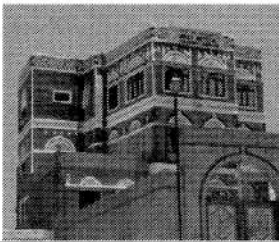
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In Brief

Security Director Kills Derhem

Assaiani district security Director shot to death Khaled Mohammed Derhem from Al-Udain district, IBB, following a dispute between them at a check-point near Taiz. Reliable sources told the Yemen Times that Director of Taiz security Office arrested the killer and some of the victim's relatives. However, the killer was released a few hours later while the victim's relatives are still held prisoners. Hundreds of Assaiani people staged a demonstration Yesterday in Ibb demanding arrest of the killer.

Late Baradouni's 1st Anniversary

The Sana'a branch of Yemeni Authors & Writers Union last Wednesday held a ceremony on the first anniversary of the death of the Great Yemeni Poet, Abdullah Al-Baradouni. A number of poets and writers delivered speeches on the occasion, expressing sorrow for his departure from the Yemeni realm of culture. A number of Late Baradouni's poems which he wrote at different stages of his life were read at the ceremony. Baradouni's poetry and other literary works have enriched the Yemeni cultural life and the Yemeni library.

Investment Licenses in Aden Issued

Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry concluded last Thursday a week of activities including discussions of various issues related to trade, investment, significance of small enterprises, Yemen's strategic vision in 2025, etc. A seminar on the Arab investment experience in Yemen was also organized as part of the Chamber's celebration of the 114th anniversary of its establishment.

Speeches highlighting the importance of investment in Aden, facilities Arab and foreign investors enjoy and current investment program and projects in Aden were made by Mr. Mohammed Omar Bamashmos, chairman of ACCI, Mr. Abdulkareem Mateer, Director general of the General Investment Authority and Dirhem Abdu Noman, chairman of the Aden Free Zone. Speeches pointed out that 336 licenses for investment projects at the cost of YRs 542 billion had been issued since March 1992. *More details next week.*

1st Phase of Aden Industrial Zone to Be Initiated Soon

Practical implementation of the first phase of Aden Industrial Zone is to begin next October, Mr. Dirhem Abdo Noman, Vice-Chairman of the General Board of Free Zones, Chairman of Aden Free Zone, told the "Yemen Times". He added that during the first week of this month a Dutch company: Nako, shall arrive to receive plans concerning the Goods & Stevedoring Village (GSV) as well as tender documents which it had prepared for the execution of the project. Mr. Noman maintained that recent work on the road leading to GSV had already been started. He also expressed his hope that all phases of work at the Free Zone shall be implemented in a period earlier than scheduled. American companies have submitted requests for establishing different investment projects at the Aden Free Zone, Mr. Noman said adding that there was wide-scale demand from Arab and foreign investment companies.

He also said that at present final arrangements were being made for signing fresh contracts with a number of companies operating in the Free Zone. These companies' activities have increased as the number of containers shipped through the port have increased during the first half of this year. The number reached 140,000 containers.

A German Grant for School Construction Project

Last week an agreement on the purchase of construction material for an elementary school in Al-Sherj/Maifa'a Hajjar, Hadhramaut area, was signed between the Chargé d' Affaires of the German Embassy, the local committee of Al-Sherj, represented by Ommar Salim Al-Hanash Badas, and a representative of German NGO, Partners Aid International. The project aims at creating elementary education facilities for girls and boys in this rural area. The Project which was funded under the small scale projects' scheme of the German Embassy is strongly and on a purely voluntary basis supported by the

local population.

Armed Bandit Captures A Hilux

At 19:30 hours last Wednesday four armed men boarding a Toyota pick-up bearing Customs number plate 2710, were able to capture a Hilux 96 model belonging to Al-Rodami Corporation for Drugs. The incident took place at Sana'a city center near the 6th Division police station. The armed men, at gun point, forced the Hilux driver and the female pharmacist out of the vehicle which was loaded with YR.one million worth goods.

COCA Discloses Illicit Distribution Of Vehicles

Leaderships at the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation committed a number of power abuses during the years 1995-98, a report issued by the Central Organization of Control & Audit (COCA) said. The report, submitted to the Premier, revealed results of the field inspection visit made by the Organization to the Central Heights Project of the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation. The report pointed out that the Ministry, being the supervisory authority on the project, had dispensed a number of vehicles to a number of Ministry's senior officials and others outside the Ministry. The vehicles have been bought for the project purposes and that act had nothing to do with it. The vehicles were bought from the Arab Fund loan. The loan was actually meant for building residential units in Abyan Province and also a site for the project itself. The distribution list of the vehicles in question included the Minister, his Deputy, the Ministry Security Officer and the Assistant Deputy for irrigation affairs at the ministry of agriculture. Another vehicle was given to Hajja Province's Deputy Governor.

Aden Textile Factory to Revive

After ten years of stoppage, the rehabilitation of Aden Textile Factory is under way to begin production. Government of China has granted a loan of USD 70 million for the rehabilitation and re-operation of the Aden and Sana'a Textile factories. The Aden factory is expected to embrace more than 700 employees after rehabilitation. On the other hand, farmers will be encouraged to grow cotton to provide the two factories with raw material.

Sadmi & Odeini Assaulted

Mr. Yehya Al-Sadmi, a journalist working for the "26th September" Armed Forces weekly, was exposed to an attempted assassination by a group of six persons in a Sana'a street last week. The armed men who were in a car tried to fire at him after fatally assaulting him. Had it not been for the bypassers, he would have been dead. The Defense weekly denounced the assault and described it as a criminal act. It called upon the security apparatus to track down the assailants and bring them to trial. Meanwhile the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) expressed its resentment at the denial issued by the Security Director of Ibb Province as he refuted security forces' connection with the last week assault at journalist Mohammed Sadeq Al-Udaini's residence and his family members.

Syndicate sources reiterated that the Director, in a telephone call with the Dean of Journalists had admitted the assault saying it was a mistake and that he would personally look into the matter as the action was not premeditated. The sources added that Udain District Director and the Director of Political Security did offer their apology and slaughtered an animal according to the tribal norms.

Security forces used machine guns and other weapons while attacking Mr. Udaini's residence inflicting heavy damages and injuring some members of his family. In the past Udaini himself was imprisoned at the Ibb Central Prison for two years. Although released, he was assaulted on several occasion for his opinions which appear in local press columns.

Taiz Follows Suit:

A Popular Committee Formed

A popular committee has now been formed in Taiz Province under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdullah Al-Dhaifani, a Taiz University professor. The committee includes in its membership a number of politicians and senior opposition party officials in Taiz. Dr. Dhaifani said that the objectives of the committee was to curb corruption and adopting citizens' complaints.

A similar committee was formed in Aden Province last April. It included in its membership Aden University teachers and leaders of opposition parties. A committee statement then said that the objectives of the committee was to protect the rights of sons of Aden which the

statement claimed to have been lost particularly in the fields of general and personal security. The statement added that among the objectives was curbing financial and administrative negligence and corruption. The committee pledged to keep the citizens aware of their rights and duties as stipulated in the Constitution and laws. It is understood that the committee faced strong opposition from the Government; as a result most of its members were detained under the pretext that the committee's formation was illegal and that most of its members came from opposition parties and should have practiced their activities within their own parties.

Continued from Page 1:

Remove The Guillotine, Press Wants to Have a Say

He indicated that official and pro-government newspapers never furnish the required standard of information on violations of human rights in prisons and other violations at State-run utilities. "Add to these pressmen's apprehension of being pursued with court actions, should they deal with topics touching violations of human rights," he said. In conclusion, the Editor-in-Chief said that activation of the role of press in human rights area should come through strengthening the journalist's stance whenever he reports violations and discloses facts without any hesitation. It is here the journalist should be given privileges and obstacles must be removed from his way. The reported misgivings should alert those in charge to accept shouldering their responsibilities and do whatever needed for boosting human rights and freedoms. Detailed report on the seminar next week.

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Saudi Arabia Vows to Kill Budget Deficit by 2004

KUWAIT CITY—The Saudi government said Monday that it would seek, through the 2000-2004 economic and social development plan, to achieve an annual growth rate of 3.16% and slash the state budget deficit. Saudi Ministry of Planning said in a statement released after the cabinet approved the kingdom's seventh development plan that the scheme aimed at achieving an annual growth of the non-oil sector of 4%. The statement said the targeted growth rate would increase non-oil revenues from last year's 68.4% to 71.6% of the gross domestic product (GDP). The state budget deficit will be reduced to zero by 2004 through non-oil revenues and rationalizing of government

spending, the statement added. Budget deficit for fiscal 2000 was projected at 28 billion Saudi riyals (7.466 billion U.S. dollars). The statement said the new development plan intended to turn the current account in payment balance from a deficit of 3% in 1999 to a surplus of 6.9% by the end of 2004. The plan also sought to expand Saudization of manpower in the oil-rich Gulf kingdom by providing 817,300 jobs. It also stressed the need to develop financial and administrative structures, and rationalize consumption of economic resources and energy. (Xinhua)

Somalia's President in Cairo for Arab Meeting

CAIRO—Somali President Abdqasim Salad Hassan arrived in Cairo on Saturday to take part in an Arab League meeting, in his first trip abroad since election last month. Hassan was elected on August 25 by the Somali transitional parliament, which was formed on August 13 by the country's national reconciliation conference sponsored by Djibouti. Both the parliament and the president are the first of Somalia in a decade, which has been in anarchy since former president Mohammed Siad Barre was toppled in 1991. Hassan will attend the 114th ses-

sion of the Arab League Foreign Ministers Council due to open on Sunday, Somali Permanent Delegate to the league Samir Hosni told Egypt's Middle East News Agency. He is expected to seek ways of intensifying relations with other Arab states and call for their assistance to Somalia's reconstruction process, Hosni said. The Somali president will hold talks with Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel-Meguid and brief him on the steps aimed at realizing peace and national reconciliation in Somalia. (Xinhua)

India To Get Advanced Russian Sukhoi-30 Aircraft

NEW DELHI—The India Air Force (IAF) would acquire advanced version of Sukhoi-30 aircraft with multi-role capability from Russia next year, Indian Air Chief A. Y. Tipnis disclosed here on Tuesday. The first batch of upgraded Mig-21 "BIS" fighter jets would also join the IAF the coming year, Tipnis told reporters here. The delivery program by Russia of advanced Sukhoi-30, which, Tipnis said, would give the IAF "upfront air superiority and defense capabilities", was now back on rails after initial hitches. The air chief said India was

also close to acquisition of British Aerospace "Hawk" advanced jet trainer and was looking towards airborne early warning technology while studying various options available including Israeli-made "Phalcon". "The flight trials of prototypes of the upgraded Mig-21 with better navigation, armament, radar and head-up display have been completed and armament trials are currently underway in Russia and we expect the first batch of these planes to roll out of assembly lines in Nasik by next year," Tipnis said. (Xinhua)

Al-Fateh Revolution Celebrated

The Libyan Embassy in Yemen organized a dinner party at the Taj Sheba Hotel last Saturday on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the Al-Fateh Revolution led by Moammer Al-Qadhafi in 1969. The party was attended by a number of the diplomatic corps working in Sana'a, Yemeni officials, politicians and journalists.



Eritreans Celebrate 39th Anniversary of Revolution

The Embassy of Eritrea and the Eritrean community in Sana'a held a dancing party and a speech rally marking the 39th anniversary of the Eritrean armed struggle known as the national May 24 movement. The occasion was attended by a large number of the Eritrean community members in Yemen and local and foreign guests.



Iraq Says 311 Killed in U.S., UK Bombing

UNITED NATIONS—Iraq on Monday told the United Nations that a total of 311 Iraqis had been killed and other 927 wounded in the south of Iraq since December 1998 during the U.S. and British bombings. In a letter to the U.N. Secretary-General and the president of the Security Council, the speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, Saadoun Hamadi, said in that time, there were 18,607 sorties flown

by United States and British warplanes from bases in Saudi Arabia and Turkey. On August 12 and 13, U.S. and British planes committed a further crime by indiscriminately shelling civilians in civilian residential districts and food storage warehouses in Muthanna governorate in southern Iraq, the speaker said. This resulted in the killing of two people and the wounding of 24 civilians. Between the attack in December 1998 and the present, a total of 18,607 sorties have been flown in the south of Iraq by United Kingdom and United States warplanes taking off from the territory of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, killing 311 citizens and injuring 927 others, the speaker noted. He said despite the flagrant violations of the Charter and procedures of the United Nations, the Security Council has been beset by a general paralysis and has been unable to take any immediate collective measures. Iraq strongly condemns these repeated acts of aggression, he added. (Xinhua)

Lost Passport!

I, Iqbal Singh Dua, Indian National have lost my passport in Laboos area of Lahej Governorate. In case any body happens to find this passport, he may inform me at my phone No. 02-726161/06-602356 or Fax No. 06-602598/06-602401. Details of my lost passport are as under:-

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Nationality: Indian
Date of Issue: 07-04-1997
Date of Expiry: 06-04-2017
Place of Issue: New Delhi (India)

Israeli Officer Resigns Over Operation Mishap

JERUSALEM—One of Israel Defense Forces' top officers resigned Thursday in the wake of the botched operation last Saturday in which three Israeli soldiers were killed by their comrades. Shlomo Oren, the commander of Judea and Samaria (the traditional Jewish appellation of the West Bank) Brigade, told Israel Radio that he decided to step down to assume the responsibility for the operation mishap. However, it is still unclear whether his resignation had been accepted. Three soldiers of the elite Duvedvan unit, or special troops in the West Bank, were killed during an operation Saturday night to catch a top Hamas terrorist while their comrades mistakenly identified them as terror-

ists and shot them down. The hunted Hamas man, Mahmud Abu-Hanud, managed to flee from the scene with wounds and surrendered himself later to the Palestinian forces in Nablus, an Arab city 60 kilometers north of Jerusalem. Oren's resignation comes only hours before IDF Chief of General Staff Shaul Mofaz's scheduled receiving of interim military investigations into the incident. Mofaz will later present the investigation outcome to Prime Minister Ehud Barak. According to the investigation report leaked to Israel's Channel Two, the inquiry found that a misunderstanding between a junior officer and the soldiers who were killed was the apparent cause of the tragedy. (Xinhua)

Colombian Police Defuse Bomb Near Clinton's Route

BOGOTA—Colombian police on Wednesday defused a two-kilo bomb planted a few meters from a building President Bill Clinton planned to visit, reported the Caracol radio network. A Cartagena city police spokesman said that the bomb was designed to cause panic, not much damage. It said that two men, suspected of belonging to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the most active rebel group in the country, were detained. Clinton arrived in Colombia Wednesday for a 9-hour visit to support the 7.5-billion-dollar antidrug

program proposed by the Colombian government. More than 5,000 Colombian soldiers and policemen, 350 members of the United States Secret Service as well as helicopters and navy ships are mobilized to ensure Clinton's safety during his visit. FARC rebels launched attacks in the days preceding Clinton's visit in nine of the country's 32 departments, causing at least 12 deaths. (Xinhua)

UAE President Undergoes Successful Kidney Transplant

ABU DHABI—President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan on Monday underwent a successful kidney transplant operation in the United States, said a statement issued on Monday evening by the Presidential Diwan (Court). The statement said that the 82-year-old president "enjoys good health," but he needs "several weeks of convalescence." The Presidential Diwan also expressed in the statement its gratitude to the medical team that carried out the successful surgery for the president and to the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio of the United States for "their outstanding efforts." "We pray to the Almighty to guard and protect His Highness and to bless him with continued vitality and good health, so that he may long continue his dedicated leadership for the benefit of his people and in the service of the Islamic and Arab nations," said the statement. Meanwhile, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi crown prince and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received on Monday night a phone call of congratulations from the Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa for the successful surgery, the official WAM news agency reported.

Typhoon Prapiroon in S. Korea

SEOUL—Typhoon Prapiroon swept through southern and western parts of South Korea on Thursday, destroying numerous trees, houses and crops, said South Korea's Meteorological Administration. Up to now, no casualties have been reported. The administration has issued typhoon warnings in Seoul and the western coastal provinces of Cholla, Chungchong and Cheju Island along with western and southwestern seas. Prapiroon is moving northeast at a maximum speed of 25 meters per second in the center, affecting an area of 370 kilometers in diameter. The typhoon is accompanied by storm, thunder and lightning, resulting in more than 150mm of rain at the maximum nationwide. In Cheju Island, many trees along the streets were uprooted, some 100 houses destroyed and vehicles blown away. Electricity poles also fell down in the typhoon, resulting in the blackout of some 5,000 homes in Wando of South Cholla Province. (Xinhua)

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عضو مؤسس في اتحاد الجامعات اليمنية الأهلية
تصفح دليل الجامعات الأهلية
لتكسب معلومات كاملة عن الجامعة
يتم الاعتماد على هذا الرقم ٤٠٠٥٨٧
تأسست ١٩٩٥م هاتف ٤٠٠٥٨٧
يبدأ التسجيل ٢٧/٧/٢٠٠٠م

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CHARRIOL'S MEGEVE WATCH LAUNCHING EVENT "The Beauty that came from the Cold"

The weather was perfect in this high alpine resort for launching the new CHARRIOL model, MEGEVE. The sky was white, snowflakes falling constantly and the temperature low. These conditions reflected perfectly the new feminine watch the design of the steel bracelet in form of mountaintops, the diamonds on bezel and dial imitating the falling snowflakes...

300 guests were driven up to the center of Megeve, the famous and charming village. Greeted by the community, the guests were entertained with a huge pot of mulled wine, served by local women dressed in traditional clothes, folkloric music and a small outdoor museum or traditional and antique objets.

Finally the sky darkened, the guests waited impatiently at the bottom of the stages of the

slopes of the Mt d'Arbois for the Ice Queen to arrive. Fog had settled all around, snow was falling heavily. Opera music was blaring through the air. Flickering light was glowing at a distance. Suddenly, six horses emerged from the thick fog, each pulling a carriage through the power snow and accompanied by 200 Megeve ski instructors with fire torches. The Ice Queen and her eight escorts (models) stepped down from the carriages. On the stage the Ice Queen opened the gift box and the MEGEVE watch was finally seen. "The Beauty that came in from the cold"! A 40 square meter screen showed a video clip of the watch, so that all the guests could see. A firework finished off the show.

Philippe Charriol joined the Ice Queen (who was acted by his daughter Coralie Charriol) on the stage. He addressed the public, thanked the Megeve community and spoke about his aspirations for the new watch model. Then, Mr. Charriol distributed the watches to the celebrities.

Mr. Charriol first introduced the guest honor, Madame La Baronne de Rothschild, whose family is very attached to Megeve. Her family invested in property in Megeve, she owns several restaurants, hotels, and chalets. Then Mr. Charriol introduced the official Godmother of this watch model, Mrs. Emmanuelle Beart. This famous worldwide movie star, co starred with Tom Cruise in "Mission Impossible", was nominated several times for Cesar awards, and is very involved with UNICEF.

Philippe Charriol introduced lastly, the two ambassadors of the watch, Jane Manson, American-born singer and actress, very famous in France and Marianne Klat, famous TV star



Launching Megeve watch

From right Coralie Charriol, Philippe Charriol, and Emmanuelle Bé art



Launching Megeve watch
Marianne Klat

in Lebanon, she also sings and dances professionally.

The guests were then invited into the Restaurant do Golf du Mt d'Arbois to warm up with a good meal and some jazz music. The models passed through the tables showing off the new collection so that all the guests could admire the design and the beauty of the newborn Megeve watch.

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Launching Megeve watch
Emmanuelle Bé art

In Its Opening Session, YSP 4th General Congress :

**Accuses Official Media Of Totalitarianism
Calls Upon Its 'Ousted' Members: Al-Beidh, Al-Attas
Noman To Return Home**

“Al-Baradouni” second session meetings of the 4th General Congress of the Yemeni Socialist Party began last Wednesday (30/8). All political spectrum in Yemen were represented at the congress. The session which was held at the Military Academy Hall in Sana'a continued until September 1.

The opening session was preceded by a one-day preparatory meeting during which organizational directives over approving the Congress agenda as well as the congress operative bodies proposals: presidency, secretariat, challenges, information committee, were discussed.

At the inaugural session the national anthem was played, followed by a reading of verses from Holy Quran and then the Party anthem was played.

Dr. Saif Sayel, YSP Politburo Member, submitted a brief report to the organizational committee on the attendance of delegates and the legality of Congress proceedings. He maintained that out of 2,500 delegates 2,384 male and female attended with 186 absentees. The delegates who had arrived from different provinces and Party organizations abroad shall elect a Central Committee and its bodies. A number of children read pro-Party

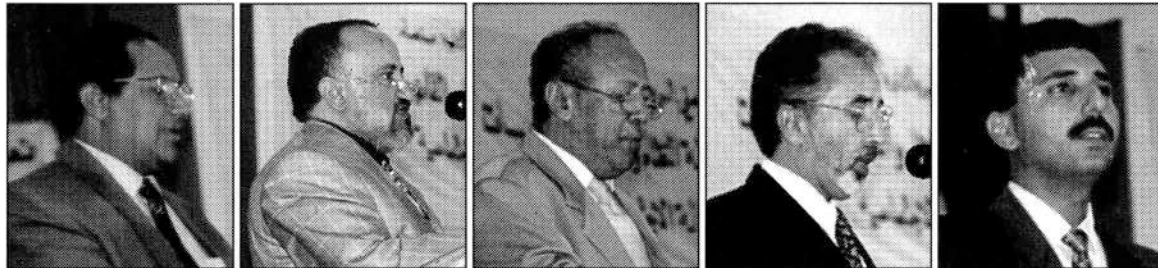
amendments will not observe any referendum” he said. Lashing out at the official media, he described them as ‘totalitarian’. He urged for a national reconciliation and called upon all those Party members who were forced to leave the country to return home and take part in politics.

The Secretary General added: “The 1994 War was taken as a pretext to

old tactics. We do still hear that old-style propaganda. Our official media offer a caricature image on the means of totalitarian propaganda which used to be practiced in the 60s of the last century.”

The YSP Secretary General further said: “The plan to effect constitutional amendments is an example of the State catastrophe. Through these

directives will not produce but calamities and pains. Mansoor charged that the Party was adopting those old sterile theories which proved to be a failure. Those theories failed to meet the needs and aspirations of nations and their hopes in freedom, progress and advancement.



undermine the political thought of the YSP and; to destroy the human structure which embodied this thought; therefore the military weapons alone were not the means of the war. These went concurrently with propaganda and psychological campaign. Those two means were combined in the course of one destructive process. The first means was directed towards material destruction of mankind, installations and capabilities whereas the second was directed towards uprooting the thoughts, brainwashing and re-forming of sentiments in distorted mold.”

amendments, the authorities want to deliver a deathblow to the remaining possibilities of changes through democratic means by continuing to weaken that legislative and supervising institution (the parliament) and bringing it under the mercy of the executive power, which due to these amendments, will be able to abolish the Parliament without any referendum. Moqbel had wondered: “After effecting such amendments, what shall remain out of the alleged democracy in Yemen?”

Touching on Arab issues, the Secretary General emphasized his Party's support for the realization of just and comprehensive peace which could not be achieved without restoration of the occupied territories and establishment of a Palestinian State and ending colonization policy.

Mr. Moqbel renewed his Party's solidarity with the brethren people of Iraq who are exposed to cruel and destructive sanctions. He called upon the Arab countries to break these sanctions.

This was followed with a speech delivered by Mr. Abdulmalik Mansoor, Minister of Culture & Tourism, Member of GPC General Committee who launched a bitter attack against the YSP accusing it of creating crises where one of its groups adopted stances which harmed both the YSP and the homeland. While he was delivering his speech there was hooting, chanting “Mansoor”. As a result, no sooner he finished his speech, than he left the hall.

In his speech, Mansoor had said: “It is regrettable to state that YSP's insistence to keep clung to the separatist group that which declared the seces-

directives will not produce but calamities and pains. Mansoor charged that the Party was adopting those old sterile theories which proved to be a failure. Those theories failed to meet the needs and aspirations of nations and their hopes in freedom, progress and advancement.

Then Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Yadouni, Secretary General of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform delivered a speech which was described as ‘moderate’. It came as a surprise as the Islamic party has always been critical of the YSP until recently. In his address, Yadouni urged the cooperation of political forces in the Yemeni arena to impose the Shoura-type democracy as a reality in the life or else it will remain a fragile gain, with defective features, without any context, subject to retraction and discrepancies under the influence of ‘moody’ and capricious circumstances.

The Islah senior official added: “We see that non-participation of the YSP in the 1997 parliamentary elections led to a political imbalance which did not serve the process of democracy.” Dr. Ahmed Ben Al-Shaikh Abubakr, In-Charge of Sana'a Office of the League of Sons of Yemen, in his address urged the need that the YSP relieves itself of past conflicts and, through this conference, comes out with resolutions which would activate the institutional system, impose a local government system with wide-scale powers, realize the peaceful transfer of power, work on the principle of separating the duties of each authority and to use the language of dialogue in solving disputes.

In his address delivered on behalf of

the Higher Coordination Council, Mr. Tareq Al-Shami, Director at the Political Division of the Popular Forces Union, affirmed HCC's clear-cut and categorically denying attitude towards the constitutional amendments. He urged a serious stand in the face of economic crisis and disasters in real life which have appeared as personal interests overcame the national interests.

At last a cable of congratulations sent by Shaikh Abdullah Ben Hussein Al-Ahmer, the Speaker was read out. He conveyed his greetings to YSP 4th Congress and wished it all the best in its tasks. In his cable, Al-Ahmer expressed regret for not being able to attend due to his trip abroad.

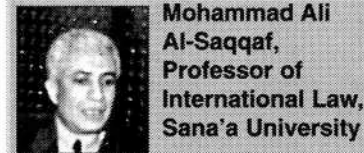
Deliberations of the second session then began. The agenda consisted of: approval of ad hoc committees' proposal on discussing the Congress documents, a political report, a report prepared by the control and audit committee, concluding statement, resolutions and recommendations, reading of the political report in the third session.

At the fourth session a summary of the control and audit committee as well as draft resolutions and recommendations were read out.

An approval was already secured on the number of members in the Central Committee as well the number of members in other Party committees.

Reported by Yemen Times Staff

**Three Constitutions
During a President's Tenure!**



Mohammad Ali Al-Saqqaf, Professor of International Law, Sana'a University

Compared to the 27 constitutional amendments in the American constitution of 1787 and the single amendment in the Egyptian constitution made in 1971, Yemen has had three constitutions and only one President since declaration of its unity on May 22, 2000.

Yemeni constitution was prepared by a committee formed of an elite group from the then two parts of Yemen. In 1972, this committee started working on this constitution and finished it on December 30, 1981. The constitution was not officially approved by both authorities of then two parts of Yemen until they had signed the unity agreement in Aden in November 1989. Signing the unity agreement marked the beginning of a new era in the history of Yemen necessitated a constitution compatible with the democratic path the country had adopted.

In 1993, preparation to amend the constitution started. Voting for the amendments of the constitution was made in September following the civil war of 1994. 52 articles of the constitution were amended, 29 others were added and one was deleted. These amendments meant that a new constitution was created.

On 23.8.2000, the parliament endorsed two drafts to amend the constitution. The president's draft contains 14 articles. The other project was presented by third of the parliament members. The president's draft was to extend the parliamentary tenure from 4 to six years while the MPs' draft was to extend the presidency term of office from 5 to 7. The authority justifications for these amendments are meant to grant the legislative power more stability; to enhance competitive elections so as to encourage political parties to participate in the presidential elections; to enlarge participation in the decision-making process. In short, they claim that these amendments aim at pushing the democratic process forward. The sticking point is “how much is this true?”

If we just discuss the use of extending the presidential tenure to 7 years, we will find very little to think of. In the Middle East, for example, there is only one country that is applying this system which is Syria. In Europe, France is also applying this system. However, plans to reduce this tenure length to 5 years are taking place. Therefore, there are two sides of the problem in our case; the first is that it constitutes a breach of the constitution; second it constitutes a backing down from the democratic course. The constitution clearly stipulates electing parliamentary members and the president in accordance with certain provisions fixed in the constitution. To change this, means that the legitimacy of the parliament as an elected council would not be through elections but through constitutional amendments.

The same thing is applied to the president who was elected by the people in September 1999 on the basis of a five-year tenure. To change his term

of office to 7 years, after less than one year of his election, will represent another branch of the constitution and only serve the interests of those who proposed the amendments.

This also constitutes a violation of the constitution articles in terms of violating the President's tenure which was based on the American system for only two terms. This was included in the amendments of 1994. According to the constitution the president's first term extended from 1994-1999 and the second from 1999 to 2004. However, the government interpreted it in other way. It claimed that the first term should not be accounted for and that the first term should be from 1999-2004 while the second from 2004 to 2009.

Now by changing the President's term from 5 to 7 the first term will be from 1999 to 2006 and the second from 2006 to 2013. Through the illegal official interpretation of the constitution the authority managed to get extra 5 years. Now through this amendment the authority will get a new term. The final outcome is that instead of ending president Ali Abdullah Saleh's term in 2004 it will end in 2013. This extra nine-years period is mainly because of the wrong interpretations of the constitution and unconstitutional amendments. Why does the ruling regime lead this policy?

There are two answers for this question; the first is for the sake of staying in power as long as possible. The second is to make use of the Syrian experience and give powers to President Saleh's son Ahmad who is born in 1970. The constitution stipulates that the Presidency candidate should be 40 of age. Therefore, if the constitution articles remain as they are, each term five years, the second term will end in 2009. By that time Ahmad's age will be 39 meaning that he is not yet a legitimate candidate for the presidency. If the constitution is to be amended at that time as it happened in Syria, big disputes may be aroused in the country. However, if the new amendments were endorsed during this time there will be enough time to pave the way for the new president who will be mature enough by the end of president Saleh's second term. So as to make other political forces endorse this amendment, the president tempted MPs to extend their term in office from 4 to 6. In order to contain the reaction of opposition parties, the authority tempted them by suggesting to reduce the endorsement rate from 15% to 5% for the presidency candidate.

This 5% will be from a combination of the number of parliaments' members, 301 and those of Showra Council, 111altogether. The new council is proposed to be established according to the new amendments. That is, the 5% will be out of 412 members. However, as the president enjoys a huge majority in the parliament, 221 MPs out of 301 and is going to appoint the 111 members of the Showra Council, it is obvious that he is going to be in control of the legislative and executive authorities.

Moreover, there is an obvious deterioration in the judiciary system which means a clear backsliding course from the emerging democracy that the country adopted in 1990.



poems while from within the audience some groups chanted pro-Party slogans.

Then Mr. Ali Saleh Obad (Moqbel), YSP Secretary General delivered what was described as “igneous” speech criticizing State policy in the democratic process. “Constitutional amendments aim at diminishing the role of the Parliament. It is like a fraud against democracy as these

He added: “The object which this huge destructive process aimed at was to turn everything into shambles: actions into ruins and thoughts into ashes.

Mr. Moqbel went on to say: “What the YSP is facing in the light of the official media campaigns launched against it from time to time are part of a crisis intensified in the official media address which still employ the same

استمتعوا بطعم الجودة

Survey And Land Registration Authority

The Survey & Land Registration Authority (SREA) is considered one of the important government machinery responsible for preparing, and printing different kinds of political, agricultural, service, geographical and other kind of maps as well as surveying and registering both government and non-government land registrations.

Its Director General, Mr. Abdullah Obaid Al-Fadhli obtained his doctorate from Moscow in 1985 in Technical Knowledge of Survey. Before Unification when he had obtained his MA, he was appointed an engineer at Aden Survey Department. Then he moved to Lahj, Abyan and Hadhramaut provinces in the then southern part of Yemen to become at last Director General. After Unification in 1990, he was appointed Deputy Director for Technical Affairs at the (Unified) Survey Authority in 1990. Then he was appointed Director General of the SREA according to a republican decree.

Mr. Ismail Al-Ghabri of the "Yemen Times" had the following interview with Dr. Al-Fadhli, Director General of (SREA):-

Q: When was the SREA founded?

A: It was founded in 1981 according to Republican Decree No.131 issued in the same year. It has its own independent administration and finance system.

Q: What is the role and duties of the Authority?

A: Ministries, institutions and companies need different kinds of maps according to their daily needs. Before doing this, we had to establish strong relationships with these parties. The strength of relations was reinforced with the issuance of instructions from the Cabinet prohibiting preparation of any map without consulting the Authority.

The other side is concerned with land registrations. The Ministry of Justice prepares deeds (grants or lease) and ownership of lands and estate documents. The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) is responsible for large portion of 'awqaf' lands (given as mortmain). The Ministry of Construction & Housing is responsible for State lands and estates. From time to time these ministries need lots of maps including those showing different localities in different provinces as part of town planning.

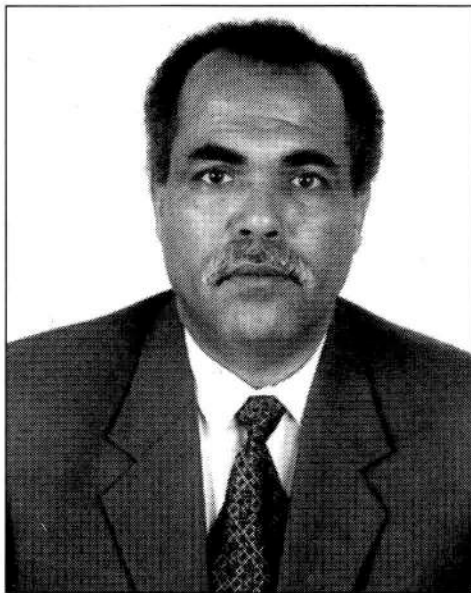
The Authority is divided into two basic parts: the first is the estate registration sector and the second is the technical sector which is responsible for preparation of basic maps for the Republic. Here the old maps prepared by both the former southern and northern parts were revised. It was found out that they lacked technical information. Necessity dictated to divide the tasks of the technical sector into several phases.

During the first phase 1991-1999, a National Geodesic Network (NGN) was formed with the assistance of the French Geographic Institute. The network was extended throughout the Republic.

The second phase was divided into two periods. The first was for creation of an aerial photography depending on old dossiers and documents. We have been provided with modern technology for field survey in form of equipment known as GPS. This equipment now helps in accuracy through satellites. Then it was found essential to arrange a training and qualifying program for engineers of the Authority. We now have a new unit for aerial photography, equipped with modern technology responsible for issuing digital maps. Programs are under way to develop through training Yemeni cadres.

The second period has been specified for preparation of basic maps for the Republic.

As far as estates registration is concerned, it constitutes a basic need of our country as it is of a multi-purpose nature; particularly as far as social stability is concerned. Of course



these include development and encouragement of investments.

Regarding estates registration we have, during this year, introduced new measures, despite our limited potentials, with the aim of doing away with previous discrepancies. Now no registration is undertaken with a field visit and estate survey defining the area, location and boundaries of any estate. This system is adopted in most parts of the world.

Q: And how is estate registration going on at the Authority?

A: Virtually registration of estates begun in 1982. In other words, a lot of experience has been accumulated. Through assessing the past works, we have introduced new measures to surmount any discrepancy. For instance now arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Justice not to prepare any deed unless the estate is registered with the Authority. As far as the Ministry of Construction, Housing & Rural Planning is concerned arrangements are under way for restricting the issuance of construction permits. Permits are not to be issued except for those estates already registered with the Authority. These arrangements shall put an end to capturing, manipulating and doing illegal business with lands. On the other hand, laws have defined the fees for estate registration (3% of the estate value) and estate tax. Until now considerable registrations have been undertaken.

Q: After the signing of land and sea borders treaty between Yemen and Saudi Arabia what are your Authority's plans for preparing an international border map?

A: Preparation of specifications and conditions of demarcation are bound to the historical Treaty. These preparations are ahead. We are waiting for the selection of a company specialized in demarcations and erecting markings along the borders. After this, detailed maps showing the borders between the two countries, signed by the two governments, shall come into existence and then maps showing the border lines could be prepared and published.

For your information, I am a member in the Yemeni-Saudi Arabian Borders Committee.

Q: What kind of maps does the Authority issue?

A: We have a number of different maps including ordinary geographical maps. There are certain detailed and important maps restricted to Authority's use. Possession of such maps need special permission.

Q: What difficulties do you face at the Authority?

A: As an under-developed country we have ambitions and programs. Execution of these basically depends on funds and qualified cadres. While preparing any program we never ignore the facts and take our potentials into consideration. However, we always concentrate on training programs both inside and abroad in order to attain our aims. So, the difficulties, at present, are summed up in lack of funds and qualified cadres.

Q: What are the organizations and foreign foundations which offer assistance to the Authority?

A: Several international institutions have relations with the Authority. For example, since the creation of the Authority and at early stages there was a technical cooperation with Switzerland which offered equipment and training. We are trying to revive this cooperation.

Another fruitful cooperation was with the British Overseas Survey Board which enabled us to produce 50,000 maps of the northern provinces which are still in use. We are doing our best to see this cooperation also revived.

The Authority also had a cooperation with France; particularly the French Institute of Geography which enabled us to establish the National Geodesic Network. It was really a splendid cooperation which cost about FF54 million, equivalent to US\$10 million.

Such cooperation is badly needed and we are endeavoring to see it develop in order to implement our programs.

Q: May you please tell us something about the technical cadre and the present qualifications which you have at the Authority?

A: First we used to have ten branches but during this year we added six more. The later six are still being under the equipping process. The total number of employees is 350 of whom 60-70% are engineers in different grades and specializations. The remainder percentage is attached to the administrative side.

Q: What about a Yemeni atlas?

A: An atlas has many notions. Until this moment no national Yemeni atlas has been prepared. We need huge potentialities for doing it. It covers many activities: economic and social, population density, accurate statistical data and much more information. It takes tens of years for countries to prepare such an atlas.

Q: May you tell us something about your revenues?

A: As aforesaid, we have two sources of revenue. The first is from estates registration fees and the other is estates' taxes. As of mid of this year about YR. 6 million has been deposited in our Sana'a branch.

I would like to express my gratitude to the "Yemen Times" for being the first newspaper to visit us and acquaint its readers with our activities.

Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA)

Background

The Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA) is a successor of an old cooperative, which had existed in the Hadharem area in the Huggariah District of Taiz Governorate. Cooperative effort is an old Arab tradition, which can be traced back to centuries. It is a communal system that leads people who belong to the same region or tribe to assist one another in executing private and public projects. In the modern times, cooperative works have been limited to public projects, which are generally used by public such as schools, clinics, roads, water supply, etc. Some cooperatives have even progressed from the traditional service orientation to more productive field like tree-planting, crafts and cottage industry and women's skills, etc.

During the 1970's, most cooperatives, which had been based on private voluntary initiatives, were grouped by the central government in order to "help" them. This centralization effort has resulted in the death of most local initiatives. As a result, the cooperative movement, which had been so vigorous and active in the 1960s and 1970s, all of a sudden lost its soul, and then its life.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the people of Yemen found a different outlet for their energy and desire for self-help initiatives. This was which were established as charitable associations (we may call them 'NGOs') which were established as charitable associations and societies. By the end of 1997, some 2,000 such NGOs had been established and many more are in the formation stage.

HWA

The HWA was first established in 1972. In early 1990s, it was re-invigorated after a long phase of dormancy. It embarked on many service and production-oriented projects. It financed or co-financed schools, clinics, roads, water supply, etc. it also built a small water cistern (dam), a woman's development center, a nursery for trees, a cultural/sports center and many such projects.

The present leadership of the HWA was elected in October 1994. HWA was the first NGO in the Republic in allowing women to vote for local association's representatives. As a result of active performance, HWA enjoyed a lot of influence within a surrounding region extending to cover most of the southern part of Shamayatayn district: with some 80,000 residents. But this success was going to be the source of

trouble for the HWA.

Botched Pluralism in Yemen

Starting with the re-unification of the country in 1990, Yemen accepted a pluralist political system. Many political parties came into existence, and they were all competing to win the support of as many Yemenis as possible.

The competition was often rough, leading to the civil war of the summer 1994. The result of the war heralded the return of Yemen to almost a one-party state in which the President's political party. The People's General Congress (PGC) enjoyed preponderant influence and power.

Starting immediately after the war, every body was expected to cope with the new line and realign themselves with the PGC. Many individuals, groups, unions, associations and other blocks acquiesced.

Confrontation with the Government

Along the same line, overtures were made to the HWA to cope with the new line. The association was expected to transform its projects to breeding and recruitment ground for PGC membership. The board members who had been elected by the people were also expected to join the PGC or at least show sympathy and support for this party. But these overtures were met with stiff resistance from the board members, and especially the chairman, professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who is fierce independent.

In a short time, it was clear that the HWA was headed for a collision course with the ruling party. It was only a matter of time before push came to shove.

In November 1995, the Prime Minister, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, issued an order to close down HWA. This was the first time in Yemen's history that a legally elected body of an NGO is nullified and replaced by a group had-picked by the Prime Minister.

The people of the region refused the Prime Minister's order and told him that his order were illegal. Furthermore, the people held a general assembly in which they re-affirmed their trust in the elected board, and authorized to sue the Prime Minister and take him to court.

Then, a court case was filed at the Al-Gharbiyah Primary Court of Sana'a. The HWA sent its lawyers, led by Dr. Mohammad Al-Mikhlaifi, and the Prime Minister was represented by lawyers from the Ministry of Legal

Affairs. Presiding over the case was Judge Abdullah al-Jindari. After eleven months of deliberations, the court ruled that the Prime Minister had acted contrary to the law, and that his orders were null and void. The court further instructed the authorities to allow HWA to function again, and to enable the legally elected board to be responsible for the NGO. At first, the Prime Minister refused. But since the chairman of HWA is a chief editor of the English newspaper ("Yemen Times") and well-known person in Yemen and abroad, this case attracted wide attention, and after media campaign against him, the Prime Minister relented.

Lost Property

When the HWA regained control over its property in late 1996, much of its assets had been looted. Examples of the assets lost are the sewing machines and other equipment purchased by the assistance from Japan (through the small-scale projects financed by the Embassy of Japan).

The value of the lost property is estimated 7.2 million Yemeni Rials. In addition, the HWA lost two years as well as chances for the implementation of a number of projects those were in the pipeline. The board members estimate the total loss to HWA was YR25 million (about US\$ 200,200).

Present Situation

The HWA is trying to overcome the problems into which it was thrown, and is trying to start again. This means re-planning some of its old projects, and designing new ones.

At the same time, this NGO is trying very hard not to be caught in the same confrontational position. If the ruling politicians want something from the NGO with reasonable claim, the NGO will probably oblige. On the other hand, for the sake the HWA preserves its integrity, neutrality and professionalism, in the political competition of Yemen and in the context of present stage of democracy of Yemeni, it may have to make some concessions.

The HWA will hold its next general election in November 1998.

This article was written in 1997 by late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor of Economics, Sana'a University, and published in 'Middle East Studies Series' No. 47, 2000 titled "Social Development under the Structural Adjustment Policy in Yemen: Quest for Community Participation."

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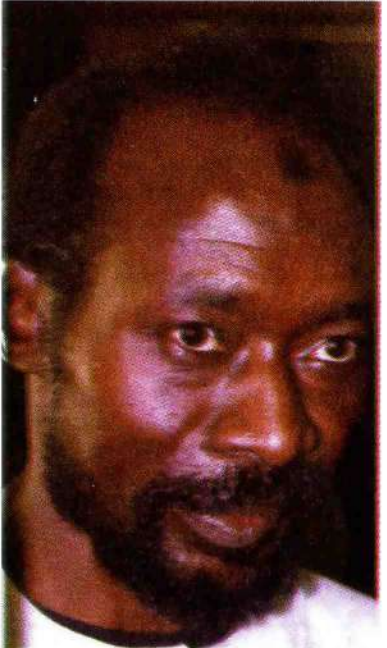


New Bloodcurdling Facts About Adam's Case

New terrifying facts were revealed last Sunday's court session about Adam's case following the presentation of the German's final report. It was revealed that there were torn out limbs 115 corpses.

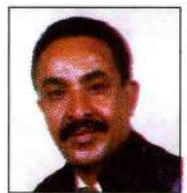
Before beginning of the session, the court's judge Yahya al-Aslami, the two German experts and an interpreter held a closed-door meeting. Lawyers of the victims, Hussn Ahmad Atiyah, Yemeni, and Zainab Sawood, Iraqi, withdrew from the court session. Ismail al-Dailami, lawyer of Hussn, stated that he withdrew from the session in protest for not allowing him to join the closed-door meeting which lasted for almost an hour.

On the other hand, the judge said that the session was late due to absence of the interpreter who was assigned by the court.



Lawyer Abdulhamid Ali, Emirian, joined lately to defend the Iraqi victim's family, also withdrew from the session.

The Germans' final report indicated that there were 133 corpses with ages ranging between 5 to 20 years. The report divided them to two main divisions: 18 complete corpses found in the morgue of the Medical Faculty and 115 corpses which were the outcomes of cut off limbs. The German expert



Mohammed al-Khatib



Hassan Mujali

stated that he could not make even one complete body of these torn off limbs revealing that Hussn was killed due to hitting her head against a wall. He said "She was injected with anesthetic or was choked to death."

According to the final report, she was scientifically torn to pieces. However, Zainab was hit with a tool on her head leading to her death. After that she was stuffed in a narrow place for 72 hours before she was taken out and was torn

into pieces using an electric saw. The final report disregarded the idea of raping Hussn. However, it indicated that it was not possible to rule this out in case of Zainab as her reproductive system was not found. Besides, there are not any signs on the body that could prove her being raped. It was also indicated in the report that the internal organs of Zainab were also missing and that the hairs found beneath her finger nail belonged to her. However, nothing was missing from Hussn's body.

As regards the date of their death, the German expert said it was pretty hard to precisely define that then, for tests conducted on the D.N.A. which were taken from the bodies, have not finished yet.

However, he said that Hussn died not more than two months before the crime was discovered. This means that she had been kept in a place for more than six months before she was murdered. The German expert based his conclusion on the fact that her body was still fresh during examinations conducted on her body. If the idea, that she was kept in a refrigerator, is correct, this will mean that she has been taken out of it three months ago so to justify her body being fresh. It is better to ask the security if they noticed anything suspicious during the time of her disappearance, they stated. The German expert concluded his report saying that tests conducted on fingerprints have not resulted in anything so far owing to the long span of time that they take ranging between a month and a year. He also indicated that it was difficult to define the bodies using fingerprints due to different circumstances that the bodies were exposed to, especially as the crime scene was not kept as it was to keep the fingerprints as they were. Moreover, bodies were sprinkled with formalin.

Dr. Mohammed al-Khatib, Adam's lawyer, requested Adam to say the truth asserting that the truth was not yet disclosed. He told Adam that he had to help him and that he could do nothing if he kept silent. However, Adam remained as silent. The only phrase that he uttered was "judge, why do you still keep my wife in prison?"

Dr. al-khatib, Adam's lawyer, threatened more than once to withdraw from the case unless he was permitted to interview the defendant. A heated debate was witnessed between Dr. al-Khatib and lawyer of the university Dr. Hassan Mujali and the prosecution which used to refute all that was presented by lawyers.

Dr. Hassan Mujali has presented to the court an out of the jurisdiction appeal pertaining to civil suit filed against the university by the lawyer of the victim Hussn. He depended in his argument on citing different similar incidents that happened in other countries. He summarized his requests as follows:

- 1) To book the suit to announce a judgment on his appeal.
- 2) To reject any suit against the university until the punitive suit is over.
- 3) Forcing the plaintiffs to compensate for the material and moral damage against the university and university staff.



On the left the two German experts

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٢- وظائف معالج الإشارة الرقمية DSP المتعدد القنوات لتأثيرات سمعية بصرية متطورة.
٣- قدرة دولبي ٣٣٠٠ وات (PMPO) و ٣٩٠ وات (RMS) ومكبرات صوت مركزية/محيطية.

١- نظام ٥ اسطوانات فيديو مدمجة مع إمكانية الفتح والتشغيل المباشر.
٢- نظام تشغيل مكبر النغمات المنخفضة التردد الفائق مع ٤ مكبرات صوت ذات اتجاهات.
٣- محلل طيفي فراغي مزدوج.

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

١- مبدل ٥ اسطوانات فيديو مدمجة.
٢- تأثيرات سمعية بصرية متطورة مع معالج الإشارة الرقمية (DSP) المتعدد القنوات.
٣- قدرة دولبي ١٨٠ وات (RMS)، ومكبرات الصوت مركزية/محيطية.

شركة ألفا المحدودة - الوكيل الوحيد في الجمهورية اليمنية

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4) His sticking to ask for all the previously mentioned requests. The German experts asked while presenting the final report for their allowances. They noted that they have spent more than 30,000 DM. We have received nothing so far, they said. The session was over with the following report:

- 1) Translating the final German report.
- 2) Making copies of the appeal presented by the university lawyer to the lawyer of victim's family, Hussn.
- 3) Requesting the Minister of Justice to allocate the money of the two Germans from the budget of the government.
- 4) Complaining to the Lawyers' Syndicate in regard to the conduct of lawyer Ismail al-Dailami in the session when he instigate other lawyers to withdraw from the session.
- 5) Adjourning the session to last Sunday.

تهانينا

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها للشباب الخلق

محمد حاتم القاضي

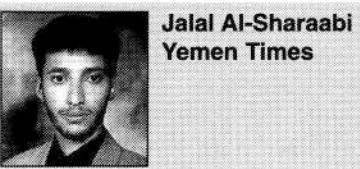
بمناسبة زفافه الميمون.

المهنيون:

وليد عبد العزيز السقاف، محمد بن سلام، محمد خضير

وجميع طاقم الصحيفة

Unqualified Pharmacists, Smuggled and Expired Drugs in Yemen's Markets

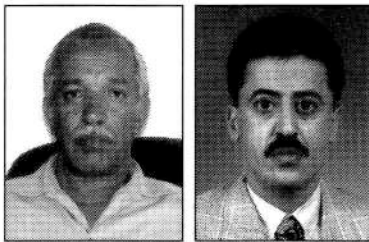


Jalal Al-Sharaabi
Yemen Times

Many drugstores open illegally posing real threats to people's health in many ways. Despite the high orders to close some of those drugstores, they are still working without being supervised. The Yemen Times published in the previous issue a number of interviews with pharmacists and drugstores' owners who said that they had been blackmailed from time to time by taxes and municipality authorities. They, furthermore, pointed out a number of

drugstores owned by influential people that nobody dare accuse of being illegal.

It is a real catastrophe to feel that investment can involve any field even at the expense of people's health. Many powerful traders buy licenses from fresh graduates for millions to run drugstores. This total carelessness is not in fact the responsibility of one authority. All land and sea approaches to Yemen are easy to penetrate by a series of smuggling operations. Statistics show that billions of riyals have been lost due to smuggling in general and smuggling of drugs in particular. Smuggled drugs do not only affect the national economy or the local market but above all they endanger people's health. A field survey by the Health Office of



Mohammed Hajar Moqbil Al-Dhobiani

the Capital Secretariat indicated that a number of drugstores and other health centers were working without licenses. Many health installations trade with free drugs, smuggled drugs, use expired substances and employ unqualified staff. Out of 1079 installations included in the survey, 622 were violating the law. In addition, 214 out of 286 clinics and 211 out of 434 drugstores were being illegally run. Law no. 60 for 1999 specified a number of conditions to run clinics, drugstores. However, many hospitals, clinics and drugstores are run in violation to that law.

The Yemen Times moved to the health office in the secretariat capital and met its director and a number of officials to collect more information.

The health survey carried out by our health office was a continuation of a previous survey conducted in 1998, said Mohammed M. Hajar, director. Ministries of Labor and Interior had also been involved. The main aim of the survey was to evaluate the current situation of health installations

and what has been added during the last year.

During the last three weeks we seized big quantities of smuggled drugs, said director. He added that they had already summoned all violators. He further described smuggled drugs as poisons, adding that smuggling does not necessarily indicate a shortcoming in the Ministry of Health. There should be joint efforts to fight smuggling, he said. He further called for forming a supreme council for fighting smuggling and appealed to people to report any violations they might detect encounter.

About the alleged illegal fees collect-

practiced by physicians and pharmacists. "For example, some general doctors write on wide boards that they are specialists. Some doctors sell free drug samples to drugstores and others make deals with drug companies to market their drugs regardless of their kind and quality.

In addition: about 75% of the drugstores available in Sana'a are run by traders who buy licenses from pharmacists," he said.

He added that 18 surgery clinics were not licensed, 35 installations had not finalized procedures of getting licenses, 21 installations practiced activities where they were not permitted, 28 had

prosecution to follow up all violations and investigate in them. "We have been able, in coordination with deputy of the West Capital Prosecution, Judge Hadi Aidhah, to put an end to all violations in his area. He closes down all violating installations and never opens them unless everything is set right," he said.

At the end he urged people not to deal with smuggled drugs that have become easy to recognize. "If the price printed on drugs is in a different currency, it means that they are smuggled," he added.

Smuggled drugs are still flowing into Yemeni markets in big quantities. Last



Piles of detected expired drugs

ed by the office he said: "No budget was allocated for the survey. We fined those violators to warn them against such behaviors and to provide expenditure for committees participating in the survey."

Dr. Moqbil Nasser Al-Dhobiani, director of services and survey reporter highlighted a number of violations

not renewed licenses, 36 drugstores sold free drugs, 120 drugstores contained smuggled drugs, 24 drugstores sold doctors free samples, 149 health installations employed unqualified staff and other 69 installations were not matched to technical standards.

On the other hand, he stressed the importance of establishing a health

Wednesday about three thousand smuggled medicine bottles were burnt. Weekly surveys portend a catastrophe unless laws are strictly implemented. Health resources told the Yemen Times that some influential figures refused to abide by laws and are still trading with anything and everything even at the expense of our lives.

Khalifa General Hospital Collapsing

Yemen Times Staff,
Taiz

Years after witnessing relative improvement, medical services at Khalifa General Hospital (KGH) have now deteriorated. Both the revenues and important medical equipment are being confiscated. Seventy kilometers away from Taiz, KGH is situated between Alturebah-

Alhujareiyah area. It was built in 1986 at the expenses of the sister State of Qatar to serve 1,500,000 patients mainly those arriving from Alturebah and Alshamatein districts. Today KGH's medical activities are confined to treating malaria and cases of cold. The hospital was renowned for its characterized medical and technical cadres with distinguished medical equipment and services. Now there is not any financing. What has gone wrong with this hospi-



tal? Who on earth wants to write-off this hospital which Qatar had donated its building to offer medical services to Alhujareiyah residents?

Although an immediate and comprehensive report could not be compiled, Yemen Times was able to meet some of "those concerned" and prepare this first-hand report.

Dr. Abduljaleel Abdullah Al-Aza'zi believes that the hospital services ought to have never deteriorated after the withdrawal of foreign health cadres and specialists. Doctors in service at present at the hospital ought to have not been deprived of their incentives. Dr. Aza'zi maintained that the hospital was at present offering treatment of ordinary cases of malaria, diarrhea and cold. Minor operations are also carried out in the absence of diagnostic equipment, calling upon the hospital administration to offer good interest and care to the technical cadre of the hospital.

Dr. Nabeel Qassem Muhammed has the following to say: "With the exception of a Yemeni specialist, others available are GPs (general physicians). Owing to non-payment of incentives and absence of moral incentive to the doctors, technicians and nursing staff, medical services have deteriorated." He adds: "We sit idle during afternoons whereas allowing us run our own private clinics could help improve our financial status. We are in no way different from doctors who work at other hospitals in the Republic." Dr. Muhammed inquired: "And why not, as it is owing to non-availability of equipment and

largely renowned for availability of manpower on one hand and medical and technical facilities on the other as well as medicines. We had specialist

ner owing to absence of medical cadres such as orthopedics, nanologists, dentists, cardiologists, ophthalmologist and also cadres in bioscopy and X-Ray. The lab, which has been given excellent services, had to be closed. In all, medical services deteriorated owing to lack of cadres. We keep searching for specialists."

Giving further details, Dr. Jabbar said: "The operative sections at present are urinalogy, surgical, gynecology and obstetrics. All other cases are referred to Taiz. The average daily number of 300 out-patients dropped sharply. The number of in-patients does not exceed 45. Food supply is insufficient and patients have to buy medicines." So, this is the situation at KGH. It is surrounded by garbage and poor sewage system. We would like to know the opinion of the Director of Health Office in Taiz.

And, what shall be our position in case a Qatri delegation visited this Hospital which has now been converted into a small-scale clinic, treating only malaria and flu'??

Health piece of advice:

Kissing Can Transmit HIV: Scientist

KAMPALA- Luke Montagnier, who discovered the Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV), has warned of a possibility of getting the virus through kissing, the New Vision daily reported Wednesday.

Montagnier, who arrived here for a two-day scientific visit, said on Tuesday that Saliva could carry HIV and injuries in the mouth facilitated the transmission of the virus through saliva.

"The risk of saliva transmission is very low but we cannot eliminate it completely," he said. "One has to be cautious about deep kissing even if saliva has some protective effects. But sexual transmission is the most important," he added.

(Xinhua)



Father donates part of his Small Intestine to his son in a successful operation on Small Intestine Transplanting. (Xinhua)

Announcement

The National Trading Co. Ltd. (Natco) announces that its head office and all sections attached to it at Al-Qasr Al-Jamhuri (Presidential Palace) Street have now been moved to D'Jibouti Street through Hadda Street. The new telephone numbers are:-

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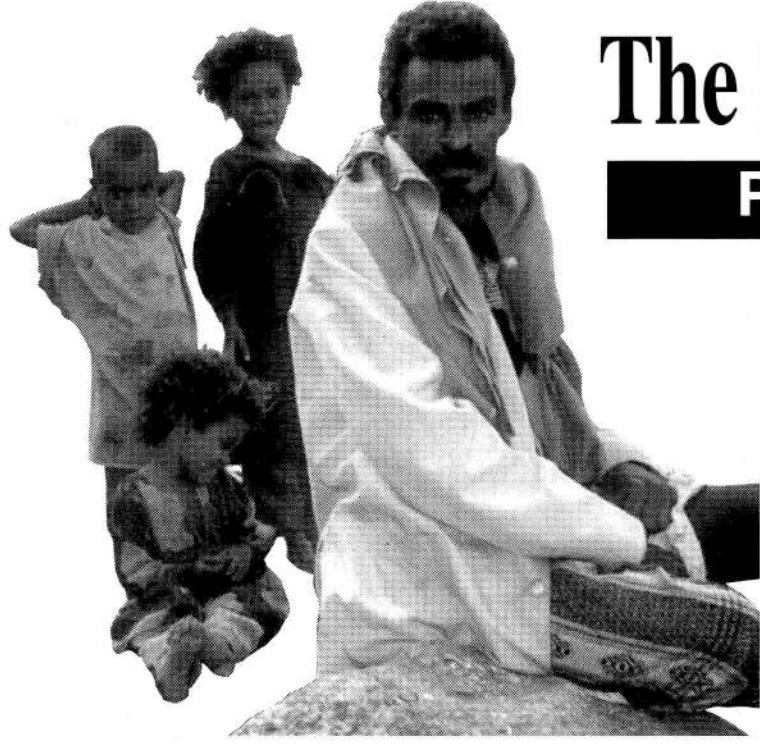
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The Sweepers: Fighting Centuries Old Isolation

Part 1 of 2



Sweepers or "Akhdam" as they are known used to live the lowest social level of life since the past 900 years in Yemen.

In the past they were oppressed. Today also they are oppressed but to a lesser degree. Today's Akhdam are quite different in many ways.

In the past their entire conditions were tragic and heartbreaking. Today their conditions are better.

In the past the way they were treated contradicted with the teachings of Islam and even the human principles which call for human rights, preservation of freedom and dignity of human beings. Today these contradictions have reduced and their rights are preserved; at least as human beings and as Yemeni citizens enjoying their full civilian and political rights.

Have we preserved the rights of today's rebel youth sweeper who wants to affect changes in his life. We always allege and keep calling for rights. But have we given any attention to the revolution of youth sweepers? We keep calling for peace, affection and unity in between us. Do these include sweepers?

What made the society in the past deny their rights? Do we still deny their rights today?

In the 21 provinces of present day Yemen, the conditions of akhdam differ from one province to another. If countrymen have moved to the capitals of each province in search of livelihood, this included the akhdam. Then we saw that Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah, Aden and Mukalla (Hadhramaut) became overpopulated due to the exodus. In other words, out of the 21 provinces only four to five provinces today bear the burden of overpopulation, including the akhdam. For instance now in Sana'a they have five main and permanent 'settlements', (one in Bab-al-Yemen, another in Bab-al-Sabah, third in 45km Road, fourth in Sha'oub and fifth at Al-Mahareq in Asser area). In Taiz they have five (One in Oosaira, another in Al-Shammasi suburb, third in Mafraq Maweeya, fourth in Al-Haseb and the fifth in Al-Janad). In Aden they have six: (one in Tawahi, two in Maalla, one in Crater, one in Mimdara and one in Little Aden). They also have their permanent settlements in Hodeidah at Al-Barhameiya, Labor City (Madinat Al-Ommal), Al-Baida, Al-Salkhana and other places. In Hadhramaut they could be seen at 14th October Zone of Al-Mukalla. In Shabwa their main settlement is in Al-Gol area.

Do all provinces with their capitals, districts, remote areas and 'uzlas' (hin-

terlands) need the akhdam to carry out for them the essential services connected with sanitation? In some areas people have their own way of life. Their latrines are open-air but 'hidden'. Farmers use their fields. In coastal areas too citizens have their own way of disposing off their waste. Such being the case, we do not find any trace of akhdam in such areas. However, akhdam have two genuine reasons for their exodus. First is that they detest the old professions of their forefathers, grand fathers and fathers who were engaged in very low ranking jobs. (Cleaning of latrines, removing blockages from drainages etc.) The second is that development has almost obliterated old system of sanitary. Sewerage system here and there has subsequently forced the new generation to find another source of living. However, a third reason for exodus could be attributed to the 'swollen' population of sweepers with difficulties of accommodation and livelihood.

Even the European and Arab as well as other states, cannot dispense with the services of sweepers, no matter their historical background and no matter how people there look at their sweepers. Our topic concerns sweepers of Yemen only.

Akhdam

In Arabic language, "Akhdam" is the plural of sweepers. The singular is "khadem". The verb is "khadama" (serve). In the past Akhdam usually served their "Asyad" - masters. (The singular is "Syeid"). "Asyad" considered themselves higher in social rank. Today, hardly 5-10% of akhdam come under the mercy of their "asyad" but normally, today, they are independent. The importance of their presence and their cleansing works could be judged by putting a question to ourselves: "What would happen if akhdam go on strike?" In some cases we have reasons to believe that akhdams were able to dictate their conditions of service; their jobs being of different nature.

Jabarti

Until recently this off shoot of lowest class of sweepers have become extinct. Living in one area, the regime through the ruling machinery which included the municipalities, would divide them into groups. In the past they used to appear late hours at night going from house to house cleaning the "zawali" (latrines). They used to be seen carrying their tin canisters on their head with a bent iron strip used for collecting wastes from unpopulated areas where 'homeless' used to go

for toilet. These jabartis are not seen in many areas as most of them are believed to have immigrated.

In The Service of The Imam

In Sana'a, before the 1962 Revolution, sweepers were housed in a place still known as "Samsra", situated at Babul-Sabah Gate. They are still there. The Imam could not deny their services; but would not tolerate their being homeless as they used to defy that time's dusk-to-dawn "Sukat" (daily curfew); thus they were housed at "Samsra" which was a one-time shopping mall. The mall's glamour was gradually drained into a permanent resident for 5-10 sweepers families.

Oosaira & Shammasi

In Greater Taiz, sweepers lived in Upper and Lower Oosaira. Sweepers of these two areas took active part in the arsons and riots which took place in December 1992 violent demonstrations in protest of the first price hike after Unification. After the conditions came to normal, the affected 'capitalists' avenged by arranging torching sweepers areas. As a result Upper Oosaira was immediately vacated and sweepers moved to a new 'colony' in Al-Shammasi suburb. Lower Oosaira still has few of these sweepers while Upper Oosaira witnessed construction works in favor of the 'capitalists'.

45km Road

Situated in between Al-Sab'een Hospital area and Taiz Road, this area is famous for its "Saeela" — water passage —, where rain waters block traffic always. The area is hardly ten years old with a population of 3014. It shelters sweepers and citizens who have built hollow-bricked small houses. The land on which these houses have been built have two different stories. Some people say that the owners are Yemeni immigrants who are out of Yemen at present. Others say that during the 1997 parliamentary elections the General People's Congress, as a part of election campaign, 'presented' the land, said to be State estate, to the residents and allowed them build their residences. Therefore most residents here are sweeper GPC members. We do not know the real story but should the real owners reappear, problems will crop up. Of course, this will result in the demolition of sweepers' temporary abode.

When the area 'aakel' was asked what would he do in case real owners of this land appear, he said: "We shall either buy these lands from them or pay them rental."

Peaceful Sweepers

They do not possess weapons and they do not carry "gambias". Whenever humiliated, they succumb to their oppressors.

Origin

Studies differ in defining their origin. Some relate them as Ethiopians who arrived into Yemen during the sixth century following the Ethiopian invasion of Yemen.

One unconfirmed account claims that after the end of the Ethiopian rule, the remnants who could not flee Yemen remained trapped. They were turned into slaves and were forced to perform low-rank jobs which included cleaning of latrines and doing all works connected with sanitation. The account claims Yemenis avenged a one-time ruler. This makes us inquire: was not there any sweeper in Yemen before the Ethiopian invasion? Were Yemeni sweepers relieved of their job? Where did they go? Did they mingle in the Yemeni society? Did they migrate?

Perhaps their complexions assist in this assessment as they have, in most, African characteristics in as far as the color of their skin, snub nose and tough, short curly hairs are concerned. Dr. Qayed Al-Sharjabi, in his research stated that they were outcast in Ethiopia itself. On arrival in Yemen they did not change.

Aged sweepers deny any relations with Ethiopia. They claim to be sons of Yemen. A Sinan Muhammed Omer Al-Wasabi confirmed that his grand father hailed from Wisab Al-Aali in Dhamar Province. When asked about his great grand father he said: "I do not know where from he came."

In Yemen, Western Tihama Coast is considered to be their homeland. They do not have lands of their own. They prefer to live in deserts and abandoned areas.

They always lived in groups and formed their own 'settlements'. As time changed their 'settlements' continue to exist with their locations changed but their old time tents, shack, huts or mud-straw-mixed houses have now been replaced by mud or stone-made houses. They usually live 'sandwiched' in their small houses.

The problem of small houses should be a separate subject as it concerns the Yemeni people as a whole. However, in sweepers life, small houses, congested with family members, have created immodesty.

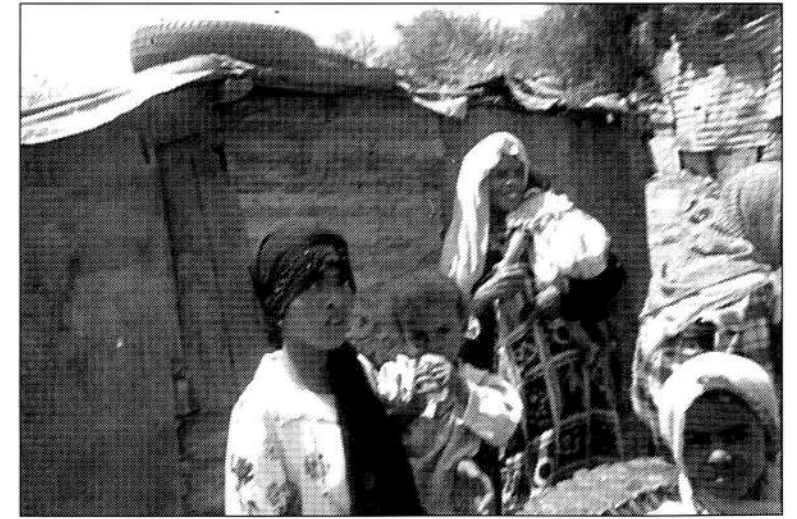
Religion

Sweepers believe in Islam. Its teaching is that human beings are equal; but despite this we see the Muslim community today looks down at sweepers without any genuine reason. They harbor pent up antagonism against sweepers. They do not mention them in their discussions and never talk about their rights and duties. Haunted by discrimination, sweepers, in the past, used to perform their 5-time prayers at their homes. Few who cared to keep themselves clean, did attend mosques for prayers. Today we can see them in all mosques. Sweepers never felt the need to build their own mosques as if telling people that prayers never differentiate between the high and low rank people. It is not a surprise to find that at a certain mosque in Alhujariyah-Al Zarraiqah area, the Imam of a mosque there is a khadem. In the past there were no

preachers who, through their sermons, could draw the attention of people to avoid detesting akhdam but today, international, regional and local laws have tackled such a detest under human rights and other conventions. Akhdam did not even have learned-men or any representation in the State bodies (viz. parliament etc.) to advocate their case and demand justice in the face of discrimination. They are ignorant of most important affairs of Islam. They are excluded from "Da'wa" (The Call).

Tribal Affiliation

Akhdam do not belong to any tribe of Yemen. Within their own society they have their own 'grades'. In each of their settlements they have their own 'aakel' (aged learned man) who settles their disputes.



The fact is that one by one they start gathering in certain area. Then they marry inbetween them to form families. If one family comes from Aden, the second could be from Shabwah and the third from Hodeidah. It is the joint and common need — employment — which makes them assemble in one area. Actually they never belong to the area where they establish their settlement. As the number of families increase, they have their

'aakel' to look after their affairs.

In Wisab Al-Aali (Dhamar) sweepers' settlement area stretched from one end to the other of this considerably large district. The number of 'uqqals (plural of 'aakel') is around 12-15. In between them, these 'uqqals' have elected a Shaikh. His name is Qaed Muhammed Al-Kaboudi who does spend 2-3 months in Sana'a settling all pending issues of his fellow-clan-men. We do not know to which extent the official circles recognize his 'sheikhdom' but he is really a strong man with authority. His services are always needed during elections.

All police stations throughout the Republic have their own special ways and means to solve sweepers' 'special natured' disputes such as bad language, daily scuffles and adultery etc.

Language

Until recently sweepers used to be distinguished through their Tihama accent and phonation. Those who left Tihama area long ago, those who got merged in the society of different provinces and those at schools could not be distinguished easily now as their accent and phonation have changed.

To be continued next week

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS (WFP) VACANCY

The WFP is seeking to fill following vacancy in its Office in Sana'a. Interested applicants should deliver their applications alongwith their detailed CV's in English. Applications from qualified female candidates are encouraged.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME OFFICER

The responsibilities of the National Programme Officer shall include but not be limited the following :

- * to assess and plan the utilization of resources made available to WFP in Yemen;
- * liaise and provide advise to governments, governmental and non governmental organizations and institutions, specialized agencies and multilateral and bilateral donors on optimum utilization of these resources;
- * work in close coordination with national counterparts responsible for the implementation of WFP projects;
- * Monitoring of Project Activities to analyze output indicators
- * visit Project areas, areas, inspect warehouses and project accounting and initiate necessary action for improvements and monitor food distribution ;
- * to collect relevant date relating to the economy of the country and prepare relevant information required for various development projects.
- * issue and interpret operating polices, rules/procedures and maintain up-to-date records;
- * consolidate and edit data provided for programme planning documents; project proposals, project document and project implementation reports;
- * maintain information on all related aspects of activities within Yemen Country Office and advise management whenever appropriate;
- * develop and maintain effective work relationships with counterparts, donors NGOs and other UN agencies;
- * establish priorities and plan, co-ordinate and monitor own work plan and those under his/her supervision;
- * draft clear concise reports/correspondence in English and Arabic perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications:

University Degree, Preferably in economics, agriculture, business administration, Knowledge of relevant WFP specified software (Microsoft Office 95) Excellent command of written English and Arabic.

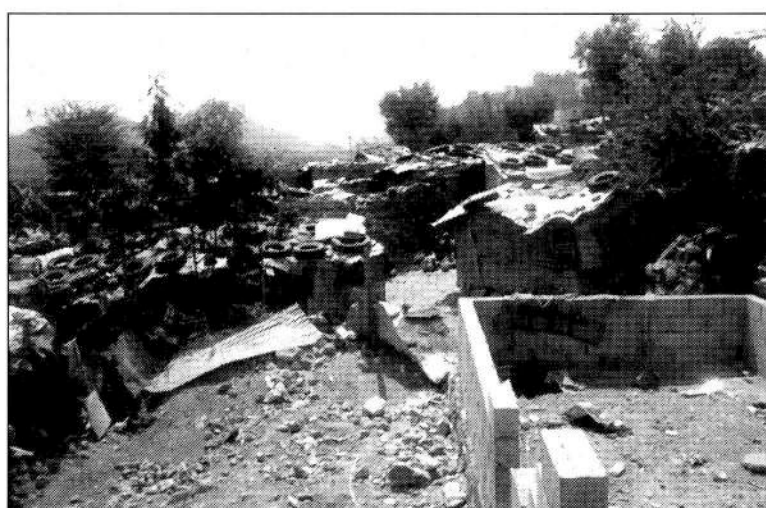
Language:

Excellent command of English and Arabic

Experience:

At least 5 years progressively responsible, Job related experience in business administration, development or food aid support; progressively responsible experience in public sector management, development projects, and/or operational aspects of national, bilateral or multilateral food aid or commercial transactions.

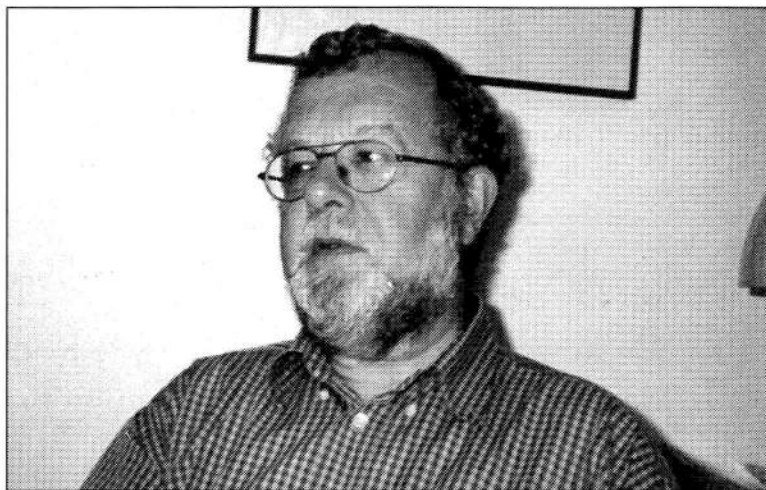
All applications to be submitted to the country Director by 10 September 2000 (12:00 hrs) in closed envelope clearly marked from the top of the outside (APPLICATION) at the following address: UNDP/WFP Building, Off 60 Meter Road, Sana'a or P.O. Box 7181 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.



Ambassador of Netherlands to YT:

“The Dutch Government is involved in many projects in Yemen”

The Netherlands government has been distinguished by its continuous assistance and support to the government as well as NGOs. Lots of public services have been established due the assistance provided through the Embassy of Netherlands in Sana'a. His Excellency, Dr. Arned Meerbug, Ambassador of the Netherlands, has been very instrumental in supporting many of these services in many governorates in the country. On the occasion of the finish of his tenure in Yemen, Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Managing Editor and Mohammed bin Sallam met with him and filed the following interview:



The government has been trying to build up a good, clear and well-controlled and non-corrupt system. This is much better to the country as a whole rather than having some programs scattering here and there. We are not the only institution that is taking this tendency. This, of course, will take time. Besides, the bureaucracy here has to be better organized. Control of the money is not well organized. Therefore, the government has to address these things. We are giving much attention to the health, water and agriculture. We have some activities pertaining to women. We work on different activities to see the position of women. That what we call gender issues. By gender we refer to the different roles of men and women in production and other issues of development. We do help organizations to enhance transparency in these. We will start a small program to train judges how to settle things in courts. We have a cultural program which supports the national museum project. We will support the excavation of Mahram Bilqis in Mareb. We will also help other organizations to protect historic cities. So we are involved in quite a number of projects. Regarding women studies center we used to fund and provide it with some

assistance. However, when the university council stopped it we stopped our assistance. Later, a new center was established though with a new title, we continued our assistance.

Q: What is the contribution of the Dutch government in relieving the problem of water shortage?

A: We are involved with the international water resources authority. We give assistance to build them up. We, will in the future, try to enhance a better irrigation system. We are working in these kinds of activities. However, the people should not depend completely on us. It is the government and the people who have to take action.

Q: How do you assess the development process in the country?

A: I think there is some interesting development in a positive sense and slow emerging democracy on one hand. However, there are some steps backwards, on the other. But I do not want to say much about that. I think the government certainly realize the problems. The problem is the implementation of ideas. The government has a lot to address many of issues in its institutions. That is where we want to help the government, of course, on the request of the government. We do not take any initiatives any more.

Q: Netherlands is considered to be one of the most important donor countries to Yemen. Will you brief us on the projects supported by the Dutch government?

A: Most of the projects are running and we have long-term projects and programs. We have conducted some projects in water and health in Dhamar, Sa'adah, Hodeidah. In the previous year there has been a great change on the way we are going through. In the past we have been trying our best to work with the local population. But we've changed our course now. This is a general idea coming out of the analysis made by the World Bank. We came to know that working with the population is not the most effective way of giving assistance as only very few section of the people will get the benefit of this assistance. So we came to the conclusion that we should help the government or other organizations to build themselves up. At the end when they prove that they are good and trustworthy, only then, we can give them the money and they take the task of building their country. Eventually, this means that the whole population will get advantages of overall program.

Yemen Without Baraddouni

Imad Al-Saqaf, YT Taiz Bureau Chief

Nations' progress is not achieved by wealth only for intellectuals and patriots are needed as well. Yemen, such a poor country, sometime seems rich in intellectuals and creative people such as Al-Baradouni. Abdullah Saleh Al-Baradouni was born in Baradoun village to the east of Dhamar in 1930. He caught smallpox and lost his sight consequently while 6. Despite this, he studied the holy Quran and learned how to read and write. He listened to many poets and began composing at the age of 13. Many of his articles and poems were published in newspapers and magazines. He has to his own credit 12 poem collections and a number of studies and researches. All prizes he won were allocated to enhance his books in the market which were sold at very cheap prices. No other poet has been able to attain the position he had occupied in the cultural history of Yemen.



Al-Baradouni sang the suffering of his homeland. Holding the torch of enlightenment in a country that under the yoke of poverty had been ruined by diseases, he became the most eminent poet in Yemen. He was an enemy of dictators and tyrants and a close friend of the oppressed. I used to wonder what if he died. What would remain in our literary sphere?

who will fill the vacuum his death will create? Now that he is dead, there is no one to fill in his place. Qabani, Al-Jawahiry, Al-Baiati passed away and our great poet had to follow. I can not fancy Yemen without Al-Baradouni. However, I feel that he is still alive in what he left and in minds of those who knew and loved him.


Local Authority and Its Information Plan

Yasser Mohammed Yemen Times

Within the context of moving into the Local Authority System and out of aims of its set up program particularly regarding enhancement of local administration capabilities in various field, the system's program for the remaining period of year 2000 includes: The main item is to hold consultative meetings grouping the governors and higher local leadership. Such meetings are aimed at holding discussions and consultations on proper measures related to implementation of local authority system and their role in this respect. The other goal is to conduct a surveying economic and social study on situations of 12 governorates and to design and set up general information plan for spreading awareness on the

concept of local authority. The meetings are also concerned with reviewing general laws particularly those pertaining to the local authority and all of its administrative systems. Added to that is the carrying out of a study on accomplished of local development and services projects and conditions of their administrations. The major trends of the information plan are the defining of the idea of local authority and its characteristics and the bases of its building and also offering examples on such an experiment in various Arab and foreign countries. It also aims at explaining the local authority law and its regulations and highlighting local rule system importance for consolidating the national unity, the people's constitutional rights and popular contribution to development and running local affairs and decision-making. The information plan also aims at explain-

ing the idea of decentralization on which the local authority system is based. The plan covers two stages. The first stage covers the period from July-September 2000 concentrating on preparing an estimated cost of programs for implementing the information plan to be referred to the ministerial commission to be approved. The second stage, (October - December 2000), focuses on implementing awareness programs targeting officials of the Local Administration Ministry. It also consists of field work of the awareness team comprising members of the technical committee covering all governorates. Performance of the team would include carrying out all awareness activities on the local authority, using all available means.




After a long careful study, we have the pleasure to invite parents to guarantee and secure their children's future by enrolling them in Queen multi-system International Junior College.

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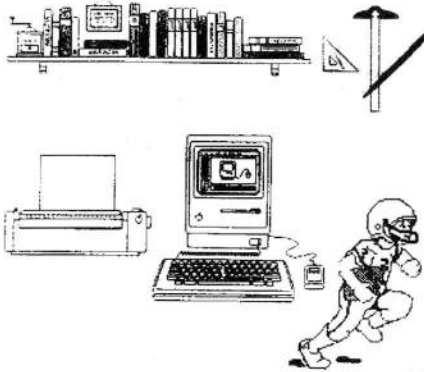
Educational Multi-Systems

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- SAT and TOFEL systems required for studying in American, Canadian and British universities.
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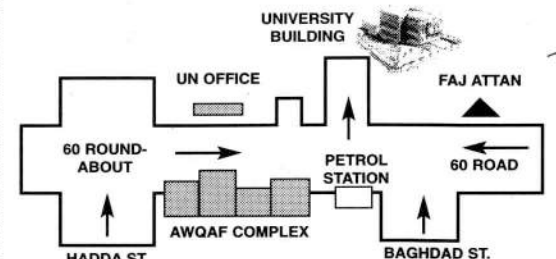
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Queen Arwa University announces the start of registration period in its different colleges for the year 2000/2001

<p>COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dep. of Decoration Eng. - Dep. of Computer Eng. - Dep. Architectural Eng. 	<p>COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Psychology - Women Studies - Social Services - Educational Administration - Managerial Development - System Technology 	<p>COLLEGE OF LAW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of General Law - Department of International Law
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TRAVEL & LEISURE

ITALY



Shams Tabrez
Director of Marketing
United Travels, Sana'a
GSA
Continental Airlines.

It is difficult to understand human civilization without understanding human history. Historical knowledge is a great help in understanding the present which is often contradictory. It also reveals unexpected aspects and explains the origin of behaviors and habits. The route through memory has to take account of man's works and all the traces that man has left in the course of history. To know the past means, therefore to know the territory and the culture that

ROME

"All the roads lead to Rome" and indeed "Rome was not built in a day." This magnificent city is the consummation of 2,500 years of history built up layer upon layer for which time is the witness. Tourists, frequently overwhelmed by the sheer volume of temples, churches, columns, piazzas, mausoleums, baths, arches and the reminders of ancient glories. Rome has numerous world famous buildings. Remains of Ancient Rome (Forum, Colosseum, Arch of Constantine, Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla.) Countless churches (with huge St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican states as the most famous of them.) Remarkable squares (e.g., Piazza di San Pietro, Piazza Navona) and Renaissance or Baroque Fountains



Monreale Cathedral with perfectly - preserved mosaics and fine Greek theaters.

THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

The Mediterranean Coast is picturesque harbors and numerous seaside resorts: among them are:
- On the Tyrrhenian Sea: Amalfi, Capri, Ischia, Portofino, San Remo, Sorrento, Terracina and Viareggio.
- On the Adriatic Sea: Jesolo, Lignano, Rimini.
- On Sardinia: Alghero, Santa Teresa di Gallura and the places of the Costa Smeralda.



formed and modelled it. The Italian peninsula has been inhabited since very early times. The most ancient traces of human presence go back to nearly a million years ago.

Italy has vast number of fascinating sites and cities reflecting the long history of this sunny and much visited peninsula. Storehouse of art from all epochs: building, frescoes, mosaics, paintings. Great variety of landscapes and wide choice of cultural activities.

Western culture owes its roots to Italy, specially Rome and to the Latin world. Most European languages, law, philosophy, historical writings, engineering, architecture, and political and military organizations derive from this ancient civilization. Some Roman military tactics survived until the modern age, such as those of Napoleon.

There is no doubt in it that Italy, the country that gave us Pizza and Pasta, Latin and Loren, Michelangelo and Machiavelli, has, through it thinkers, writers, politicians, saints and artists, contributed more to western culture than any other nation. Their cultural legacy may still be seen throughout Italy in the baroque exuberance of Rome, the Renaissance stateliness of Florence, the misty sensuality of Venice, the southern intrigue of Naples and the northern business sense of Milan.

Geographically, too the country is diverse ranging from sun-baked Sicily at the confluence of the Mediterranean to the valleys and high pastures of the Alps, from the rolling Tuscan countryside to the industrialization of the Lombardy Plain.

(Fontana cti Trevi) some of the world's finest art collections including the Vatican museums with Sistine Chapel.

MILAN

Milan, where the great Gothic Cathedral and superb art collection in Palazzo Brero. Leonardo da Vinci's painted *The last supper* in *Santa Maria delle Grazie*. World famous La Scala Theater and variety of fascinating architectural beauty impresses visitors.

VENICE



Unique city built on lagoon islands, as a matter of fact, it is a sort of cluster of small and large, joined and separated "water sisters." But there are two extraordinary islands, two places of the spirit, which are surrounded by a unique solitude and which deserve a special mention: San Francisco del Deserto and San Lazzaro degli Armeni. These two isles have a very particular charm and beauty. Murano, Burano and Torcello are along with Venice itself the most important representative of the lagoon, of its beauty and art and of the craftsmanship of the people of the ancient venetian Republic. Three islands, three worlds to explore and

which are easy to reach from their "mother" town.

FLORANCE AND TUSCANY

In Florence great masterpieces of art mainly from the Renaissance period. Gothic cathedral with famous campanile and baptistery nearby. Imposing City Hall, numerous remarkable palaces, churches and museums, among them are Uffizi palace with extremely rich collection of art. Pisa: splendid Romanesque building including famous leaning Tower.

NAPLES

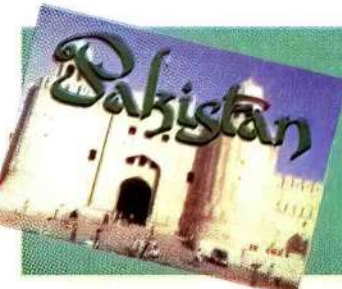
It is very difficult to describe Naples. Like Rome or Venice, it is a unique and particular example of how buildings, streets and squares are only the exterior or covering of something much more complex.

Naples is symbolic of Italian and Mediterranean culture, the cradle of a great theatrical tradition. If you look beyond stereotypes, Naples is a lifestyle, a conception of life, and a philosophy of existence. Those visiting it will find a complex, contradictory and stratified city, where each facet hides another one in an endless game of reality and imagination.

Naples has medieval castles and important archaeological museum. In the surroundings are Vesuvius, the excavated cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, the well-preserved Greek temple of Paestum.

SICILY

Agrigento with its stupendous Greek temple ruins - Palermo monuments from many different civilization including famous palace Chapel: in nearby



Next issue will be on
Pakistan
World's best kept secret



TIPS TO TRAVELLERS

Capital: Rome.
Language: Italian
Currency: Lira (Credit Cards, travellers' cheques and Eurocheques are widely accepted.)
Business Hours: Banks 0830-1330 & 1500-1600 Mon.-Fri. Offices 0900-1700 Shops 0830-1230 & 1530-1930 Mon.-Fri.

Business/Social Hints: Appointments must be made in advance, punctuality is important. Business is conducted in Italian, many executives speak French, some speak English. Smoking is restricted in many public buildings and on transport. Request permission before smoking in offices, cars and restaurants.

Visa: Travelers must have a passport valid for 6 months at least. Yemenis do require visa and it can be obtained through Italian Embassy located at Kulliat Al-Shortah Street, Sana'a - Yemen, Tel No: 2691645

Note: Visitors may be refused entry for public security or health reasons or if the holding visible means of support and onward/return tickets and documents for their next destination.

Clothing: Lightweight in Summer, except in mountains. In Winter, light or medium weights in the south with warmer clothing required elsewhere. Alpine were is advised for mountain resorts.



FLIGHT SCHEDULE & FARE DETAILS

OUTBOUND:		FLIGHTS EX SAH TO ROM			
From/To	Days Of Op.	Flt no.	Dep.	Arr.	
SAH/ROM	TUE/THU/SAT	IY740	0001	0450	
INBOUND:		FLIGHTS EX ROM TO SAH			
From/To	Days Of Op.	Flt No.	Dep.	Arr.	
ROM/SAH	TUE/THU/SAT	IY741	1430	2100	
RETURN FARE:					
BY YEMENIA	US\$467	DIRECT FLIGHT			
BY GULF AIR	US\$550	VIA ABU DHABI			
BY EMIRATES	US\$750	VIA DUBAI			

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Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu Associate Professor College of Education, Mahweet

I. What to say.....

Shopping at a Supermarket

Dr. Ashraf: Thanks for picking me up at work this evening. Dr. Osama. I really appreciate it.
Dr. Osama: No problem, Dr. Ashraf. It's, indeed, a pleasure to have your company. By the way, I have run out of milk and some grocery articles. Shall we stop at the supermarket on our way home to get some for tomorrow morning?
Dr. Ashraf: Yes, certainly. I, too, need some stationery articles which I can buy at the book store next to the supermarket.
Dr. Osama: (drives to the supermarket) Here we are.
Dr. Ashraf: I don't think I have ever been here before. Let's go in.
Dr. Osama: This place is different from the stores we're used to. You can even find the stationery articles you're looking for- and prices seem reasonable.
Dr. Ashraf: It seems to be an easy store to find things in. Goods are displayed in a way that is easy to make the selection, isn't it?
Dr. Osama: Yes, indeed, it is. Usually when I'm in a hurry I come here. It is easy to compare and get the most value for my money. Of course, this time we don't have much of choice, do we?
Dr. Ashraf: No, I guess not. I can see glue sticks and correction pens displayed over there. I needn't go to the stationery shop then.
Dr. Osama: Look they have milk and ice cream, too.
Dr. Ashraf: Ice cream, too? This is probably the only supermarket store in town that sells ice cream. I guess, I can pick up some ice cream- if it's not expensive. At least we don't have to wander round for the dairy products.
Dr. Osama: The prices are also competitive.
Dr. Ashraf: Thanks a lot for introducing me to a very convenient store.

II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences:

- 1) All that is typically human was due to language.
2) The patient died before the doctor arrived.
3) I have passed the M.A. examination in 1981.
4) Every chair and every table in the room were in order.
5) Dr. Khalid as well as his son were honored by the president.

Answers last week's questions:

- 1) This news was broadcast from the Radio yesterday.
2) The thief was arrested and his pockets were searched.
3) Ten were killed and one was taken a prisoner.
Note: The sentence is a combination of two clauses and needs two helping verbs.
4) Islam has been in existence from time immemorial.
5) I have never abused and will never abuse your brother.

III. How to express it in one word:

- 1) person or animal grown to full size or strength
2) make impure, make poorer in quality
3) come or go forward
4) something likely to bring success in competition with others
5) an exciting or dangerous journey or activity

Answers to last week's questions:

- 1) period of life between childhood and maturity: adolescence
2) take someone's into one's family as a relation, especially as son or daughter: adopt
3) love deeply and respect highly: adore
4) dress oneself with expensive dress and jewelry: adorn
5) the giving of too much respect or praise, especially to win favor: adulation

Combine the following pairs of sentences:

- 1) The idea is absurd. - Ahmad has stolen my book.
2) I don't believe it. - I have stood first in examination.
3) I know the place. - He was born.
4) Can you tell me something? - Fadi is late for the class.
5) I have a feeling. - The corner shop opens on Friday.

Answers to last week's questions:

- 1) Only the passenger hurt his arm: no one else was hurt.
2) The only passenger hurt his arm: There was only one passenger who was hurt.
3) The passenger only hurt his arm: No other parts of his body except his arm was hurt.
4) The passenger hurt only his arm: No other harm was done to the passenger except hurting his arm.
5) The passenger hurt his only arm. The passenger had only one arm which was hurt.

V. Words of Wisdom:

"He that labors and thrives spins gold." -John Ray

Plight of Private Schools

Jamil Al-Jewairi Inspector of English

Background

It is quite evident that nations cannot proceed to make real progress unless they have well educated people. High developed countries are aware of the importance of having a strong base on which good education can take place. Even developing countries are now well aware of the fact that no progress can occur without paying a meticulous attention towards the issue of education. They have been trying in many ways to devise suitable policies to improve the quality of education. In some countries, the government has an overall control over education, that is to say, all schools, colleges, etc. are under full control by the Ministry of Education. In other countries, on the other hand, governments have a shared responsibility together with other private institutions. In other words, the private sector is given a room to share responsibility of education. Do these private schools really help improve good education?

The problem

Let me briefly and objectively shed some light on the ground realities to

find out whether private schools are really serving the cause of education. It is no denying the fact that a country like ours is in bad need of quality education and to ensure a properly qualified human resources to achieve progress. Our public schools or, say schools run by government, can certainly perform their job efficiently. However, they cannot assimilate the huge number of students in their classes. In fact, some classes exceed 130 pupils. Such numbers overwhelm the schools and teachers alike, thus making it more difficult to monitor and follow up the student's learning. For that reason the government might have given permission to private schools to help tackle the situation. That seems fine. But are these private schools doing their job well? Well, you and I certainly know the answer. You and I hear now and then of names of new private schools in our major cities. Once we come to see them, we are shocked to see a three-flat school building, i.e., a building designed to be residential flats. Some private schools in Taiz, for instance, do not have doors for their classes. A teacher in one class wouldn't be able to teach because of the noise coming from the next door classes.

How can good learning take place if the atmosphere is missing in the class? Another point I would like to highlight relates to the teachers working there. All teachers there are working on a part-time basis as most of them are employed by the government for teaching in the afternoon shift. They are badly paid and harshly exploited by schools authorities. Even worse, many private schools are totally lacking well qualified teachers. Their permanent motto seems to be "the cheaper the teacher is, the better to be". A good pay for a good teacher-are taboo words and never exist in their dictionaries. To add insult into injury, private schools more often than not have intensive focus on formalities rather than the core of the process itself. They know that students coming to their schools-whose fathers have paid the bills for their education-shouldn't fail the exams. They know already this student wouldn't come to their school if it was in store for him to fail. A student, therefore can easily pass the exam and get high marks no matter whether he is good at the main subject or not. Obviously, these are private fools and not private schools. They fool education rather than serve it. It is so frustrating to notice the hope of having a bright educational system in private schools turn to be a big hoax.

Use it or Lose it

Abdullah Maresh Ali Saeed

Language is, basically, a means of communication. It requires using and practicing it most of the time. To attain certain basic skills in the target language, as learners, we are bound to use this foreign language daily until we are able to communicate confidently in that language at the university. But, what I see here is the contrary. In most of universities scarcely can you see students practicing or speaking the language, though it is their primary task to develop and improve their ability of speech. This represents one of the major problems for the students who desire to learn the foreign language, ex. English. Consequently they graduate without having at least optimal communicative skills in English which forces some of them to have extra courses at some institutes so as to improve their

spoken English skills. Another problem is that a majority of students fail to see the importance of cultivating spoken English skills during their studentship. Some others dare not speak for the fear of being insulted or scolded by some teachers and being laughed at by others. And still others are hopeless and desperate. Therefore, they kill their abilities themselves. They are unable to speak for they are not used to doing regular practice in their practical life. If the hope of these students is just to graduate, then, there can be no opportunity for them to utilize their knowledge. Universities are the best places where students can get the opportunity to speak or communicate. They are also the places where students can improve their spoken skills which are of crucial importance in learning any language. They should exploit this opportunity

to polish and make perfect their conversational skills. Unless our students and teachers are aware of this, the students will encounter difficulties in their future life and career. They are also likely to lose much of this language, they learnt as soon as they graduate from the college. Students should pay more attention to spoken English skills. Teachers should encourage students to speak at every opportunity and not stand as an obstacle in the face of students in their effort to speak. Moreover, students themselves should by some means practice speaking as much as possible. The educated and cultured class should also ponder the current state of foreign language teaching in Yemen. To conclude, educational planners and the university authorities should realize that communicative competence or spoken skills in English are the most important ones that should be given the priority. The less the students use the language, the more they lose it. Hence the need for a concerted action in this regard.

YOUTH FORUM

To You, with Love

You are indeed the most beautiful creature, You'll surely be an excellent teacher, We will be together in the future, You are the candle of Sana'a city, You are the flower of the university, I'm thrilled to hear your musical voice. It's a feast for eyes when I see you, I wait with baited breath to speak with you, Don't you desert me because I'm made for you. Ali Ahmad Abdullah Rajeh

(issue 4, 22 Jan) The Beauty of Life

You, who think life is a joke and wine, Are not you able to see mine? Fearing its misery and harm, You live without its charm.

To me the day and night are the same, Sorrow, like joy, is my life's name, Money is collected by struggle, bringing fears, And love is a flower grown in tears.

If I lose my strength and rest, How will life be rightly spent, And if I quickly get aged, Tell me how to be well used?

In life flowers do fare, Springs is for three months made, So to die relieving other's sorrow, Makes you in life a great hero. Ali Al-Kaheli

The Beginning of Islamic Education

There is an Arab saying "Knowledge and fire are the things that grow by being spread". In the spirit of this

proverb the Caliphs encouraged pious men to teach the Holy Qura'an in mosques, so as to spread knowledge and increase learning. In course of time, different types of teachers appeared. There was for instance, the Qura'an leader who explained the revelations to groups of Muslims in the mosques. There was the popular moral teacher or story teller, who illustrated his discourse with tales from the Holy Qura'an, similar to the ones in the Old Testament, and with accounts of the horses of early Islam. There was also the relater, able to quote Muslim traditions, poems, elegies and proverbs as well as anecdotes about the prophet and his companions. Another kind of teacher was the tutor. When the illiterate Arabs conquered the kingdoms of the Middle East, the spoils of war made their leaders so rich that they were obliged to train their children to manage large estates. Moreover, when they left their tents to live in ancient cities and new garrison towns they had another problem of fitting their sons for urban life. Accordingly, they engaged private teachers to give lessons to their boys. The tutor was expected to offer all the material used by the Qura'an reader, teller and relater of anecdotes and traditions as well as simple arithmetic and the art of polite conversation. His pupils also learned horsemanship, swimming and the use of weapons. It was this humble beginnings which marked the first step in the development of Islamic education. Mohammed Dawood Mohammed

Inter-college Literary Competition Inter-college literary competition, held under the aegis of Faculty of

Education, Mahweet, whose results were recently published in Yemen Times, was a milestone in the Educational process, especially as it was organized in a country where students learn English as a foreign language. Furthermore, this competition not only unfolded the experiences and knowledge that English students in Yemen have earned through the periods of their study, but also showed the range of their intellectual abilities in dealing with language. In other words, it was a comprehensive test and practical work organized in a competitive atmosphere. Moreover, this experiment supported students with further information about literature and improved their habit of writing in English which is really considered as an essential factor in learning this foreign language. I hope that this event would be held regularly and I invite all English students to participate in it in the following years. Through this letter I would like to express my thanks to the panel of judges and appreciate their efforts, especially those of Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, the coordinator of the competition who always makes valuable efforts through the Education page that he presents every week in Yemen Times. He is really an active Associate Professor who deserves our thanks and respect. I think also my teacher Dr. Murari Prasad who helped me to participate in the competition. I cannot forget to thank Pro. Abdullah Al-Najjar, the Dean of the college of Education, Mahweet. I thank all individuals who contributed to accomplish this successful venture. Fawaz Hadi Ali Materah

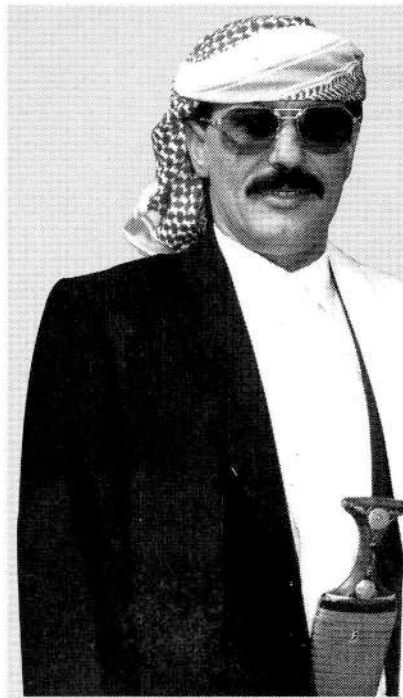
نهني ونبارك للأخ الشاب / زهار محمد زهدي مجني بنجاحه بتفوق في شهادة الثانوية العامة (القسم العلمي) وحصوله على تقدير 94% المهنئون: الزملاء والأهل

We congratulate Mr. Zahar Mohammed Zohdi Mejjani for his passing the final secondary school exams with 94% score.

Friends and family

Yemen Times Publishes Excerpts of the President's Unique and Interesting Interview with "Arrajul"

Know President Ali Abdullah Saleh Up Close



The interview published on the pages of the London-based "Arrajul" Magazine with President Saleh raised a lot of interest among the public because it is among the first to be so personal and publicly giving information about the president's personal life. The interview which was published in the September issue of the magazine was dedicated to focusing on the president as a person, not only as a president. In a direct response to its readers request who demanded to read excerpts of the interview in Yemen Times, we publish here the excerpts of the interview with the most fascinating and

interesting questions and answers. The magazine starts with an introduction on the interview, and concluded with a statement of the interviewer Mohamed Fahd Al-Harithi by saying, "In the long interview that dragged on for more than two hours, I noticed that the President did not hesitate to answer all the questions, and when I asked about his personal life he continued to answer with confidence and never rejected any question, no matter how personal. This despite of my knowledge that he would not prefer to talk about personal issues about his life. As I ended the interview and was on my way out he told me with a smile, 'You chose the right moment and got a different interview.'"

Here are some excerpts from the interview:

work or in solving issues that concern the state or civilians. I spend the rest of my spare time with my children or having a rest. I consider anything accomplished and complete - such as water and electricity projects, building new hospitals or any other national accomplishments such as building the military and strengthening security and stability; hence granting the public the peace of mind - a great delightful vacation. Such activities are for me a much better alternative than spending my vacation abroad, as for me accomplishments are also a great vacation.

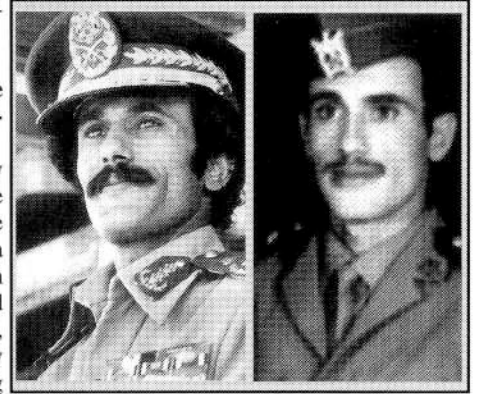
Q: It seems that you lead a serious personal life. What about reading, watching TV and participating in social informal meetings? Do you have time for such activities?

A: Yes indeed. I do get enough time for such activities, especially on Thursdays and Fridays, during which I watch TV and follow satellite chan-

about other various events happening in the world.

Q: What is the nature of the "Maqyal" in the Yemeni society?

A: The word "Maqyal" may have been derived from the word "Qaylula" (siesta) or the afternoon nap. In Yemen, a "Maqyal" is a daily occasion on which relatives, friends, and guests meet. In Yemen, "Maqyal" has become strongly linked to Qat, and its starting time is from 13:00, and is most commonly experienced in warm areas. The "Maqyal" is mostly a more social and cultural gathering in the form of a mini-parliament open for everyone to discuss and exchange ideas and views in relation to everything of interest and concern for the people's issues and views.



Q: I have heard a lot of comments saying that the elegance of the Yemeni President were quite noticeable and always distinguished. What is the secret behind this?

A: I do not exaggerate in elegance, and I carry on my life with easiness. Perhaps the factor of age plays a role in that, as when a person crosses the 50 or 60-year mark, it would be quite difficult for any elegant suite to cover the true age and the fact of crawling towards total senility.

Q: Have you ever dreamed of being the President of Yemen?

A: The historical events were the reason behind making me the president of Yemen. I never had the ambition to be a President. Perhaps any person during his childhood and youth age may dream of becoming a leader, a kind, a minister, an official, or a president. I believe every young person during his early stages of life would wish for such a position.

Q: Now that you have achieved great accomplishments, do you hope that you would leave your responsibilities -retire political life- and turn to your personal life?

A: I hope that after all the great achievements have been accomplished, and after the end of the presidential period, that there would be political personalities from all the different political parties ready to be nominated for the coming presidential elections. I wish that by then, I would not be a candidate so that I would leave the presidential post and take my time in writing my memoirs and whatever I went through during my political life. This is because what is

Q: From your CV, it seems that Ali Abdullah Saleh the child did not get a great deal of basic education during his childhood, but it is evident that you were able to develop yourself in all aspects of knowledge and culture. How did you manage that?

A: As you know, in my times, basic education was not available for everyone in Yemen. However, there were "Katateeb" which are places where basic education in its simplest forms as learning Quran and reading was available. There were schools in main cities, but only the ones who had power, or who were close to the ruling family were able to study at them. I was born in a poor family which did not have enough money to support its children to study at schools, we mainly depended on herding, I was only able to obtain my basic education

the third when you became President for more than 22 years now. How did your personality evolve during these stages?

A: It seems that you may have read my complete profile, and read how my personality evolved during years. My profile clearly indicates how my personality developed until I became president in July 1978. You would also realize the difficulties and challenges I went through during this time to build modern Yemen, to establish security and stability, to restore unity, to combat tribalism, and to establish good relations with neighboring countries. All of these challenges evolved my personality and guidelines. Yemen is among the most difficult countries to rule for many reasons, most important of which is the rough heritage Yemen had from its past. Apart from that, the ruler needs to understand and efficiently evaluate the internal map of Yemen.

Q: You joined the military forces when you were 16-years-old. What was the reason for you that at such an early age?

A: That was a wish come true. I always wished joining the military because I know that it develops real men. As a matter of fact, it is the factory producing strong men. Being in the military makes you feel proud and dignified.

Q: You said in a previous interview you believe that the main problem in Yemen was awareness. Hence, you explained a major problem holding Yemen back from development and progress. What is the solution to this problem in your view?

A: Lack of awareness is not unique to Yemen, but is rather a major problem in the Arab and developing world. Raising the level of awareness needs the development of media and cultural organs, along with efficient role of education. There would be no awareness without education and there would be no awareness under the current circumstances of high illiteracy rate. This requires a lot of efforts, and if there is awareness, it would help develop the country, strengthen stability, and eliminate crimes and any other negative aspects in society. This can only be done through spreading awareness, which is the cornerstone for any progress and development of any nation.

Q: You stressed in several interviews and press statements that you did not wish your son Ahmed to succeed you, and that you will not support him directly or indirectly. Why are you so strict in this regard?

A: This issue has been repeated several times, and for us in Yemen, we did clarify our viewpoint many times. However, the press seems to have not



found the chance to talk about it except with the President. Anyway, we have said more than once that Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh is a normal Yemeni citizen who has the right to fulfill all the duties mentioned in the Constitution as any other citizen. The system in Yemen is a democratic republican system, which is not, in anyway, based on inheriting leadership. The Constitution clearly states how transfer of power takes place in a peaceful electoral manner. Hence, if the 'citizen' Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh wants to nominate himself to be president and to be elected by a certain party or a number of political parties, he has the right to do so. However, I personally will not involve myself in supporting him to be my successor as this is a republican system with a Constitution that limits the presidential period to 5 years. In other words, there is no leadership inheritance in ruling Yemen.

Q: Mr. President.. Many people know your political aspects as a political leader, but do they know about your other aspects as a father and a person responsible for a family?

A: I am a father of six boys and ten girls. I have married two women, and I had a third wife who died several years ago in a traffic accident. She was the mother of my eldest son, Ahmed.

Q: Do you spend enough time with your family?

A: After the official working hours, and after stopping receiving any external telephone calls, I tend to spend sometime with my family and children, either at lunch or dinner, and sometimes during holidays.

Q: When and where do you spend your vacation?

A: I have no vacations abroad. I spend my vacations in the country either at

nels. I do tend to watch the news and political, cultural, and historical programs that deserve watching.

Q: What about sports activities? Do you get the time to do some sports?

A: I exercise a lot in a continuous manner whenever I have time for it. I enjoy playing snooker and bowling and I also enjoy swimming. The most suitable time for me to do some sports is between 15:30 and 19:00.

Q: What are the newspapers and magazines you usually read?

A: I read all the Yemeni newspapers and follow up what Arab and International newspapers publish. It is important for any politician to follow what is being published in the press, otherwise he would be isolating himself from the world around him.

Q: I have heard that you are currently enrolled in a computer training course. Is that true?

A: Not exactly. However, I do have a computer on which I follow news and newspapers through the Internet. But I do not type on computers, and I am not good at that.

Q: How do you spend your weekend, and what are the major activities you do during your vacations?

A: Even though Thursday is an official holiday, I usually receive guests and pay visits to some military units in a slightly less condensed matter as during weekdays. On Fridays however, I sleep until 11:00 and on many occasions I wake up and leave for the Friday prayer. I then come back to have lunch and spend some time with my friends and guests in "Maqyal" - (A Qat chewing session in which people gather to chat about various things)- and exchange ideas and listen to news either about the Arab-Israeli conflict or issues in relation to Jerusalem, Chechnya, or Russia, or

Q: What is the picture you are drawing for the future of the Yemeni citizen? What is the picture you are visualizing that you always hope for and think of?

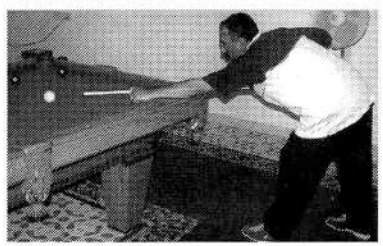
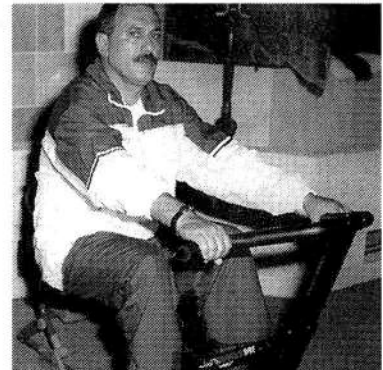
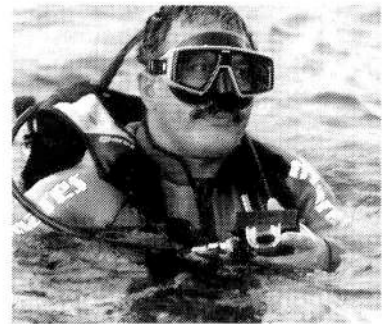
A: What I always wish and hope for the Yemeni citizen is his happiness, peace of mind, and confidence over making ends meet and in his stability, security, education, and culture. It is important for me to see the country and Yemeni people as developed and civilized as other world developed nations. My desire is to see Yemen, which is a country with a great civilization and glory, catching up with the modern civilization and at the same time keeping its own traditions and rich heritage.

Q: When do you feel to be happy and get personal satisfaction?

A: What makes me satisfied and happy at a personal level is everything I give to my country and nation and to any person, and every useful action I take makes me feel happy. Even when I answer the questions of a journalist, and provide perfect answers I also feel happy.

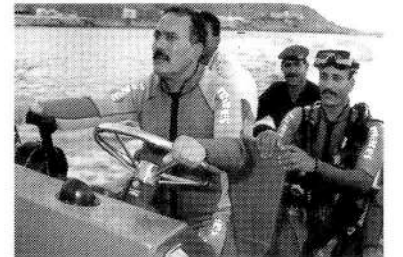
Q: Have you ever been through a time when you felt extremely worried?

A: Of course I have. The times of worries I went through were linked to national issues related to the country. The most difficult moments of my times of worries were over unity, how to establish it, and how to maintain it.



from one of the Katateeb in my village. However, from there, after I joined the armed forces, I started developing my skills and abilities, and participated in meetings in which I listened, discussed and read with and for others. All of this was in an attempt to strengthen my educational and cultural background.

Q: Whoever follows the events in your personal life realizes that you went through three different stages: The first was your childhood until 16, the second was during your career in the military forces, and



important for me is to establish the mechanism of the peaceful transfer of power, and to see the time when the Yemeni people are used to elect their president with total freedom through voting polls.

Q: Have you written anything in your diary yet? And are you keeping any documents to be used in the diary?

A: Of course I have such documents. However, I have not started writing my diary until now. One day, with the grace of Allah, I will be writing down everything in my diary. People have read or heard about many things, but there are many things about me that are of great importance that they need to know about myself.

مبـروك
في جو بهيج يملؤه الفرح والسرور ووسط نصيف من الاهل والاصدقاء احتفل الشاب الخلق وصاح عبدالهادي المسني بدخوله القصف الذهبي... ووالف مبـروك المهنتون:
طله محمد الاديمي، د/ مختار محمد المسني، اكرم عبدالرحمن السقايف، بسام احمد عبدالله، لطفي علي المسني

مـبروك سـمير
نزف اغلى التهاني التبريكات بلباقات من الورد والفل والياسمين للولد/ سمير احمد المهري وذلك بمناسبة الخطوبة عقد القران فالف مبروك ياسمير، المهنتون:
نزه علي محمد العلفي، وال العلفي، المدير عبدالرحمن حميد وال حميد، هشام ونيل وعمر وسعيد الرمي، وال الرمي محمد السبيبي وال المسيني، عبدالسلام عبدالله صبره وال صبره، خالد هادي فرج واخوانه، امين فاخر واحد مله فاطن، سليم وفايد مبارك شمسان وال شمسان، محمد مهندي شمسان، محمد الخامس، وليد عبدالله السقايف

ألف مـبروك
نزف اجمل وأرق التهاني للشباب الخلوقة / يوسف عبد الرب الأصبحي بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف ، فالف ألف مبروك المهنتون:
نائف نور الدين السقايف، اكرم عبد الرحمن السقايف، وجميع الاصدقاء.

ألف مـبروك
اجمل التهاني والتبريكات نزهها الى الأبح/ أحمد مرشد الخولاني بمناسبة ارتقائه مبروتك الجديدة والتي اسماعها (لطيفة) جعلها الله فترة عين والديها. المهنتون:
وليد عبد العزيز السقايف، محمد بن سلام، وليد عبد الله محمد حاتم القاضي، محمد خضر، وطافم صديقة بين تالين.

مـبروك بسام
اجمل وأرق التهاني القلبية مكللة بأريج الفل وشذى الياسمين وعبق الجلتار نزهها الى الشاب الخلوقة / الأستاذ/ بسام عبد الكريم شولق بمناسبة زفافه الميمون... فالف ألف مبروك المهنتون:
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Training Workshop for Coordinators of the WNC

A Training Workshop was held from 27-29 August, 2000, for the Coordinators of the Women's National Committee from different governorates, organized by the Unifem National Management Unit in close coordination with the Women's National Committee in Sanaa.

The training is part of the capacity building program for the Women's National Committee and other women's machineries, organized by the EU funded Post Beijing Phase II Project. The training workshop followed a one day Consultative Meeting which brought together three major stakeholders, i.e., the Women's National Committee, the gender focal points in the ministries, and the focal points from different NGOs. The aim behind this meeting was to define the roles of the different stakeholders expected to work closely together for the purpose of integrating women into development.

The meeting was successful in arriving at some consensus pertaining to the responsibilities of each party as well as some clarity achieved on the mechanisms for tackling the different thematic issues concerning women. It was closely supervised by the Chairwomen Ms. Rashida Al-Hamadani and her deputy Ms. Huriya Mashoor.

The Coordinators from different governorates are the representatives of the Women's National Committee, in their respective governorates, expected to draw up plans for their institution. The training workshop aimed at giving them the skills required in various areas to help them carry out their man-



date. Part of it focused on gender analysis and mainstreaming but a large part of it focused on institutionalizing these issues in their organization, and policy analysis. A lot of discussion was held on the process of identification and prioritization of the crucial issues in their areas, as well as practical exercises in program formulation which was meant to shed light on the difference between a vision and long term aims, strategy, programs and projects, which have a definite time frame, related to evaluation according to set benchmarks.

The participants in general had expressed the view that for the first time they had attended a workshop on gender which they felt was adapted to Yemen and their needs and that they had the opportunity of openly bringing out all the issues of concern to them. In other words, they had felt that the

other workshops they had attended on gender elsewhere had been quite far removed from their socio-cultural environment and this workshop had served to dispel a lot of misconceptions. The workshop gave them the technical skills to analyze and mainstream gender within Yemen and the realities of life for Yemeni women, and thus they could adopt it as their own agenda.

Ms. Samira Ali Bin daair the Program Manager, informed us that this was the second training workshop that was conducted by a National Trainer, this time, Dr. Bilqees Al-Sharee, unlike previous trainings held by the Unit. As she explained, the aim is to create a national cadre of trainers, and create self-sufficiency in this area. Of course contracting national trainers and consultants has its pros and cons; some of which are the lack of confidence in national expertise (even though they

have a better understanding of the national situation) and such workshops have managed to dispel this notion. Other problems she faced was the fact that according to the UN rules, there is a big gap in consultancy fees between the national Consultants and international Consultants who are not always necessarily the best choice. The justification given by organizations is that it is not sustainable to pay national consultants high rates, but Ms. Daair still thinks that a more reasonable rate needs to be fixed in order to attract the best of national expertise. The materials for each of the workshops are tailor made for the particular target group after a needs assessment is made, from the different resources within Unifem training manuals, and materials and examples added from the Yemeni environment. These manuals will be a national resource to be used by other people for other trainings. This is also related to a small project for a Directory of National Experts in the different thematic areas of gender undertaken by Unifem, and questionnaires have already been distributed to different organizations in Yemen.

Creating close coordination between the different stakeholders working on women's issues is one of the main objectives of the Post-Beijing Project, which works very closely with the Women's National Committee on different areas.

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Historical Wall And Gates of Aden

It is no doubt that the construction of Aden's wall coincided with the development of the political and trade importance of Aden city. At a time Aden controlled imports and exports through its historical seaport, the wall played a significant role in defending the city throughout various historical epochs. Many stories have been written on Aden's gate, however, no enough details are found in those writings. In "Taqweem Al-Boldan" Abo Al-Fida mentioned that Aden city had been surrounded with walls since the Islamic period, particularly the Bani Zorai period. The book mentioned that Aden was fenced by fortresses on mountains and the only approach to it

was fenced.

Construction of Aden's Wall and Gates

Aden was under the control of Solaiheyen when they took power in 1059. In 1077 it was made their capital. Many walls and fortresses were built to protect it against possible invaders. During the Ayobeen rule in 1176, it was converted into a trade center. During the same period all collapsed fortresses and castles were rebuilt. In addition, the whole land was walled beginning from Al-Khadhra'a Fortress to Attaakar. Another wall was built along the coast to Haqqat mountain. Such walls contained a number of well-known gates. Those gates were Al-Sabbaghah, Hawmah, Assailah - through which floods water runs, Al-Fardhah - presently Aden's gate, Bab Moshref - also known as Assahel gate and, Bab Haif which was also called Asser (secret) which



was opened only in emergencies. Some historians say that those walls and fortresses were rehabilitated once again during the regime of Rasolians 1232-1455. Besides, they constructed a number of mosques.

Aden's Gate

It is the only approach to Aden and the most famous one through the city's history. Being engraved in mountain it has been described by some historians as unique that had no similar ones in Yemen. Aden's gate has also been known with many names such as Bab Al-Bar, Bab

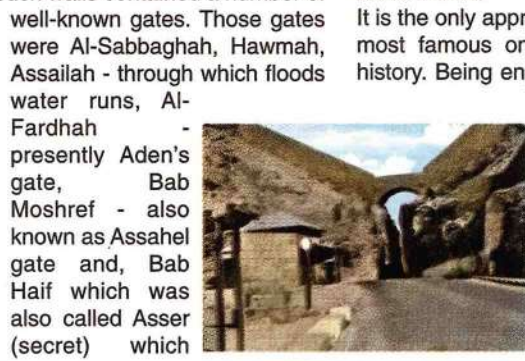
Aden and Bab Al-Aqabah. During the British colonization it used to be called the Main Entrance.

Changes to Aden's Gate

Many changes happened to Aden's gate, specially during the British colonization. The door that used to open and close was removed and a tower was built near the place. Two cannons were placed on Djabal Hadeed as well.

In addition, a zigzag road was constructed on Attaakar mountain. The bridge on the main entrance was destroyed in the 1960s during the expansion of the entrance.

Aden visitors will not fail to see some traces of the gate beside a number of fortresses on Djabal Hadeed, Al-Akhdar and Haqqat mountains.



Siamese Twins Successfully Separated in Hangzhou, August 28 (Xinhua). Siamese twins Baobao and Beibei lie on a bed prior to a separation operation in Zhejiang Provincial Children's Hospital in Hangzhou, capital city of the east China province August 28. The twins connected at the buttocks and rectum were successfully separated after a four-hour operation. Xinhua Photo by Wang Dingchang (wt)

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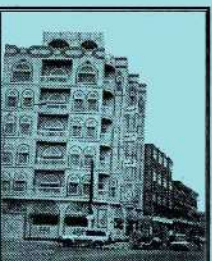
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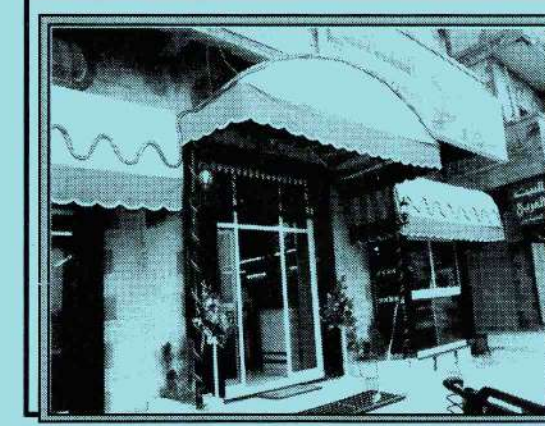
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