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5 Quest for Truth in Feinberg's kidnapping 14+15 Upcoming Local Elections on Focus

As we slowly approach the date of local council elections:

WAR OF WORDS

Less than one month away from the local council elections and referendum day, a war of words and accusations was waged between the ruling party, PGC and the Supreme Coordination Council, led by the YSP.



Jarallah Omar, Deputy Secretary General of the YSP stressed in his exclusive interview to Yemen Times that his party will live despite threats to dissolve it by the authorities. "We will live on to the end," he told the Yemen Times.

The YSP decided on participating in the upcoming local council elections. However, the party has also decided to say "NO" to the constitutional amendments.

The YSP openly accused the Supreme Elections Committee of being biased for the ruling party.

petition of opposition parties in the upcoming local council elections. On the other hand, in another exclusive interview to Yemen Times, Dr. Abubakr Al-Qirbi, Head of the Political Department of the PGC described claims of those apposing the constitutional amendments as unreasonable and

a result of the lack of fully understanding the constitutional amendments. He also mentioned that whoever thinks that the public has lost faith in the PGC is probably living in his own fantasy.

will continue and intensify as we approach the election's date on February 20, 2001.

Yemen Times made extensive interviews with the two prominent personalities, plus many others.

In any case, It is expected that the war of words and accusations

Check complete report on pages 14 and 15.

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News Agencies' Accuracy Failure in Feilenberg's Case Feilenberg Freed on Saturday

German Expert Lothar Feilenberg, was freed and arrived safely to Sanaa last Saturday evening, January 20, after being held kidnapped for three days in Shabwa Governorate. He was kidnapped in the afternoon of Wednesday, January 18, by a group of armed tribesmen from Al-Kurab tribe led

by Ahmed Nasser bin Zeid. Feilenberg is the Manager of the German Company Perussag Energie's Uqla Exploration site, which has two oil diggers and is located around 600 km to the east of Sanaa.



It was reported mistakenly by some news agencies that Feilenberg was freed last Thursday as a result of the mediations of Ali Omar Ba Haisami, while the truth is that he was freed two days later after the successful mediations of Amid bin Fareed and Sheikh Salem bin Hamad Ma'il as the initial mediation of Haisami had failed. See Report on page 5

Tribal Sources Reveal: Saudi Forces Advance into Yemeni Lands

At a time when negotiations between the Yemeni-Saudi parties are in full swing and while the Saudi Interior Minister Nayef bin Abdulaziz is on an official visit to Sana'a carrying out meetings implementing the conditions of the border treaty signed in Jeddah, tribal sources revealed that Saudi armed forces went deeply last Thursday 11.1.2001 into Yemeni territory.

between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in accordance with al-Ta'ef treaty in 1934 and also towards Wadi Selah mountain, to the South of al-Salib, to the South of Qafrah Wadhi Selah and 6-8 km to the north of Jabal Esfein overlooking al-Buqoo. Saudi forces, just as YT went to the press, were paving the way to setting up new military sites and barracks for their forces inside Yemeni lands. "This is a step that goes in direct contradiction with the border treaty signed lately between the two countries in Jeddah and that of al-Ta'ef in 1934," a reliable tribal source added.

Continued on page 19

Sudanese Embassy Appeals Mohammed Adam's Verdict

Many sources raised their eyebrows at the move of the Sudanese Embassy to appeal the preliminary court verdict against Mohammed Adam, the Medical Faculty morgue assistant convicted of killing two female students. The Ambassador sent a petition to the Ministry of Foreign affairs regarding this matter which in turn was referred to the Justice Minister for consideration. A Sudanese living in Yemen commented on this move and said "Sudanese agree with many Yemenis that Mohammed Adam was not alone in committing these crimes. He must have had accomplices, either Yemenis or foreigners. The Yemeni government did not bother to expose these accomplices and arrest them. Therefore, it was important to take part in revealing the whole truth to the Yemeni, as well as the Sudanese people. By executing Adam, the whole case will be nipped in the bud and the question of who his accomplices are will be covered up. The Embassy's action is an attempt to reveal the underlying threads to the public, nothing more nothing less. Judiciary sources maintained that the court was about to complete the case's file and appealing hearings are expected to start on the coming few days. On the other hand, informed sources told YT that some changes within the Sudanese Embassy's staff took place at the Sudanese Consular in Riyadh because of this particular case. The same sources indicated that the diplomatic and informative role of the Embassy was not up to standards in following up the case of Mohammed Adam and giving their country fellowman his due attention.

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Words of Wisdom
"Ruling politicians should not see the elections as simply a legitimizing factor for their continued role. Nor should they use state resources to dictate the results of the elections before hand. Will Yemen's politicians rise up to the task and make us all proud of the elections?"
 Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951-1999)
 Founder of Yemen Times

Our Opinion
Losing Faith in Democracy

As journalists, politicians, businessmen, decision-makers, and intellectuals, we all seem to be much interested in what is going on in the political arena. We are anxious to know what the stands of the various political parties will be in regard to upcoming elections and constitutional amendments.

The issue of the upcoming local council elections and referendum, both to be held on February 20, has topped the news headlines in newspapers and magazines, and as Yemen Times, we were no exception. However, while I was going over one of the newspapers looking for articles about this issue, I found an interesting little cartoon. In the cartoon there was some sort of an objective tragicomedy display of our situation in Yemen in relation to democracy. In the cartoon, there was a poll box, with an open slot for voting cards. A skinny poor citizen, who seemed to be staring at the box, was asked by the official standing near by, "So, what would you like to get out of these elections?" The poor citizen answered politely, "All I want from the elections is the that they give me the wooden box they are using to put these papers in, perhaps I could manage to built a cart for my business." This simple cartoon explains many things at the same time.

First of all, it explains a simple reality; most Yemenis are yet to understand what their rights are, and how they could be used to serve them. Second, it expresses the economic burdens faced by Yemeni people in the present time.

Third, it shows that even those people who know about elections and democracy, have lost hope in the elections and in the democratic process. They see it as routine, and sometimes believe they are pre-decided. Even though this cartoon may not reflect the reality, it explains to us that we still have a long way to go. In fact, we have most of the road ahead of us.

I sometimes wonder: Do people in the streets know what these elections are all about? Do they trust that their vote would make a difference? Do they believe that every vote counts? Do they believe that elections may be pre-decided or not neutral?

I know that the answers of the above questions are not to be predicted by me, as they require not only a survey, but reading the minds of these people, as they would probably not express themselves in a clear and frank manner.

I know that frustrations could drive the public to lose faith in the democratic process resembled in the elections. But having an election is still much better than having nothing at all. Going to the polls to vote is still a healthy process, even if these people think that the results may be pre-decided. At least this way, when a clean and accurate election process is carried out, we would not need to teach them how to vote all over again.

It may be true that some have lost hope in democracy in Yemen. But only the government and leadership could stop this from continuing. It is not difficult to establish a clean and neutral election process. It only requires a strong commitment by the decision-makers. Once a clean election is carried out, all we need to do is wait for the democratic process to regain the trust of the people. It is a slow process, but it is still, worth the patience.

Yemeni Women Researches Forum Concludes

The Scientific Forum for Yemeni Women Researchers was inaugurated last Tuesday under the theme "Towards an Intellectual Attitude of Muslim Women". Fifty researchers and a number of social figures from different governorates participated in the forum. The forum aimed at introducing the scientific qualifications and abilities of Yemeni women, joining scientific research efforts, consolidating friendships and relations among

Yemeni researchers, establishing a scientific council for Yemeni women scholars etc. Among the papers discussed was "Duties of Yemeni Women Researchers" by Dr. Amat Assalam Ashami. The paper stressed the importance and significance of researchers to highlight all walks of life. Dr. Khadijah Al-Heisami, Professor of Political Sciences at Sana'a University lectured on the impor-

ance of scientific research as a way to create suitable solutions to problems. She called for establishing a national scientific organization to outline research plans and to cooperate with universities, research centers, ministries, etc. to execute those plans. Dr. Dawood Abdulmalik Al-Hidabi concentrated on researching from an Islamic angle. He highlighted the two famous schools of research; quantity and quality, and their supporters. The other papers discussed the different challenges facing Muslim women and how to confront them.

Rational Use of Drugs: Workshop

A workshop under the title "Rational Prescribing of Medication-Protect" was organized by the Yemeni Society for the Rational use of Drugs and sponsored by the British Embassy and British Council in Sana'a and Aden Universities. It was last Saturday 20.1.2001 in Sana'a University's Medical Faculty. The project aims at improving the competency and performance of doctors and to make the use of drugs more rational. 25 male and female doctors will be trained in this workshop lasting for five days. In the inauguration ceremony, a number of speeches were presented

asserting that the problem of the irrational use of drugs is causing worldwide concerns. Studies conducted on drug prescriptions in Yemen, revealed that a good number of doctors come to prescribe more than ten items of drugs for one patient, besides which, more than 50% of these drugs are antibiotics. Some other doctors tend to prescribe antibiotics to whoever comes for treatment which is not always the proper thing to do. Neither is it good to prescribe vitamins. The study showed that there was weak a sense of responsibility on the part of doctors to rationalize the use of drugs,



making it urgent for Yemen to take serious measures to put an end to this reckless practice. In the ceremony attended by the Health Minister, the British Council and British Embassy representatives, speeches were presented focusing on this issue.

14-October Celebrates its 33rd Anniversary

The daily newspaper, 14 October, celebrated its 33rd anniversary last Friday, January 19 2001. The first edition of 14 October Newspaper came out in 1967. The newspaper has been able to achieve tremendous accomplishments during the last years under the leadership of

Editor-in-Chief Mr. Ibrahim Al-Kaf. On this occasion, the newspaper celebrated its anniversary in Aden in the presence of the Governor of Aden Mr. Taha Amed Ghanem, Deputy Governor Mr. Abdulkareem Shaif, and a number of political and social figures.



During the celebration, several employees working on the newspaper were given awards of appreciation. The newspaper itself has also been rewarded the Arab Journalists Shield in appreciation of its leading role in serving the media in Yemen and the Arab world. On this occasion, Yemen Times wishes to extend its utmost congratulations, wishing it more prosperity in the years to come.

Aden and Security Process 1995-2000

The Security Department in Aden governorate published a documentary book concerning what has been achieved regarding security in Aden over the last five years. The book was the result of many efforts exerted by security men to record the issue of security. The 300-page book includes three sections each one including several chapters. The book reveals statistics about the crime rate from 1995 reaching 2726 and from the year 1999 reaching 2274, showing an

annual decrease of 4.4%. The book also includes information about the explosions and bombing incidents taking place during this time and also contains pictures of the victims of these incidents and the tools used in these crimes and seized by security men with the convicted. The explosion incidents in 1995 were 14, in 1996 were 13, in 1997 were 15, in 1998 were 32 and in 1999 were 14. There were also more than 94 cases of deliberate murder while there were 140 deaths



due to these incidents and 3139 injuries. The second section includes 6 chapters revealing what was achieved through these security measures during the five years.

IN BRIEF

Mr. Ezz al-Din Congratulated
 Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Saif, SEC member & Information and Public Relations chairman, sent a letter of congratulation to Mr. Ezz al-Din Saeed Ahmad, Hritic chairman, for being chosen as Person of the Year 2000 in the Yemen Times. Mr. Mansoor wished Mr. Ezz prosperity and success in his practical life.

from the main head office in Sana'a, subsequently stopping the 10% support the main office used to receive from revenues of these sub-offices. They protested about the general authority not being able to pay salaries of employees and objecting to the authority not submitting the insurance fees that the authority takes from the 600 employees' salaries to pay the General Pension and Insurance Authority for around 2 years.

P&G Life Journey, Third Draw Witnessed

The third draw of the Life Journey organized by the Procter and Gamble Company was held last Wednesday 17.1.2001 at the company headquarters in Sana'a. The draw was from all the governorates of the republic. The event was attended by a number of businessmen, outstanding social dignitaries and media men.



Constitutional Amendments Under Discussion

A seminar on the constitutional amendments and local elections was organized last Wednesday and Thursday by the University of Taiz. Quite a good number of academics participated in this seminar. Working papers presented in the seminar asserted the importance of people taking part in the local elections labeling it as a real test for the democratic practice in the country.

200 Employees Stages Demonstration

Around 200 employees of the General Water and Sanitation Authority staged a demonstration for the Cabinet office, asking for their salaries, which have not been paid to them for two months. Demonstrators complained in a letter to the PM Dr. Eryani about the deteriorating situation of the authority due to financial and administrative affairs, said to be due to separating offices of Sana'a, Aden and Hodeidah

Women Political Rights: Seminar

The Women's Studies and Training Forum will hold a seminar this coming Wednesday on political rights in the Republic of Yemen. In the seminar five working papers will be presented and discussed, focusing on the importance of giving women their social and political rights and access to the positions of decision making.

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Mr. Mahmood Ayub, WB director, to YT:

"In Yemen as in many other countries we have tried to build trust and cooperation between NGOs and governments tend to want to regulate them too closely."

Mr. Mahmood A. Ayub, Pakistani national, is the WB new director of the Regional Office located in Cairo for Yemen, Egypt and Djibouti. Completing his Ph.D, he immediately joined the WB. He held many positions including Senior Industrial Economist working extensively on Indonesia, Costa Rica and Brazil, Division Chief of the End User Support Division in the Bank's information technology services department, Division Chief of Macroeconomics Division in the Middle East and North Africa region, Region's Senior Operations Advisor of bank's Africa Region and then as Country Director for Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. On September 1, 2000 he took over as the Director of the WB office in Cairo, Egypt. He speaks six languages and has published widely on economic development issues. He came to Yemen on a short visit to meet with the authorities and get first hand knowledge of Yemen. Yemen Times met with him and filed the following interview:

Q: What are the main issues that you discussed with the government officials?

A: Since this was my first visit to Yemen as Director, the objective was to listen to the Government officials, representatives of the Yemen civil society and other development partners on the successes and challenges of Yemen. I assured the Prime Minister and his team of my full commitment to build further on the already excellent relationship between Yemen and the World Bank. And we discussed some specific operational issues.

Q: What are the projects that you visited during your stay in Yemen?

A: Because the visit was short, I only had an opportunity to visit some Public Works and Social Development Fund projects near Sana'a. Since I will be coming to Sana'a quite often, I plan to make as many field trips as possible to get a real picture of our operations in Yemen, and to know this fascinating country better.

Q: What is the role of the World Bank in terms of alleviating poverty? How do you assess the Yemeni government policy in this regard?

A: The World Bank's mission is the alleviation of poverty. Poverty in a world of plenty is an unacceptable reality, and World Bank staff are genuinely committed to fight poverty with passion and with professionalism. To fight it with the heart and with the mind. We have come to realize in our daily work that successful development is shared development. It is intolerable that in this age of great wealth and technological development, deep poverty persists. More than a billion people still live on less than a dollar a day, and almost three billion live on less than two dollars a day. Millions, especially children, go to

bed hungry every night. So the Bank's role is to work through projects, programs, analytical work and close coordination with all development partners to help alleviate poverty around the world.

The Yemeni government has been working towards the same anti-poverty goals as the Bank. When we assess its policies in this regard, we have to keep two main ideas in mind. First, we have to look at the bigger picture of the government's economic development efforts, not only specific items targeted at the poor. We want growth that is pro-poor, not simply charitable redistribution. In this sense, the government has been moving steadily for the last five years to put in place policies that will help Yemen grow, and help the poor share in that growth. For example, while it is moving towards privatization to encourage greater job-creating private investment in Yemen, it is also expanding both basic education and technical training to give workers the skills that new enterprises demand. And the new Local Authorities Law will stimulate local enthusiasm and commitment to solve local problems. The Social Fund for Development fits right into that new environment, with micro-credit for the poor, support for local schools and health clinics, etc. At the same time, the government is trying to improve the direct "safety net" programs to help the most vulnerable groups. So we think the policies overall are quite good. The second main idea to remember, however, is that the government is trying to move Yemen up from its current place among the poorest countries in the world - and the constraints are enormous. So when things don't go as fast as we all would like, our first priority is to go beyond analyzing the problem, and roll up our sleeves and get to work with our Yemeni partners to solve it.

Q: Many are the economic side-effects resulted from implementing the economic reform programs. Is there a specific vision to alleviate these effects? How does the WB assess the social security network and the funds that are made to tackle some of the negative consequences of these reforms?

A: First I would like to comment on the side effects of the economic reform program, and then speak about the programs to handle vulnerable groups. I want to dispel the myth that price increases, unemployment, and other complaints all have their roots in economic reforms. The opposite is true: without the main economic reforms that have stabilized the economy in the last five years, Yemen would have suffered continued hyperinflation, international credit (and willingness to forgive debts) would have dried up, business would have come to a standstill and laid off workers, and only the powerful could have prospered. Instead, the reforms have stabilized the economy and put it on a more sustainable footing, while protecting the most vulnerable citizens.

This leads into the second part of your

question, about the social security network. The goal is to make sure that all those who are vulnerable to the adjustments are protected. This "safety net" has two main parts: a system for public employees - in privatized public enterprises or the civil service - who may lose their jobs because of privatization or size adjustments, and a system for everyone else. The public employee system will ensure that no one needs to leave the service without a generous package of support. The private sector safety net is more diverse; it has three main cash transfer programs and three work-related programs. The largest cash transfer program is the Social Welfare Fund (SWF), which has grown dramatically since 1997, under a program agreed with the IMF. Last year it provided payments of almost YR7.7 billion, reaching 450,000 cases (an estimated 3 million people, or about 70 percent of the poor). These figures probably overestimate its impact on the poor, since its geographic coverage does not match the distribution of the poor, within poor areas its targeting is subject to error and misuse, and the funding allowable per beneficiary family is far less than the poverty line income. But with careful attention to targeting, this Fund can make the difference for many Yemenis between frugal dignity and absolute misery. The other two cash transfer programs, run by the War Veterans Fund and Tribal Affairs Commission, last year reached 29,000 and 9,400 cases, respectively, with a total of about YR1.5 billion - much larger per capita than the SWF, but limited to a relatively small number of people.

The three work-related programs generate employment and public facilities which generally help the poorer segment of the population. The World Bank funds all three of these through government projects. The largest is the Social Fund for Development, which has done wonderful work helping communities to implement their high priority projects, ranging from education to micro-credit to cultural heritage preservation. The second program, nearly as active, is the Public Works Program which efficiently supports community proposals for basic public infrastructure such as schools, water, health facilities, and roads. During my visit, I had the opportunity to see both Public Works and Social Fund projects. The third program is the Southern Governorates Project, for farmers in southern Yemen who lost land when it was returned to pre-revolutionary owners. It is helping them develop other lands as well as social and off-farm income development.

Q: World Bank has some kind of association with NGOs. Will you please shed some light on this relationship? What is the WB's assessment of the NGOs activities so far in Yemen?

A: We have increasingly come to appreciate the great value that NGOs can bring to development work. In Yemen as in many other countries we have tried to build trust and cooperation between NGOs and governments tend to want to regulate them too closely. Except on a very small scale we cannot support NGOs directly, but in many cases we learn lessons from them which we apply on a large scale with our government partners. This has worked extremely well in Yemen in the case of the Social Fund for Development, a government organization which does much of its work through Yemeni NGOs. In comparison to many other countries, the NGO community in Yemen is still fairly small, poorly organized and funded, and not very diversified into such areas as public advocacy vs. charity. But it has grown tremendously in recent years. Looking at the combination of expanded funding under the Social Fund for Development and new opportunities arising from the decentralization of government, we are very optimistic about its future.

Q: What are the current projects that the WB is working on with the Yemeni government?

A: Yemen is one of our most active partners in the Middle East and North Africa. In terms of ongoing projects, we have 22 projects under implementation with total lending commitments of \$665 million. Our projects are almost as diverse as Yemen's development needs, but they are concentrated on education and training, water and sanitation, and public sector administration and policies. For the future, we are preparing projects with the government in water management, farmer support, rural roads, health, and the prerequisites for attracting more private investment to Yemen.

Q: Media is considered to be the fourth state of any democratic country. It plays



a pivotal role in ensuring development and exposing corruption. Does the WB have any kind of programs to support the media and train journalists?

A: We believe that the press can be a powerful force for education, public dialogue and good governance, and we have a number of programs to improve its quality. The most important one is run from our office in Sana'a, which provides for periodic seminars on the problems of development and our role, as well as frequent press briefings. Stepping back from the immediate concerns of Yemen, our World Bank Institute also conducts training courses for regional journalists on such topics as economic journalism (to improve reporting on economic issues) and investigative journalism (to help the press play a responsible role in fighting corruption). Finally, we also offer a small number of graduate fellowships each year, open to journalists among others, to provide an opportunity for advanced training at the master's or doctoral level.

Tawfeek al-Shara'abi
Yemen Times

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Quest for the Truth in Feilenberg's Kidnapping



Report by Hassan Al-Zayidi Yemen Times

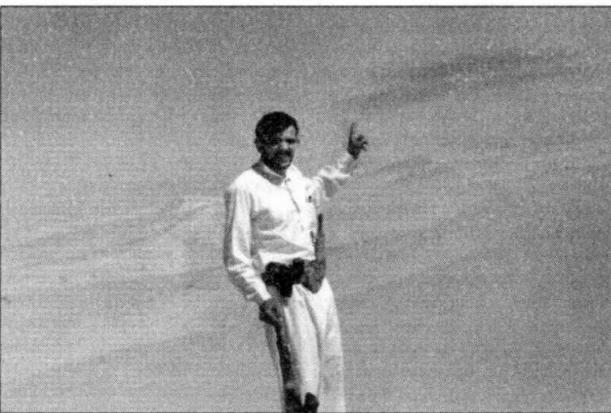
It all started when we heard of the news of a German expert kidnapped in Shabwa governorate on Wednesday afternoon. I immediately called the editor-in-chief to inform him of what had happened and to get the green light for a long journey to find out the truth. Who kidnapped him? Where? Why? Plus many other relevant questions needed a quick answer, for the press, time is invaluable. I slept that Wednesday after planning my trip to the remote region, where the kidnapping took place. I woke up the next day (Thursday January 18) and headed to the YT office, where I described my plan to the editor. After getting his final approval to start the journey, I went back home and packed my stuff for at least a three-day journey to the heart of Shabwa governorate. Once I stepped out of my home, I realized it is a tough task, but I love challenges, that is why I decided to take this particular challenge.

I rented a car and headed to Mareb, my hometown city. Once I arrived, I rented another car, this time a 4-wheel drive jeep, and invited three of my close friends, who have extensive knowledge of the deserts and the geography of the area, which they toured tens of times before. We drove confidently through the vast deserts in the area, and crossed the "Sab'atein" desert, which is famous for its numerous oil fields. After driving for around 250 km to the east through the Empty Quarter Desert, we were shocked to hear news reports from some news agencies and radio channels saying that the abducted expert had been freed. Knowing that we still had a long way ahead of us before reaching the expert's company's location, we decided to discontinue the trip and revert to Mareb. But just as we arrived to an area near Mareb, I wanted to make sure about the news, so I called a few official and trusted tribesmen and asked them about this issue. I was surprised once again to find out that all these agencies were wrong. They provided false report that Feilenberg was released while he was still in the hands of kidnappers. I felt frustrated and

deceived by the agencies, and decided to once again go back and continue my journey to the target region, where the expert was kidnapped.

After 6 long hours, we arrived in Hileywa, the region where there exists many fields for Jennah Hunt-Yemen Oil Company. Later on, we reached Obad, where we found one of the fields of the Saudi oil production company, Al-Namir. Seventy kilometers away from there, we finally arrived to the exploration site of the German company Preussag Energie, in an area called "Al-Uqla".

There we could only find large oil exploration structures and utilities. We found a lot of Chinese workers in the area, most who were quite friendly and interested why a journalist come all the way to this remote area. "Are you here to take pictures!?" a Chinese worker asked. I smiled and answered positively, and took his picture, which



Feilenberg, after his safe arrival in Sanaa

he felt delighted by! I told him that we had come to get more in-depth information from the staff or workers of what exactly happened when the German expert was kidnapped. One of the Chinese workers (whose photo is shown) explained that he only heard that the head of the operations team of the exploration unit, Mr. Feilenberg was kidnapped the other day by tribesmen while he walked out of the camp. By then, none of the workers knew his fate. As I continued to listen to our Chinese friend, it was so difficult for me to understand a word of what he said. I later talked to other workers, who told me that they did not see for themselves how the incident happened, all they were told is that they should continue working without any interruption. I

hostage? I wondered. After contacting a number of tribesmen in the area, and identifying the right route to where the kidnappers' tribe, Al-Kurab is, we continued our journey to the tribe's location, where we found tens of armed tribesmen guarding the place. We learnt that the mediators had arrived at the location and started negotiating the release of the expert. These mediators were headed by Ali Omar Ba Haisami, a member of parliament, who is said to be originally from the area. Negotiations were intense in a time that the world thinks that the man was free, thanks to false reports by some news agencies!

We asked mediators how things were going, they stated that negotiations were continuing, and there was no indication whatsoever if he would be released that day (Friday). We asked the kidnappers why they did what they did. Their answer was clear and short: "They preferred to bring other workers from the 'Nessiyeeen' tribe to work for the company in our region. We cannot accept this. If there are any employment opportunities, our tribesmen are more eligible for these jobs, after all, it is our land. Our tribe, Al-Kurab, which is a Bedouin tribe, most of whose members live in tents and dominate most of the areas of Al-Uqla, Asakir, Al-Usailat, and Jarwan." We tried to get into the exact area where the kidnappers were holding the hostage, but were not allowed in by the tribesmen who had bazookas hanging over their shoulders. After trying extensively to work out a deal with the guards to let us in in exchange for whatever they wanted, all we got was a threat of them shooting us with their automatic rifles. So, we realized that we were no match for them and quietly went away.

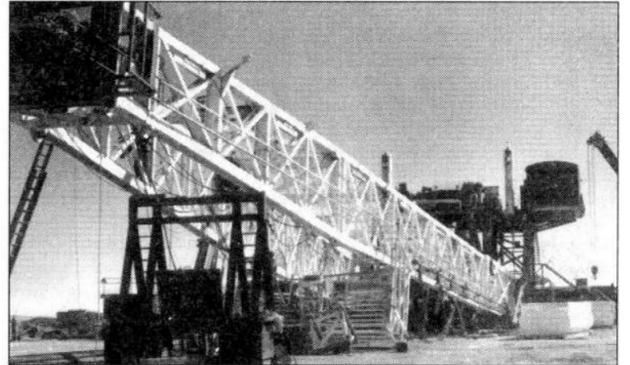
Friday evening, we were surprised to find out that the negotiations had failed, and Ba Haisami decided to cancel further negotiations and return to the city of Attaq. Realizing that the kidnapping will take longer than expected, we also went to Attaq to further contact the Shabwa Governor and other security officials concerned. There, a prominent security official stated that there are political

motives behind the kidnapping incident but provided no more information.

We also met with Mr. Ahmed Al-Rassas, Governor of Shabwa, who told us that negotiations had resumed by sending Sheikh Salim bin Hamad Jalal, along with the Chief of the Military Region, Awadh bin Fareed.

Fortunately, the kidnappers were persuaded to release the hostage after some commitments had been given by Awadh bin Fareed, who is a trusted person in the tribal community for his previously successful mediation efforts, which resulted in an agreement of having members of both rival tribes, Al-Kurab and Nessiyeeen employed in the company. The hostage was finally released on Saturday morning, and taken to the company's Sanaa branch.

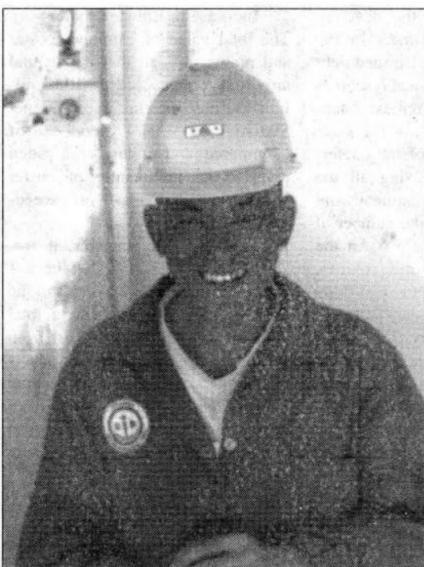
In the Sanaa branch, I talked with the General Manager, who stressed the importance of not creating any confusion or chaos in regard to the company's stand in Yemen, and hence did not allow us to interview Mr. Feilenberg. It is worthy to mention that Preussag



Energie had started oil exploration in the Uqla region at the end of last year, despite the fact that they had been received with gunfire on arrival on the first day, according to reliable tribal sources.

We were able to obtain photos of Lothar Feilenberg, who is the 23rd German abducted in Yemen since 1996, and the 151st foreigner kidnapped since the same year, during our visit to the company's main branch in Sanaa.

Shabwa governorate has witnessed the arrival and leaving of many companies working on exploring oil in the region. Despite the common belief among tribesmen that there exists plenty of oil in the region, many companies have concluded otherwise. Among the companies that left the governorate was Al-Namir Petroleum, which is owned by Saudi investors, which declared its withdrawal from the area where it was operating a few weeks ago.



learned from them that the number of workers was around 60, all foreigners, and all working on exploring the possibility of oil fields in that area. They said that they may need to dig for six more months before they could know whether there is oil there or not. After thanking the workers for their "little" information, I took photos of the location, the desert, just to show our readers how difficult it would be for anyone to hide or run in such difficult circumstances. There were no mountains to hide in, where could they have taken the



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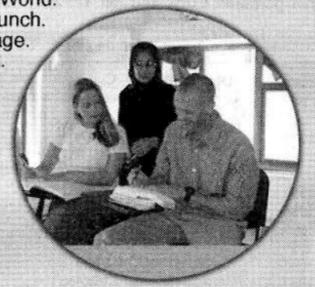
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5th Businessmen Conference in Aden: DID IT ACHIEVE ITS GOALS?

The Fifth Businessmen's Conference which was held in Aden, Jan.15-16, and organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden in coordination with the Ministry of Immigration, Ministry of Planning and Development, Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training and the GTZ, was successfully concluded last week with important resolutions.

More than 480 businessmen participated in the sessions, 45 of them Yemeni immigrant businessmen from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tanzania and Kenya. The conference sessions presented and discussed issues related to investment and human resources development. Participating businessmen and investors presented several serious questions and projects in regard to investing their assets in Yemen. They all expressed hopes that the government would respond positively to the dilemmas raised and the challenges facing investors in Yemen, as well as fully implementing the investment law which is supposed to secure investments in the country.

Participants expressed their gratitude for the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Immigration, which according to immigrant businessmen played a vital role in communicating with immigrant communities and in approaching Yemeni investors abroad.

The conference held its opening session in the Aden Hotel's Palestine Hall, in which a political speech was made by the Governor of Aden, Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanem. In his statement, Mr. Ghanem assured the participants that President Ali Abdullah Saleh is concerned and interested in creating the adequate atmosphere facilitating investment in the Republic of Yemen. Mr. Ghanem added that recently, a number of measures have been taken to encourage investors to invest in land and real estate all over the country. He further pointed out that there are intense efforts to encourage investors to launch their own projects in the Aden Free Zone.

Later during the opening session, Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Sofan, Minister of Planning and Development said in his speech that the government's concern is focused on cooperating with the private sector to push developmental projects further. He added that the conference would certainly promote ideas that should be discussed by government and businessmen alike.

Other speeches were given by Mr. Mohamed Omer Bamashmous, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden, Mr. Ibraheem Abdulrashid, the Under Secretary of the Ministry of

Immigrants, Mr. Abdullah Asunidar, Chairman of the Sana'a Chamber of Commerce, and prominent businessman, Mr. Ahmed Saleh Bin Mahfoudh.

To assess the success of the conference, and whether it achieved its goals, Yemen Times interviewed a number of participants to get their opinions regarding the conference.

The issue of "Human Resources Development"



Mr. Abdosalm Alathori, General Manager of the Yemen Industrial Society praised the efforts that led to the holding of the conference and stated that the holding of businessmen's conferences on a regular basis has become a positive phenomena due to the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden.

"The lack of human resources development in Yemen is a dilemma forming a major obstacle for investors in Yemen. Developing human resources is a vital aspect that if properly carried out would help diminish unemployment and enable us to train and qualify Yemeni labor instead of importing skilled expatriate workers from abroad. I am glad that this issue has been raised in the conference, as it was about time we did so," he said.

Nothing New in the Conference



"This is the fifth time I attend the businessmen's conference in Aden, as I have attended all the conferences since the beginning. But as I see it, I find nothing new on the surface," stated Mr. Saleh Omer Ali Salam Almoahadi, an immigrant and a housing-field investor. He later added, "As usual, there was nothing more than discussions, recommendations and decisions resulting from this conference, just like all the previous conferences. All that results from these events is no more than ink on paper."

Mr. Almoahadi desperately continued, "We only want our homeland to present us what is being offered to us by other countries in the region. We are serious in planning to invest here, but facilities, stability, security and a clean judicial system, as well as good coordination, and knowing whom to deal with in the authorities, are things that are of vital importance to us, but are simply not available. As investors, we need legal protection. There ought to be well-enforced laws to protect investors and their investments. I have



been suffering from many dilemmas with my investments in this country for more than ten years now. There are some departments that are too selfish and seem not to care about the country's overall interests."

Saudi Instruction to Invest in Yemen



The Head of the Yemeni Community in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Taha Mohamed No'man Alhimyari, described the activities of the conference as theoretical and artificial. Yemen Times asked Mr. Alhimyari about what is needed by serious investors and he replied, "We came here not to listen to theories. This is not a scientific conference. We admit the presence of some honest officials, but there is much more to be done. The government of Saudi Arabia had instructed Yemeni-Saudi investors to invest in Yemen. But there should be solid action by the Yemeni government to give us a start." "Our investment orientations will be in areas of industry, trade and state properties," Mr. Alhimyari added.

Businesswoman Presence in the Conference



It was a delightful surprise to see that there were some businesswomen participating in the Fifth Businessmen's Conference in Aden. Yemen Times was able to talk to Ms. Najat Juma'an, Assistant Professor in Business Administration, Sana'a University and Deputy General

Manager for Finance and Administration affairs at Ahmed Mohamed Juma'an Cooperation, to get her views on the conference. "I have attended the conference as an academic not as a businesswoman," she said.

"I want to say that this is the first time the three most influential parties are involved in a businessmen's conference. By the three parties, I mean the government, private sector, and academia. I realized that when those three parties met, the conference would become an opportunity to discuss various issues, including the two main issues of investment challenges and human resources developments," she added. She further continued, "Mr. Bamashmous has spoken about the difference between subscription and stock shares on one hand and subscription and circulation on the other, and how people circulate them wrongly. Our duty in the conference was to clarify to the public such misunderstood concepts and wrong implementations and create a common language with obvious and clear structures to facilitate working for the same goals."

Resolutions must be implemented



Sheikh Saleh Salem Bathawwab, a prominent businessman and the Chairman of the Executive Administration of the National Cigarettes and Industry Limited, praised the "quality" of the conference and the efficient participation of university professors as well as government representatives. Mr. Bathawwab said in his statement to Yemen Times, "I hope that the recommendations and decisions that came out of the conference will satisfy the purposes of the whole event, and that solutions to all the problems facing investors and businessmen will be provided by the government. Among such requirements is the enforcement of available laws. Investors must be given their rights

without unnecessary delay. The resolutions that came out of the conference should be fully studied and implemented by the concerned authorities as soon as possible."

Demand to Cancel the Insurance Law



Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Albeiti, a prominent businessman and the Head of the Yemeni Community in Tanzania, described the constant contact between immigrant Yemeni investors abroad and those inside Yemen as representing a healthy phenomena that should continue. However, he added, "As investors, we seek safety and security. We hope that the government would cancel the previously issued insurance law. Otherwise, investors will continue to be concerned about their investments and assets in Yemen. We also look forward to witnessing more seriousness from the government in facilitating investment procedures for Yemeni immigrant investors."

Lack of Paper Pre-evaluation



Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, a business administration professor, and the former President of the Royal University, currently chairman of the Arab Consultation House in Cairo, told Yemen Times that "the activities of the conference, as well as the subjects it focused on, were of vital importance because investment is the basis of any development." But regarding the working papers presented in the conference he said, "there should have been a committee to pre-evaluate which papers were suitable and which were not suitable for presentation. The papers should have been based on their ability to help reaching practical solutions and conclusions."

Mr. Ibrahim added, "I presented a working paper on the role of the chambers of commerce in the process of preparing and promoting human resources. The paper focused on how much Yemeni chambers of commerce could help in developing human resources using the limited funds and resources available. The paper included some recommendations to assist them in facing investment problems in the Republic of Yemen."

Our Main Concern is the Land



Furthermore, Yemen Times interviewed prominent businessman Hussein Saleh Al-Humami who said, "This is the first time I attend

a Businessmen's Conference, which focused on many theoretical issues, in particular the issue of human resources development. But what is important is how to implement the mentioned proposals. That will only happen if we focus on encouraging investors and facilitate their work."

In regard to the demands of investors, he added, "Our demands as investors are simple and straightforward. They are mainly for the creation of an investor-friendly environment, facilitating investment related procedures, and removing obstacles facing investment."

About his own investment experience, Mr. Humami said, "I started my investments in Yemen with a housing complex and a car rental agency. I still have many ambitions for the future, but none of them could become a reality without the removal of the obstacles and problems facing us."

"The main concern for our investment plans is not finding land to build on. Even if there were land available there would also be problems associated with this land. As you know, there are countless problems facing investors in regard to land purchase and ownership," he concluded.

ECONOMY NEWS

Businessmen's Conference Calls for Removing Obstacles Facing Investment

The 5th Businessmen Conference concluded its agenda last week after discussing various working papers on economic, financial, and administrative reforms and the development of human resources in the Republic of Yemen. It also shed light on some aspects of human resources development for the Yemeni financial sector.

The final resolutions of the conference called for removing all the obstacles facing investment and investors, and proposed a number of measures that could help boost the investment level in the country, along with training and qualifying human resources in the fields of Information Technology.

The resolutions also focused on the importance of dealing with educational and health programs that directly effect the productivity of the Yemeni workforce. It concentrated on the role of the government in technical education and vocational training to revive the Yemeni labor market under the pressures of globalization. This was the main focus of a working paper presented by Dr. Mohamed Mohamed Ibrahim of the Arabic Administrative Consultation Training House.

Increase in the Value of Investment Projects Executed in Taiz

Investment projects executed in Taiz during 2000 reached more than twenty projects, with a total value exceeding YR 2,483 million. These projects also provided employment to more than 422,000 Yemeni worker in various specializations. Among the 20 projects, three were service and agriculture projects and the rest were various industrial projects. On another level, the number of

Yemenis benefiting from the social fund project in Taiz reached more than 36,000 citizens with a total exceeding 177 million spent in favor of the Taiz community on a quarterly basis.

Increase in Lobster Export

The total value of exported lobster and prawn through the seaport and airport of Aden exceeded YR 51 million during the last year alone. Statistics of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden revealed that the quantity of lobster and prawn exported last year exceeded 583,000 kg.

In the very same statistics, it was stated that more than 46,000 liters of diesel and fuel were exported to the horn of Africa alone, with a total value of YR 9.6 million, apart from 8.3 tons of agricultural farm products (for animal consumption) with a total value of YR 32 million.

A total of 76 tons of salt was also exported from Yemen last year, with a value of YR 100 million.

Nexen Occidental signs an Oil Production Agreement with Yemen

The Yemeni Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources signed an agreement with Nexen Occidental and its partners, along with the Yemeni Company in the 44 Southeast Haraz area, in the Hadramout governorate, which has a total area of 6332 square km. The first oil exploration stage will last 30 months, in which 300x300 sq. km will be covered. Besides that, two exploration wells will be dug. In the second oil exploration stage, which will also last 30 months, an area of 200x200 sq. km will be explored, and a three dimensional volume of 150x150x150 cubic km would be explored along with the digging of two more exploration wells.

Yemen Pursues Its Privatization Program

Mahyoob al-Kamali

The Government intends to pursue the privatization of public organizations perceived as a burden on the general budget, including the General Transportation Corp. and the Yemeni Drug Company. Offers submitted by a number of foreign companies, including the Adam Smith Institute, Arthur Anderson, K.B.G. Sovrico, Max Wheel Stamp and R.S.M International, have been referred to an ad hoc committee made up of the Ministries of Industry and Transportation, the General Transportation Corp. and the Yemeni

Drug Company, for evaluation. Prime Minister Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, has recently indicated that the Aden Refinery Company would be the first to be privatized, as the government has finalized plans to sell 51% of its share in the Company.

Aims of Privatization

Through the cautious and slow process of privatization, the government is trying to activate economic development, create new job opportunities, attract local as well as foreign capital, and lessen the burden on the budget.

But how big is the Public Sector?

According to official statistics, there are about 140 public and mixed organizations in the spheres of industry, agriculture and marine wealth, employing more than 74 thousand people. A great part of this number deals with water, electricity, transportation, sanitation and banking, most of which does not burden the general budget! Moreover, about 11% of the total general rev-

enue comes from those organizations according to Ministry of Finance information. So the inefficiency of these projects hardly reaches 10%. The above table shows a gradual rise in government revenues from 2,449 million rials in 1990 to 20,830 million rials in 1999, indicating increasing profits. For this reason the Privatization Technical Office made a thorough study in cooperation with the WB, of the necessary strategies for privatization including face-lifting organizations to be privatized.

And the history of privatization? So far 16 industrial institutions have been privatized. In addition, a number of farms and tourist projects have been privatized, rented or returned back to their owners.

As far as the financial sector is concerned, liquidization of the Industrial Bank has been finalized ahead of time and The Housing Bank and the Agricultural Bank are to follow. All shipment and unloading activities in the National Shipment Company have been privatized as well.

So what is the next step? Three huge cement plants, managed by the General Cement Industry Corporation, are being offered for pri-

vatization. These are Bajel Factory which produces more than 200 thousand tons a year, Amran Factory which produces more than 603 thousand tons and Al-Barh Factory which produces more than 546 thousand tons a year. It is likely that only part of the government's share in these plants will be privatized so as to let the private sector shoulder part of their management and this is what is in store for the Aden Refinery Company. The government will offer 51% of its shares after carrying out a number of improvement projects such as building two crude oil reservoirs with a capacity of 20 thousand tons at a cost of USD 7.5 million.

In addition, it built 5 other reservoirs with a capacity of 65 thousand tons each at a cost of USD 8.5 million and expanded the capacity of the gas reservoirs from 2,500 tons to 7,000 tons, at a cost of USD 2.5 million, which helped increase production to more than 90 thousand barrels a day.

With the continuous process of privatizing some of its shares in leading institutions, the government is trying to attract capital to contribute to the relief of deficiency in a way that does not harm employees.

Revenues of surplus profits during the past few years

Fiscal year	Govt.'s share of surplus fund	Current revenues	Govt.'s share of surplus profit from current revenues
1990	2,449	19,407	12.6
1991	3,572	27,237	13.1
1992	5,684	27,879	20.3
1993	4,291	30,652	14.0
1994	6,291	36,739	18.2
1995	15,770	4,164	21.3
1996	11,551	118,584	9.7
1997	15,051	216,573	6.9
1998	17,645	168,455	10.5
1999	20,830	267,249	7.8

Source: Ministry of Finance

COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Local Council Elections Delirium



“Salah, so far, so near” shouted Tawfiq as he immediately recognized his friend, alias school buddy, alias neighbor. He turned towards the taxi driver. Salah stopped the car as he heard Tawfiq’s voice, which he recognized quickly, despite the fact that he has not seen him in years. He eased his car into a safe parking spot. Salah bought the car, a long time ago, it seemed, in the good old days when cars could be easily purchased on credit. Salah tried to catch Tawfiq, hoping that he had not lost his friend in the mad people and car mix one now normally sees in Liberation Square. What bugged Salah the most was the cart vendors, who always managed to leave a scratch here and there in the car, although Salah had managed to remain literally accident free for over twenty years, since he purchased the car. He finally found Tawfiq paying out the fare of the interrupted ride on the taxi. Of course the taxi driver was not happy about this accidental rendezvous with Salah, and was probably cursing the daylight out of him. The competition for cab passengers was getting tougher and tougher everyday. Salah carried out all the routine security checks for locking the car and put on the triple lock combination for the prevention of the theft of his car, including the locally fabricated rough heavy iron combination break, gasoline and clutch lock that can easily puncture a man’s skull if he was hit with it. The adrenaline flow became faster as he finalized all the procedures, in anticipation of his long awaited get together with his friend, yet Salah never failed to let his nerves overtake him from ensuring the

methodical and safe parking of his car, which usually must be in a place that was neither threatened by an over zealous police officer, who could come and deflate one or two of his tires or give him a nasty ticket, for no reason at all, or by one of those careless drivers that work for a sheikh, who would easily knock out a few stop lights just for the heck of it. Salah had a knack for trouble prevention and he always insisted that prevention is the best and cheapest insurance against trouble, especially car trouble. Just then he shouted almost at the same time as Tawfiq and as though both than no more than stereo speakers blurring out the dictates of a remote amplifier: “Here, let me see how you look, you old fool.” They always called each other degrading names, but in an amicable way, where neither of them was ever hurt by any name they called each other by. “Long time, no see. Tell me pal how are you?” said Tawfiq. Oh, I am surviving and keeping out of trouble”, answered Salah. Tawfiq knew that if there was anyone who could keep out of trouble it was Salah. He had a reputation in the neighborhood for being the only child, who was never whacked by his parents for disciplinary reasons. In school, he was probably the only student who did not get a couple of lashes or so, in the bare sole of the foot. In the mosques, he was the only child not scolded for jumping in and out of the ablution cubicles. It is not that Salah was “square”, or anything like that. He just had a knack for never being in the wrong place when trouble was about to arise. Tawfiq chided: “With your nose you have an early warning system that could smell trouble half an hour before it occurred. The trouble is you never shared it with

us. Come on let us have a cup of coffee over there. I really have a lot to tell you and we really must recall some of those great moments of our youth. Whatever happened to such happy times”. “I don’t know”, sighed Salah, continuing, “It seems everybody these days are now walking in a daze. I think people cannot find cures for the worries that accumulate in their heads day by day, although they can’t remedy their previous worries. What has gotten over people, is really hard to say.” Tawfiq echoed his friend’s observation, I am sure that even you are finding it hard to stay away from trouble. Nowadays, even if you wanted to avoid trouble, before you know it, it will hit you even if you had fifteen locks on your door and slept under five blankets.” “Are you crazy? Who could afford to have five blankets? Why just last week when cold temperatures prevailed, especially at night, I had the kids double up on the blankets, we had, because there was no way we could allocate two blankets for each member of the family. Of

course, electrical heat was out of the imagination with the high cost of electricity”. Salah could not help echoing some of the concerns of the times. Tawfiq directed their path towards the coffee shop and a table near the window with a wide view out to Tahrir Square: I do not know why they call this Tahrir, or Liberation Square. To this day, I have yet to find a Yemeni who can truly say he is liberated. I do not understand why there were so many people who really thought that Yemen could really become a true democracy and the will of the people will prevail above all narrow interests that have eaten the resources of the land. Yet, people will continue to run on the bandwagon thinking that their government really means business this time, only to find that they have been taken in again. Salah’s nose smelled trouble: “Look Tawfiq do not drag me into a political dialogue, I have little taste for politics.” Tawfiq folded his cheeks with a wide grin: “Boy, am I glad to see you, just a few days ago, some of the old friends in the neigh-

borhood came to nominate me for the Local Council Elections coming up next month. I welcomed them and when they opened the subject to me, I could say nothing except to tell them: ‘No chance, if you want me to go to jail or end up dead, you can nominate me. I can not keep my mouth shut against anyone who gets out of line. The best candidate for you and me would be Salah. He is sincere, conscientious and always managed to avoid getting beaten up or punished. He has a nose for this kind of business’. You know what? They all agreed with me, that for our old neighborhood there can be no one to outclass you and outwit you.” Slow down there Tawfiq!”, since one have you seen me interested in politics. I do not know the difference between the Government and the Samsara that used to be in the old market place run by that famous Atiqah” Salah was somewhat taken in by the surprise announcement of his friend. Tawfiq commented: “Well, come to think of it there is not really that much of a difference between the government that we have now and Atiqah’s Samsara, but then, we have to take advantage of every opportunity we get to infiltrate the government with any sincere and good people who could bring some change to all the mayhem we are seeing in Government today. That is why even the opposition political parties are getting

involved in the Local Council Elections.” Yes, Tawfiq, but I do not belong to any political parties”, pointed out Salah. “That is the point, with you being out of the partisan scene, you might have a better chance of winning. Don’t you see people have lost hope in any of the existing political parties. In our neighborhood, you have the cleanest record of anyone I know; in fact, Dettol had just announced you as the most disinfected government employee, with not even the receipt of “qat money” to stain your record. We did a quick poll among one hundred neighbors and found your name on the top of the list of the most sincere likely candidates for representing the area in the Local Council. In any case, you are now being drafted into the position. There is really nothing you can do now to back out of the nomination. Even members of political parties that are represented in our neighborhood applaud the idea of your nomination. So please, do not let all your old friends and me down. We all have our hearts on getting you to that Local Council or else we will never talk to you again.” “That is not fair” said Salah, continuing, “if there is anything I dread is to have to loose the voices of my old friends, as little as I hear them nowadays”.

To be continued

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

A Letter from the Parents’ of the USS Cole Victims

First off, we would like to thank you for all the information we have received from your newspaper in regards to the USS Cole attack, and the ongoing investigation. Sadly, we have received more information from your newspaper than our own government, and our news agencies. We hope that your government continues to allow you the freedom to print information as you see fit. We also want you to understand that this letter is not meant to offend you, or your government. We hope that you all will view our opinions, and questions as an open discussion between two sides from two very different nations. With that said, could you please tell us why your government has not offered our nation an official apology for the murder of 17 innocent sailors in the Port of Aden? Or at the very least, an apology to the victims’ families? Your government was, and is partially responsible for the death of our sons. We have asked our own government for an explanation for what happened, but it continued to be silent in regards to this matter. They will not answer our questions. Yet, they keep telling us that you are our allies. But we then read in your paper how the Yemeni people are boycotting American goods. Your government has, and is still hampering the investigation. You will have to excuse us but we are confused on this issue. Is your government really an ally of our government? We have also asked them about the particulars of the deal to use your port for refueling again, but there is no answer. Could you shed some light on that topic as well? Was your government supposed to be responsible for providing security to the Cole? Was the security issue a joint effort? Is your government conducting an internal investigation into security leaks? We also know that your country, as well as many other Arab countries do not like our governments continued backing of Israel. If its any consolation, we don’t approve of that policy as well! Our own government was, and is more concerned about Israelis’ feelings than the deaths of 17 American sailors. Do you think in your opinion that our nation’s ties with Israel have influenced our country’s reactions to the Cole attack?

We have expressed our desire to the FBI to attend the trial in Yemen. But we have read, and have been told that this is not advisable. We would appreciate any updates that you could provide us. Will the proceedings be taped? Would your government allow a statement from myself, my wife and our daughter to be read in the courtroom. Who will represent our murdered son? Can we contact this person? We have been searching the web for a government email site in your country. But as of yet, to no avail. Could you provide us with an email address, and or physical address? Any help that you could provide us will be greatly appreciated. We only want some answers, and some justice for the death of our son.

We read your editorial on democracy. I would like to add that another aspect of democracy is responsibility. Your government could be seen in a much more favorable light if they would make a formal apology to the victims’ families. An apology would at least tell us that your government is somewhat serious in their relationship with our country.

All our government can tell us is that we were, and are protecting you all from Iraq. But as I mentioned earlier, it appears that your nation is friendly with Iraq, and that most of the other Arabic states are leaning that way as well. Hopefully you can see why we are confused. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Gary G. Swenichon Sr.
PO Box 1610 Rockport Tx, 78381
Tel: (361)729-3290

Dear Gary, Even though I feel sorry for the death of your son, I also feel helpless. All I could do is wish that you get over your sorrow. I am hopeful that officials reading your letter would respond by calling the number given above. Be strong. —Editor

The Golden Cage

Marriage is a grace of God. From the alliance between man and woman starts the social institution, which establishes the family life, the family, which enjoys with intimacy, love and cooperation to live a long and happy life. I am not going to justify or explain the advantages of marriage because they are well-known and undeniable.

I am writing here about marriage requirements and complications. I think that getting married has become a difficult challenge in most areas of Yemen. To marry means to abide by the social customs in wedding ceremonies, to pay excessive amounts of money to the bride’s father as important conditions for marriage. This is regardless of the dowry, which is paid to the bride. The dowry sometimes costs over one hundred thousand Rials. Young men and women do want to get married but because of such customs, they can’t. Some young men have given up thinking of the partnership life because they know quite well what it will require. As a result of that, many girls have become spinsters.

In sum, corruption might have permeated into our society even in marriage. But the parents are the ones to blame.

This is a call to parents to get their daughters “girls” married to those who have strong belief in God and have good morals and principles. They should not ask for enormous sums of money except that of the dowry, which is the bride’s right. Furthermore, the dowry must not be a huge amount. That is if we intend to satisfy Allah and get rid of corruption in general.

I hope that the ‘Golden Cage’ will never turn to a bankruptcy cage for the limited income employees. Finally, we should wake up and go back to the prophet Mohammed’s (peace and prayers be up on him) teachings related to marriage.

Mansour Hassan Al-wally
English teacher
Al-Ghabit District, Al-Mahweet Province

Moving Thoughts

Maybe God wants us to meet a few wrong people before meeting the right one so that when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift. When the door of happiness closes, another opens, but often times, we wait too long for the closed door

to open, but we don’t see it opening. The best type of friend is the one you can sit on a porch and swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you’ve ever had.

It’s true that we don’t know what we’ve got until we lose it, but its also true that we don’t know what we’ve been missing until it arrives.

Giving someone all your love is never an assurance that they’ll love you back! Don’t expect love in return; just wait for it to grow in their heart but if it doesn’t, be sure that it grew in yours. It takes only a minute to get a crush on someone, an hour to like someone, and a day to love someone, but it takes a lifetime to forget someone.

Don’t go for looks, they can deceive. Don’t go for wealth, even that does fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.

There are moments in life when you miss someone so much that you just want to pick them from your dreams and hug them for real!

Dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go; be what you want to be, because you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong.

Always put yourself in others shoes. if you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts the other person, too. Happiness lives for those who cry, those who hurt, those who have searched, and those who have tried, for only they can appreciate the importance of people who have touched their lives. Love begins with a smile, grows with a kiss and ends with a tear. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past, you can’t go on well in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so that when you die, you will be the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

Please send this message to those people who mean something to you, to those who have touched your life in one way or another, to those who make you smile when you really need to, to those that make you see the brighter side of things when you are really down, to those who you want to let them know that you appreciate their friendship. If you don’t, don’t worry, nothing bad will happen to you, you will just miss out on the opportunity to brighten someone’s day with this message.

Waleed Al-Jailani

Dear Editor,

Yes, you’re right we’ve missed the point! The peace and of course, the technological advancement are seen all around the globe today. Kidnapping, extortion and chaos are slowly and painfully becoming the rule. For Yemen, the new millennium is the beginning of doomsday. Remember the great Yemen “Al-Yemen Al-Saeed”, which was known the world over for its peace, great scholars and fantastic people. All that is today in ashes. Thanks to the Yemenis of today. It is time for us to restore order and dignity to our beloved Yemen.

Salem Saeed
salem@hotmail.com

Why do Some Newspapers Stop in Holidays

Imad Al-Saqqaf
YemenTimes- Taiz

An extremely terrible, yet existing characteristic of ours in Yemen is that we hate to work. We have the two-day holiday every weekend for us to do all that we want, so that in the working days of the week we perform our duties right. However, being in a country in which time has no importance reflects badly in everyday work causing us to lag behind in every aspect there is. Ramadan in itself, in Yemen, is an unjustified excuse to laze around and relax. Even before it starts the “Ramadan-atmosphere” is spread all around and the tendency to postpone work for later becomes so evident that it is alarming. This tendency lasts for one or two weeks even after the month is over. However, it is a well known fact that in this very month, during the peak of Islam many historic victories and events took place. It’s not only about the people. Even on the government level the high courts are closed during the month. Parliamentary activities are stopped and so on. Even newspapers are stopped! This is the worst situation that could happen. How can the reader rely on a magazine or newspaper if it is not regular? We have papers which are

meant to be weeklies but are published monthly, half monthly papers are often published every two months. Sometimes daily papers are only published once in 10 days. Does anyone ask “Why?” “Al-Thaqafiya, Al-Hikma, Al-Thaqafa Al-Bareed..etc.” magazines stop for longer durations and then suddenly reappear?

What is the matter with our media? Does the brain take a break during holidays as well? Don’t people want to be informed about anything during holidays? Or is it a kind of hibernation that isolates one from all that is going on in the world?

Such incidents attract attention to those media instruments which did not stop during holidays. The television, the Radio, the Al-Thowra Daily newspaper, Alayam (which just stopped one of its 3 issues during Eid holiday), are just examples of these. And not to forget the Yemen Times which, in spite of the tragic event that occurred during that time, did not stop publishing and came out on time.

Those men and women who work during holidays while others are loitering in laziness are worth a note of thankfulness. Those are the ones who realize the value of time, and what it means to be committed to a job. They understand what the responsibility of a newspaper is.

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A Search For Justice.



On October 12, 2000, terrorists in a boat attacked the USS Cole in the harbor at Aden, Yemen. This attack killed 17 U.S. sailors and wounded over 30 others. To bring to justice those responsible for this attack, the U.S. Government is offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction of those persons who committed or aided in the attack on the USS Cole.

The U.S. Government has already paid millions of dollars to individuals who provided information that resulted in the arrest of someone who attempted or committed a terrorist act against U.S. persons or property. Some of the individuals who provided such information have had their identities

changed and been relocated with their families.

Individuals providing such information may be eligible for a reward of up to \$5 million, protection of identities, and relocation with their families. If you have information, contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, or write:

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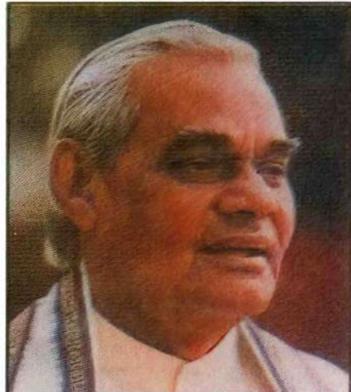
Celebrating the 51st anniversary



of India's Republic Day



K. R. Narayanan
President



Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Prime Minister

India celebrates the founding of the Republic on January 26, 2001.

It was on this day in 1950 that the newly independent India proclaimed itself a sovereign Democratic Republic and ushered in a constitutional rule of law. The Constitution became the supreme law of the land and its guiding star. The attainment of Independence and the proclamation of the Republic signalled India's march towards fulfilling its destiny. The common thing about the two epochal events was that the country opted for the democratic path. It was in keeping with its ancient traditions, practices and the spirit, underlying freedom movement. At its outset the Constitution pledges to secure to all citizens social, economic

and political justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. As the Republic completes 51 years of its existence, it is well worth asking as to how has it fared in terms of constitutional stipulations and its chosen destiny. Also in terms of the dream of Mahatma Gandhi to wipe out tears and hunger of the humblest of Indians. But before making any assessment, India's inheritance at the time of Independence must be kept in view. What the British rulers had left behind was un-impooverished India steeped in poverty, famine, epidemics, illiteracy, caste and communal divide and a fractured land partitioned between India and Pakistan. After the partition trauma, India faced the mighty task of reconstruction, which was further complicated by a total absence of infrastruc-

ture and a pitifully small industrial base. Belying the prophets of doom who had questioned the viability of the independent nation, India has not only survived but even thrived and made its place in the comity of nations. What is most significant is that the country made rapid strides pursuing the democratic path. While democracies tumbled all around, the system flourished here with the basic structures of the Indian nation remaining intact. Elections are held at regular intervals. The Press is free and unfettered and the judiciary fiercely independent. The executive is accountable to the legislature and the later, in turn, to the electorate. It is no mean achievement that a billion people are today living together as one political entity. Never before in history, and nowhere else in the world, has such a huge mass of human race existed as a single, free nation sharing a political will for unity and dreaming the same dreams. The point to note is that the country has managed to contain regional tensions, social upheavals and divisive threats within the framework of its constitutional laws and institutions. India's performance of the past half a century must also be viewed in the context of numerous challenges that it faced, namely external aggressions, proxy

wars, insurgency and waves of terrorism. It is a long story as to how did India settle down to cope with the mighty challenges and build itself into a self-reliant economy and a self-sufficient granary which on its own is today feeding the world's second largest population. The country has wiped out famines and epidemics and built a large infrastructure and a formidable industrial-military complex. It is pursuing its defense development with self-reliance, today, it can boast of having one of the world's largest pools of scientific and technological manpower. What is more, it is capable of launching its own rockets and missiles. More significantly, a nation downcast in all respects at the time of Independence has now grown to become a nuclear power which has successfully conducted a series of highly complex nuclear tests. Not long ago, former US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, had observed that India could not be ignored as a power in the international system of tomorrow. France has acknowledged that a multi-polar world is emerging with China, India, Russia and Europe challenging the present world order in which the United States is the sole superpower. On the eve of his recent visit to India, senior Chinese leader and former Prime Minister, Li Peng, conceded that India is a major country in Asia and is destined to play a more prominent role in regional and international affairs in a multi-polar world. The world has not missed to note the three technological events of far-reaching importance which took place in India in a brief span of just one year. These were the Pokharan nuclear tests, the test firing of Agni-II and the launching of the operational Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). India's economy is growing at a faster rate today than ever before. It was no mean achievement that it took recurring, a oil crises into its strides. And now, liberalization is unshackling its economy and thereby letting loose the creative energies of its people. Some sections of influential western media have already forecast that India is the emerging 'Asian Tiger'. At its present rate of economic growth it will be one of the leading economies of the world in two decades. Observers outside India assess that it will be one of the six economic power centers along with the United States, the European Union, China, Japan and Russia. Today, it produces large quantities of steel. It builds its own warships and aircraft. It has an impressive and heavy engineering base. It is among the very few developing countries that is able to bid successfully for heavy engineering turnkey projects in other countries. The country has a considerable entrepreneur class. Its industrial base is so strong that it can produce almost anything that the country needs. The scientific and technical infrastructure is capable of responding to complex challenges. The per capita availability of food-grains has gone up from 395 grams in the fifties to 505 grams today. India ranks fourth in fertilizer consumption. It accounts for 8.5 per cent of world drug requirements and ranks among the top 15 drug manufacturing countries. Exports cover 7,500 commodities which go to 190 countries. Imports from about 140 countries account for over 6,000 commodities. It is the largest milk producer in the world today. The average per capita income has quadrupled from 100 US dollars to 400 dollars even though the population since



MESSAGE

On this auspicious occasion I congratulate all the Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen and wish them success, health and prosperity. I also wish to share my happiness with the friendly people of the Republic of Yemen. It is gratifying to notice that Yemeni crude oil has started flowing to India and very helpfully the Yemeni gas will also start to be imported to India by Indigas and other consortiums with which Yemeni LNG is holding talks. I also wish to thank all the Yemeni high ranking and other officials for their cooperation in interaction with India and their serious approach to boost Indo-Yemeni relations at all levels, political, social, cultural and economic.

Mohinder Singh Suman
Ambassador of India to the Republic of Yemen

Independence has grown by three times. The average Indian lives twice as long, that in 63 years as compared to 32 in 1947. To quote the British Foreign Secretary, India is at least six years ahead of his country in information technology. The world's largest middle class co-exist with the largest number of people subsisting below the poverty line. India is low down on the human development index and in per capita income. No appreciable breakthrough has been made in bringing down the birth rate. Much remains to be done on various fronts, such as land and electoral reforms, speeding up the pace of justice and widening employment opportunities. Per hectare yield has to be increased at a rapid pace as food-grains production is stagnating after reaching a plateau. India's Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee admits that a wide gulf exists between the country's indisputable potential and actual performance. At the same time, he stresses that there is no cause for despondency. India has many proud achievements to its credit. As for the future, India has identified five thrust areas for rapid development. These are agriculture and food processing, reliable and quality electric power, education and health care, information technology and other strategic sectors. What is called for is that the country build upon its strength which lies in its talented manpower, natural resources, large infrastructure, design and software. Through its concentration on the thrust areas, India wants to become a developed country in the next two decades. It implies that by 2020 AD it must rid itself of poverty, hunger and malnutrition and accelerate social and economic development. A 'Vision Document' released at a recent session of the Indian Science Congress outlines as to how to achieve the goal of joining the ranks of developed countries in the stipulated time-frame. The Indian Prime Minister is quite optimistic. He says that with a strong sense of purpose and national vision, we will create prosperity for all and remove poverty, unemployment and all other traces of underdevelopment.

space program was formally organized in 1972 with the setting up of Space Commission and the Department of Space. The potential of Space technology for mass education was recognized in the early 70's. India undertook in 1975-76, the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) to telecast a series of educational programs on health, family planning, agriculture and the like to over



2,500 Indian villages via the US satellite, ATS-6. It was the largest sociological experiment ever carried out in the world. The Satellite Telecommunication Experimental Project (STEP), conducted using Franco-German Symphonie satellite during 1977-79, was another major demonstration of communication applications of space. India also launched its own APPLE (Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment), an experimental communication satellite, in June, 1981 using the opportunity offered by the European Space Agency (ESA), to launch this satellite on board the third developmental flight of Ariane. A major development took place during 80's, through establishment of INSAT for services in telecommunications, television broadcasting, meteorology and disaster warning services. INSAT, commissioned in 1983, has become one of the largest domestic satellite systems in the world, comprising five satellites. The latest to join the system is INSAT-3B Launched from Kourou, French Guyana on March 22, 2000. INSAT is unique in its design combining telecommunication, television and radio broadcasting and meteorological services on a single platform.

Indian Space Program - A Success Story.

India was among the first few countries to release the potential of space technology and its application to solve real problems of man and society. The Indian

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC DAY 26th JANUARY.

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Work on another four satellites has already begun which are planned for launch in (1999 and 2000.)

Today, INSAT links about over 500 earth stations in the country, including those located in inaccessible regions and off shore islands. About 8,500 Very Small Aperture Terminals, V-SATs connected via INSAT. Television in India now reaches about 85 percent of its through over 1000 TV transmitters linked via INSAT. Educational programs for over 100 hours are telecast every week. INSAT system has become a powerful tool for training and developmental education and is used by various agencies to provide continuing education, conduct in-situ training for industrial employees, social welfare personnel and training of Panchayat Raj (village governance) workers, etc.

India continues to emphasize the use of INSAT for rural upliftment; a pilot project that started in November 1996 in a tribal district of Madhya Pradesh in Central India is now in progress to educate the tribals on various aspects of health, hygiene, family planning, women's rights, etc. This project is being expanded to cover more villages and is expected to lead to a unique space based system that will be dedicated to the development of rural society.

The meteorological data relayed by INSAT have vastly improved the meteorological services in the country. The twin capability of communication and meteorological imaging of INSAT is effectively used not only to track cyclone formations but also to issue warnings to the affected population. India's 3.3 million sq km land has varied physical features ranging from

snow-covered Himalaya in the north to tropical forests in south and from regions in the east receiving highest rainfall in the world to deserts of Rajasthan in the west. India is blessed with vast natural wealth. A coastal belt of 7,500 km has a store of rich aquatic resources. Keeping this in view, India has demonstrated the potential of space-based remote sensing for monitoring its resources. Starting with the use of data received from the US satellite, Landsat, in the 70s and its own experimental satellites, Bhaskara-1 and Bhaskara-2 launched in June 1979 and November 1981 respectively, India launched its own operational Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1A) in March 1988. Today, India has the largest constellation remote sensing satellites in operation. Among them are IRS-1C and IRS-1D, which are among the best civilian remote sensing satellite. IRS-P4 (OCEANSAT-1) launched in May 1999 is used for Ocean Resources monitoring and for understanding the atmosphere over the oceans. Two more satellites, IRS-P5 for cartographic applications and IRS-P6 for resources survey, are planned for launch in the coming years.

Data from IRS is used for estimation of acreage and yield of important crops, forest survey, forecasting drought conditions, flood mapping and demarcation of flood-risk zones, land use and land cover mapping for agro-climatic planning, waste land mapping and their classification, preparation of hydro-geo-morphological maps for locating sites for bore wells, monitoring and development of irrigation command areas, snow-covered and snow-melt run-off estimation of Himalayan rivers for optimal use of water, etc. Data from IRS is also used in urban planning, alignment of roads and pipelines,

detection of underground fires in collieries, marine resources survey, mineral prospecting, etc.. A unique application of data from IRS is in the Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development (IMSD) which is aimed at generating locale-specific prescriptions for development at micro-level. India realized early that sustaining the space program in the long run would depend on indigenous technological capabilities. Keeping this in view, besides building satellites, India embarked on satellite launch vehicle development in the early 70s. The first satellite launch, SLV-3, was launched in 1980. An augmented version, ASLV, was launched successfully in 1992. India has successfully commissioned its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV, capable of placing 1,000-1200 kg class satellite into 820 km polar sun-synchronous orbit. PSLV is being offered to launch satellites of other countries. It launched two small satellites, one of Korea and other of Germany along with India's IRS-P4 in

May 1999. India is now preparing for the launch of its Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle. GSLV, which can launch 2,500 kg class communication satellites.

The Indian space program also encompasses space science, especially, in the area of astronomy and astrophysics, planetary atmosphere and aeronomy, earth sciences, solar system studies and theoretical studies. India has also launched scientific payloads to study celestial X-ray and Gamma ray sources and has set up a good ground based infrastructure like Mesosphere, Stratosphere and Troposphere radar for conducting atmospheric research. India participates in all major international science campaigns and has now undertaken several scientific campaigns in consonance with objectives of international geo-sphere biosphere program and Indian Ocean experiment.

Indian space program has active participation of industries that has helped industry upgrade their technological skills. A number of technologies devel-

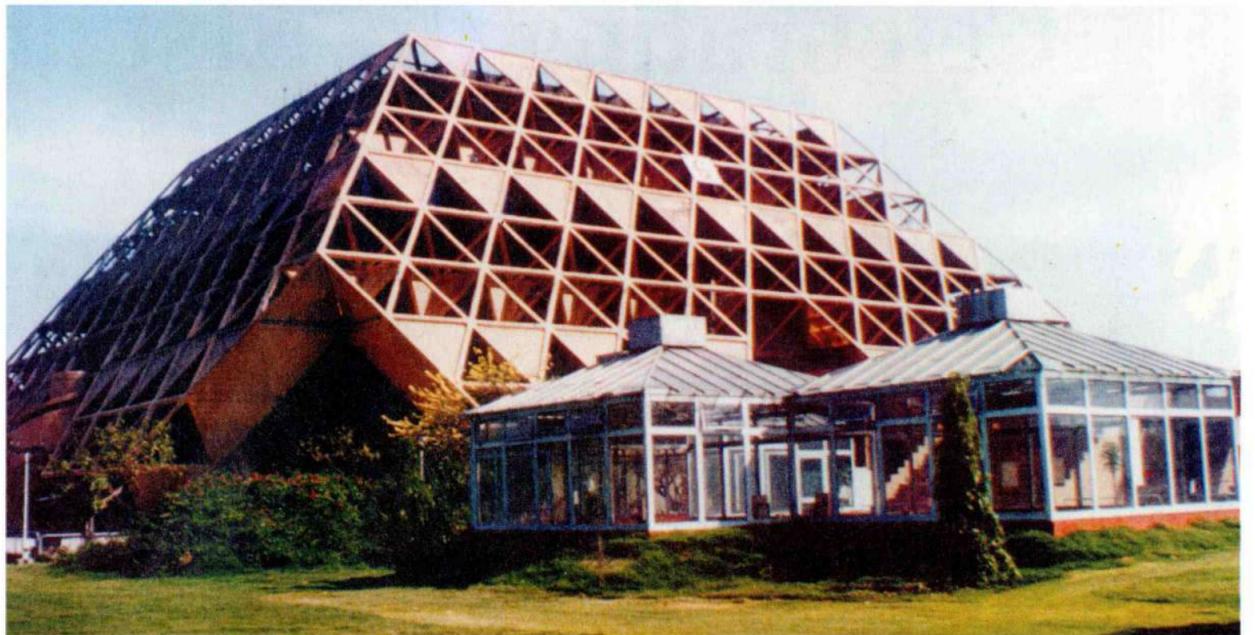
oped under space program have been transferred to industries for commercial applications. A number of systems for remote sensing data processing, communication earth stations and terminal equipment, has opened up a fairly large market for the industry. Indian space program has also a strong interface with academia. Under a Sponsored Research Scheme (RESPOND) research is taken up in academic institutions.

International cooperation is an important element of Indian space program. The establishment of Equatorial Rocket Launching Station at Thumba, conduct of SITE and STEP and launch of experimental satellites like Aryabhata, Bhaskara and APPLE, involved cooperation with other countries. India has cooperative agreements with several countries today. India has set up Local User Terminals (LUT) and Mission Control Center (MCC) as part of the International satellite aided search and rescue program, COSPAS-SARSAT. India has set up the UN-affil-

iated Center for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific.

Even though Indian space program is primarily directed at establishing space systems for national needs, commercial inroads have now been made. ANTRIX Corporation, under India's Department of Space, has entered into commercial agreements for marketing data from Indian remote sensing satellites worldwide. India has leased satellite capacity to INTELSAT and launched small satellites of Korea and Germany on board PSLV, besides supplying satellite hardware and providing tracking support for satellites.

Thus India has well-integrated space program with end-to-end capabilities for the development and application of space technology for national benefits. India is committed to sustain this program by continuously tuning it to the fast changing requirement and updating the technology that goes into the making of these systems in the new millennium.



CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES (INDIA) LIMITED, SANA'A

**GREETES THE INDIAN
COMMUNITY IN THE
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN ON
THE AUSPICIOUS
OCCASION OF THE 51ST
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA.**

On the occasion of the 51st Republic Day of India, Azzamat Sultan al Bohra, his Holiness Dr. Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin, the 52nd Dai al Fatemi and his followers in Yemen, extend heartiest felicitations to India and its people and pray for the prosperity of India, one of the great democracies. For the two great nations, India and Yemen, the Azzamatus Sultan continuously prays and strives for a long lasting cordial and brotherly relationship.



Celebrating the 51st anniversary



of India's Republic Day

Modern Indian Architecture: In tune with ecology

City planning is not new to India; it existed in Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, as the excavations reveal. Now when many towns continue to develop organically under special patronage, some towns like Madurai, Fatehpur, Sikri, Jaisalmer, Jaipur and more recently, Calcutta, Pondicherry and new Delhi, have shown the way in town planning. Le Corbusier, an enigmatic French planner and architect whose creative exuberance echoed India's aspirations at the

time of its independence in 1947, was commissioned for planning the city of Chandigarh in 1951. He put forth a visually powerful and cohesive plan that brought global recognition to India's efforts to emerge as a modern state. Around the same time in 1951, the Institute of Town Planners was also set up. By this time, the rural exodus had begun and most of the cities, particularly in northern India, required extensions and modifications. As a major step in that direction, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) was set up in 1957 and entrusted with the responsibility of preparing a master plan for Delhi. This brought into focus the need for planned

development in other Indian cities as well. It also became necessary to set up educational bodies to train the required manpower. In 1958, the School of Planning & Architecture was established in New Delhi. Also as a consequence, the Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO) was set up in each state capital to bring about planned development. In 1962, the TCPO of Maharashtra sought to decongest the metropolis of Bombay. A creative solution was proposed in which the new township (new Bombay) was to develop on the mainland with rail and road connections with the city. Other cities which underwent similar extensions were vidyadharnagar for Jaipur, Gandhinagar for Ahmadabad and Bhubaneshwar for Orissa. Industrial townships at Bokaro, Jamshepur and Haldia also developed along the same lines, while Delhi, on the other hand, witnessed a growth within and on the periphery of the main city.



!!! LONG LIVE THE INDIAN REPUBLIC!!!

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANTS INDIA LIMITED (TCIL) GREETES THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN ON 26TH JANUARY 2001, ON THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA.

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CONGRATULATIONS On the 51st anniversary of the Republic of India.

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Celebrating the 51st anniversary



of India's Republic Day

India has a rich heritage of architectural expression. Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic traditions and western influences form and integral part of this repertoire.

Independence brought enthusiasm and hope but in the absence of trained architects, the expressions lacked a clear direction. Most architects emulated the western neo-classical and traditional Indian architecture by grafting their distinctive elements onto their buildings.

It was Chandigarh that set the pace for new India. The capital complex consisting of the High Court, the Assembly Hall and the Secretariat by the Swiss born French architect Le Corbusier is a monumental achievement. Another major influence on post independence Indian architecture came about through the work of Louis Kahn - an American architect who was commissioned to design the Indian Institute of management at Ahmedabad.

The 60s and 70s saw the ripening of new talent in architecture and the search for

a national identity began in earnest. Consequently, a new language and expression manifested itself in major cities. There was a sharp increase in the number of undergraduate schools of architecture. The J.J. School of Art in Bombay had taught architecture even before independence. In New Delhi, the School of Planning became the School for Planning and Architecture and also began to offer several post-graduate courses. In Ahmedabad, the Center for Environmental Planning and Technology was set up. Chandigarh, too, established its own school of architecture. Presently the number of schools of architecture in the country is well over hundred.

Architecture also became a topic of public debate. By the mid-80s, a journal called "Architecture + Design" was launched as the first serious attempt at architectural journalism. Along with this, many books on Indian architects like Charles Correa, Raj Rewal, Joseph A. Stein and Laurie Baker were published..

YEMEN TIMES

**YEMEN TIMES
STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION
WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE
THE INDIAN EMBASSY AND PEOPLE
OF INDIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 51ST
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA**

**YEMEN AND INDIA HAVE ALWAYS
MAINTAINED EXCELLENT
RELATIONS, AND AS YEMEN TIMES,
WE WISH THEY WOULD CONTINUE
TO STRENGTHEN AND GROW IN
THE YEARS TO COME**

Republic Day of India The 26th January 2001

Hearty Congratulations to all the Indians on the 51st Anniversary of the Republic Day of India

**MAHATMA GANDHI
INDIAN EMBASSY SCHOOL
&
INDIAN ASSOCIATION
ADEN, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**



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WHERE the mind is without fear and the
head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up
into fragments by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of
truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms
towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not
lost its way into the dreary desert sand of
dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever-widening thought and action -
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,
let my country awake.

GITANJALI
Rabindranath Tagore



On the occasion of India's 51st Anniversary of the Republic Day, the Yemen India Friendship Association extends its warmest greetings to the People and the Government of India, wishing them all success and further promotion of friendly relation between Yemen and India.

Yousuf Mohsin Al Haj
Chairman
Yemen India Friendship Association

On the occasion of the 51st anniversary of the Republic Day, we, the members of the India Embassy Club in Sana'a, congratulate the Indians in Sana'a, and elsewhere, and share India's pride in being the largest democracy in the world, representing unity in diversity and making a confident march towards progress. We revere India's ancient heritage of art, literature, culture, philosophy, and spirituality, and feel proud of its being an emerging power in science and industry. We feel particularly proud of its being a rising star in the field of space and information technology. God bless the Indian Republic.

Professor Damodar Thakur
President India Embassy Club

**TELEGU BHARATHI CLUB
IN SANA'A JOINS HANDS
WITH THE EMBASSY OF
INDIA IN CONGRATULAT-
ING EACH OTHER ON THE
REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA**

KERALA CLUB
Sana'a



**JOIN HANDS WITH
THE EMBASSY OF INDIA IN
CONGRATULATING EACH OTHER
ON THE REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA**

Republic Day wishes to all Indians

தமிழ் கவிஞர் சங்கம்
Tamil Sangam, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

**THE TAMIL ANGAM, SANA'A
WISHES THE PEOPLE OF INDIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

Does It Really Happen?

YEMENI SUPERSTITIONS - PART II

Mohammed Al-Hakimi,
Yemen Times
Taiz

Continued from last week:
More Yemeni Superstitions

Have You Ever Tried Your Urine?

Some people believe that urinotherapy is helpful for people who have experienced fearful shocks.

A Knife and Some Salt Will Do!

The purpose of putting a knife with some salt under the patients' pillow while asleep is driving away devils which may cause delirium.

You Want Your Bride to Obey You? Step on Her Foot Before She Is in.

The bridegroom must in some villages put his right foot on his bride's foot so that he will be obeyed by his wife.

What Doctors Cannot Do Donkeys Can

Undesirable pimples can vanish when hair from a donkey's tail is tied on them.

Jinns' Courts

Throwing hot substances and other materials in bathrooms and deserted places is believed to be harmful. Doers may be paralyzed or become mad if they hit

the invisible creatures. If a jinn is hit a court session will be held soon inside the doer's mind until they decide to forgive. During the period of holding those sessions the host is mad.

Your Car May Need a Pair of Shoes!

Putting shoes or sandals on properties is believed to protect them from the evil eye.

Astrologers May Prevent Your Marriage

Men intending to marry go to astrologers to see whether they would be wives are suitable for them. They also ask about the most propitious day for marriage.

If You Love Your Bride Don't Let Her out in The First 8 Days of Wedding.

If the bride appears to people during the first 8 days of her wedding she might be in danger of the evil eye and devil spirit, etc.

Don't Kill a Snake Unless You Have His Permission

Snakes may be harmful even after they are killed. So don't kill them unless they refuse to quit even after your polite request. It is believed that some snakes are jinns which can harm you.

Cough and Choke

A sudden choke or cough is sometimes caused by malicious gossip about you. To recover bend part of



your clothes or plant a stick in the earth.

Have You Ever Got a Premonition That Something Bad Will Happen

If your eye twitches watch out for a near danger. If you foot itches expect a guest. And if your palm itches expect a good thing to happen to you.

Job Vacancy

The American Embassy announces for a vacant position "Protocol Assistant" within its organization. The position is responsible for assisting the Embassy's Key office in all protocol matters relating to the Republic of Yemen Government officials of the Embassy.

- Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assists Key officers in seeking appointments and maintaining contacts with appropriate ministries, agencies and officials of the Republic of Yemen and other persons of interest.
- Translates documents such as diplomatic notes, of both a routine and sometimes complex and technical nature.
- Assumes responsibility for sending diplomatic notes to appropriate addresses in a timely fashion. Translates and/or drafts routine letters, invitations, and other correspondence.

- Qualification:

Education: Completion of secondary school is required. Completion of college or university is highly desirable.

Prior work experience: One to three years experience in translating or interpreting. Experience indicated on application or resume should be sufficient to demonstrate ability to perform basic word processing, clerical and secretarial functions.

Applicants should expect to be tested for their proficiency levels as part of the screening process.

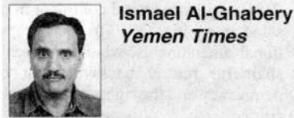
Language Proficiency: Level V(Professional) in English and Arabic.

Knowledge: Good understanding of Yemeni society and culture as well as good general knowledge of history and politics.

- Who & how to apply:

All interested Yemeni applicants should complete OF-612 (Application for Employment of Foreign Nationals available at the Embassy's gate) or submit a current resume attached with certificates and recommendation letter(s). All applications must be addressed to the American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Personnel Office and must be received no later than the closing January 31, 2001.

Efforts to Eradicate Illiteracy: Candle in The Wind



Ismael Al-Ghabery
Yemen Times

Wherever ignorance and illiteracy prevail, efforts for the better are bound to fail. In Yemen, illiteracy is still a terrible inheritance that requires great efforts to get rid of. Illiteracy is a common phenomena that is observed in all societies. It has been attracting the attention of all nations and many international organizations in the fight against it. Before the revolution, education was looked upon as a privilege determined by how close a person was to the authorities. Hence, a small number of people had the golden chance to attend the generally unavailable schools. This situation changed after the revolution, which set out to confront the fact that the nation's basic demands were not being met.

Seven Million illiterates!

Although 39 years has elapsed since the revolution, illiteracy is still prevalent despite all efforts to eradicate it. Moreover, instead of flocking towards schools, students flock out of them to join the huge caravan of illiterates. According to illiteracy eradication and adult education authorities, the number of illiterates keeps going up. In 1994, illiterates were estimated at 5,381,150. In addition, about 250-300 thousand cases of truancy were recorded in the same year. Instead of going down, the number of illiterates rose up by 1.5 million during the past 6 years. Most of these illiterates are women concentrated in the countryside.

Previous Experiences

To be more moderate, none can deny the efforts of the authorities concerned to fight illiteracy during the years beginning from 1970 when the law of illiteracy eradication and adult education was issued. Issuance was followed by execution of the first experimental project in cooperation with the Arab System to Eradicate Illiteracy. The project (1971-1972) included Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb and Al-Beidha'a (Rada'a). Thirty two classrooms were opened for about 1111 learners of which 837 learners completed the course.

Activity Learning

Another program for adult education began in 1977 following the issuance of the National Project for Informal Education and Basic Training. This new experience concentrated on activi-

ty learning in activity training centers.

Achievement

In the southern and eastern governorates illiteracy was estimated at 90% upon independence. In 1973, illiterates were estimated at 736,224, or 46.2% of the total population.

Illiterates increase

Realizing the importance of education to preserve unity, republican decree No. 28 for 1992 was issued to establish illiteracy eradication and adult education as one of the main responsibilities of the Ministry of Education. Through evaluating its work, the Ministry found out that illiteracy zoomed up from 3,300,741 to 5,381,150 in 1994. The increase was attributed to the following:

- 1) High population growth: 3.7% per year.
- 2) The field of general formal education does not have the capacity to include all 6-9 year-old children who are eligible to go to school. The percentage of boy students included in the general formal education is 79.4% while the percentage of girl students reached only 28.2% of the total eligible number. The remainder of children, of course, are added to the number of illiterates.
- 3) Demographic survey for 1991-1992 showed that the percentage of children between 6-15 included in the general education is only 57.4% of the total number of people at this sage.
- 4) Illiterate immigrants
- 5) The problem is bigger than the efforts exerted
- 6) Lack of national organizations to train teachers for illiteracy eradication and adult education.

It is very important at this point to stress the importance of education. It is also important to stress the fact that commitment is a must in order to make any project a success. Yemen will not get rid of illiteracy unless joint efforts are exerted and more financial potentials are sacrificed.

First Regional Forum of Rasa'el al-Noor Held in Taiz

Under the patronage of Mr. Ahmad Abdullah al-Hijri, governor of Taiz the al-Said Science and Culture Establishment of Taiz hosted the First Regional "Rasa'el al-Noor" Forum last Thursday 11.1.2001. The Rasa'el al-Noor are a collection of nine books written in Turkey by Imam Sa'eed al-Noorsi (1873-1960) who was considered to be one of the most outstanding scholars of the 20th century. In his books, he dealt with the enormously aggressive campaigns and lies set forth by many European philosophers. Dedicating his life for science and knowledge, he stood against communism through the letters he wrote to refute all the false allegations launched against the Islamic authority. His books have been translated into more than 30 different languages and many people from all over the world converted to Islam because of his informative books. The forum represents the globalization of Islam and al-Noorsi's point of view for getting all Islamic movements together under the umbrella of Islam.

The forum was considered to be the first of its kind in the Arab peninsula and was attended by guests from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Japan and other countries.

Saeed al-Noorsi did everything in his power to stress the importance of ensuring security within societies and said that force should not be applied within them. Rather it should be used against foreign aggression and enemies. He takes the view that ignorance, poverty and hypocrisy are our main enemies and we should struggle against them in terms of applying knowledge and industrial means and by rallying together around our religion. He asserts that every Muslim has to take part in preaching for God.

He called for altruism and also for labor, as God rewards those who work with wealth while laziness breeds misery. He also asserted the importance of teaching other sciences in religious schools and teaching religious subjects and sciences in modern schools. He said "If we apply Islam in all the affairs of our life, many people from all over the world will convert to Islam. Besides, preaching for Islam should be by word and not by weapons."

He was also one of those who did not exploit religion for political ends and calls for this idea to be followed. He was also against those who



used politics against religion.

In his welcoming speech, Mr. Ahmad Hayel Saeed, Vice Chairman of the al-Saeed Science and Culture Establishment, asserted that the world today has made it necessary for people to acquire and learn modern sciences and high moral values. He said that our nation has to mobilize its resources so as to achieve a comprehensive revival of our civilization."

In his speech, the general coordinator of Rasa'el al-Noor in Yemen, Mr. Najeeb Mahfood al-Kershhi said, "The great scholar al-Noorsi is a diligent scholar. He has read, learnt, kept by heart eighty well-known Islamic sciences books. He was the first to call for the establishment of the Shoora Council for jurisprudence. He was also the one who called for setting up al-Zahra'a Islamic University during the Othman Caliphate. His letters are considered to be one of the modern miracles of the Holy Qura'an. He was as great as al-Jailani, bin Hanbal, Hassan al-Bana'a and Said Qutb.

Imam al-Noorsi noted six diseases plaguing the Islamic nation. They are as follows:

- 1) Frustration and despair.
- 2) Waning honesty among people.
- 3) Love for enmity
- 4) Ignoring the rallying ability of Islamic spiritual bonds
- 5) Uncontrolled aggression
- 6) Prevalence of self interest at the expense of public interest.

Scientific quotations concerning al-Noorsi were also noted in the forum. For example, Prof. Abdulrahim al-Sa'eh, Legislative and Islamic Studies, Mekkah, said "He who reads Rasa'el al-

Noor finds that dialogues are to be conducted within man himself, between man and another man, and between civilizations."

Dr. Thomas Mysheil, Jesuit secretary for dialogue among religions in Rome, said "Saeed al-Noorsi was a great thinker who tried to settle the point of dialogue between Muslims and Christians."

The Moroccan expert in Islamic literature, Dr. Hassan al-Amrani, sees that al-Noori has indicated 40 aspects of the miraculous nature of the holy Qura'an.

Dr. Abdul Muti al-Baiumi, chief editor of Manber al-Islam, sees that al-Noorsi established his philosophy on the three dimensions that are the main core of the desired revival in Islamic life. They are as follows:

- 1) restoring faith
- 2) reviving the Islamic rituals
- 3) Setting up Islamic shariah law

Dr. Adam Tatili from Turkey said that the Rasa'el al-Noor collection is a social university open for all sections of society.

Mrs. Athra'a Qassamo, a researcher from Bosnia Herzegovina, put forward a proposal to teach some of al-Noorsi's books to Muslims in her country as they will help Muslims to enhance their faith in God.

The forum was attended by a good number of scholars and scientists including Prof. Abed al-Hashimi, sheikh Abu Bakr al-Mashhoor, sheikh Mohammed Yahya al-Jonaid, Mr. Abdulmalek al-Shaibani, Mr. Abdulfatah Jamal, Mr. Tawheeb al-Doba'ee and Mr. Jamal al-Razi.

Guests from Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Japan were also honored.

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Republic of Yemen



Jarallah Omar to YT:

"They can dissolve our party and they can even take us to prison, but at the end of the road, they will never be able to destroy our ideas or put an end to our existence."

Just one month away from the Local Council Elections, the Supreme Opposition Coordination Council (SOCC) is preparing to come out with a common agenda to participate in the elections due February 20, 2001. As the leading party of the SOCC, the YSP has confirmed its participation in the elections, even though it had some doubt about their well preparedness of the elections due to shortage of time and resources.

It was also announced by the SOCC that it will vote "NO" on the constitutional amendments referendum scheduled to take place along with the elections. A strong and united stand by the opposition led by the YSP, observers say, may be a potential threat to the easy domination of the PGC and Islah in the upcoming council elections. Their stand may not change the results, but it could shake the two main parties, they claim.

Hence, on this occasion, and to shed light on the preparations and views of the YSP in regard to the elections and referendum, Bassam Jameel of the PGC and Islah in the upcoming council elections. Their stand may not change the results, but it could shake the two main parties, they claim.

As usual, Jarallah Omar was strong, daring and straightforward in his answers. He revealed shocking information for the first time. Below is the complete text of the interview, with no amendments:

Q: How well is the YSP prepared for the upcoming Local Council Elections? Will you still continue to participate in the elections without the governmental financial support?

A: Of course we are somewhat ready for the elections. However, we are not in our fully readiness because the announcement of holding the elections came extremely late and surprised us all. In fact, even the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) was not ready and could not complete the essential preparatory procedures necessary for any elections. The SEC did not even start the arrangement for the elections sections throughout the country. This forced them to carry out arrangements on a war footing for this purpose.

In any case, this is no more than an experiment, as the SEC itself claims that it is a transitional operation. What is important for us is that we decided to fully participate in this process depending on the joint efforts of our party's affiliates and supporters.

As for the financial support of the government, I am proud to tell you that we won't depend much on the facilities or



funds for the elections. We were able to stay as one party from the time of the 1994 civil war until today because of our strong determination, not because of assets or fund allowances given to us by the government. This is despite that such funds were of great significance, especially when hearing that the PGC had received hundreds of millions of Yemeni rials. In fact I heard of a staggering number that I don't dare mentioning thinking that others may feel that I am exaggerating. On the other hand, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) also had a good share of funds. I believe that the funds, media coverage and power was fairly distributed between the PGC and Islah in a way such that they both got what they needed, except for power, in which Islah got some of it, but PGC got it all. Not to forget that the PGC is the party of the President of the Republic, and the party of the Republic is the one that wins in the third world and in Arab countries.

As for us, the YSP, we think about people and stay in touch with them. We will rely on our human resources and the struggle and unleash efforts for the welfare of the Yemeni people. As I said before, we were able to stay despite the difficult circumstances since the 1994 war because of our strong determination to live on, and because the Yemeni people want us to stay.

As for our allowances, we have none, except for the one provided by the government. All our deposits are with the Central Bank of Yemen, and as you know, most of our properties were reserved following the 1994 civil war. Frankly speaking, we are only surviving on our personal efforts, on which we will depend in this election, as well as in forthcoming elections.

Q: Are there any plans to raise a lawsuit in an effort to retrieve the confiscated properties and assets of the YSP after the 1994 war?

A: First of all, the properties and assets were not confiscated because there was no decision to confiscate them, but they were reserved. As for going to court, we don't plan to do this for two reasons. Firstly, the case is a political one

occurring as a result of war, and so it cannot be resolved in courts. Secondly, we don't believe that the judiciary is totally independent. Hence, we are waiting for a decision by the President at a personal level, as he is the only one who could order their release.

Q: Do you mean that the current judicial system cannot release the reserved YSP properties?

A: The judicial system can order no one to do anything in Yemen!

Q: In your view, does the Local Council Law meet the expectations and ambitions of the Yemeni people? What are its shortcomings?

A: No. The Local Council Law does not meet the demands of the Yemeni people because it only regulates a number of artificial councils of consultative natures with no right to give or take away. These councils will not be able to decide but rather agree on whatever is enforced on them and they may try to give some recommendations to the central authorities and their executive systems (ministries) through the governors. At the end, the Local Council Law is no more than a measure to legitimize the available centralization. In reality, there would be no local governance whatsoever, simply because all the governors and province managers are being directly appointed from top. Besides that, all of these councils can be dissolved with a simple order from the president of the republic in case they stand against a central decision, not to forget that these councils will be monitored by the central authorities and will be held accountable for their actions. I believe several international experts have expressed their views about the law and recommended to the government to change it by saying that it is not a true local governance law as there is a serious drawback in the law. The experts stated that the Local Council Law simply contradicts the present constitution because the constitution states that heads of administrative units should be elected and the elections of local council should take place in a phased manner. On the other hand, the Local Council Law states that heads of

"...we are waiting for a decision by the President at a personal level, as he is the only one who could order the release of YSP's assets and properties."

administrative units are to be appointed. This means that the state had made constitutional changes to adapt the new council law with the constitution. This has never happened in any country on this planet except in Yemen. What is suppose to be is adapt the new laws to the constitution and not the contrary!

Q: We know that the YSP's stand in regard to the constitutional amendments is negative. Assuming that the public rejects the amendments, what would the state's and elected local councils' position be?

A: If that happens, there will be several major legal problems. But the authorities did not take this into consideration and did not care about these legal violations simply because the political ends justify the means.

"We are still strong and confident in our stand in saying "NO" to the amendments, which represent a shameful retreat backwards in our democracy and the rights of the Yemeni people."

Q: Knowing that the ruling party will -as you said- be using government funds and media to serve its interest, in the forthcoming elections, and as you claim, if the Local Council Law is illegitimate and the Local Councils will only be artificial, why are you then participating in the elections?

A: It is true that we are entering an unbalanced election process. It is also true that it would have been justifiable and easy for us to boycott the elections as we did in the past. However, we believe that the politics of boycott is the politics of void, and hence we do not think that boycotting political events is always the right choice. The Fourth YSP Congress decided that we participate in the elections, either future parliamentary elections or local council elections, or even civil movements. We decided to do so because only then will we be able to fight peacefully and work on correcting the democratic process through long struggle and determination. We know that our country cannot become a democratic nation (like western countries) overnight. We also know that the leader of our country cannot

present us democracy. We are the ones who should go to the fields, fight, and participate. Only then, with our efforts and patience will we be able to develop the democratic process, and we are ready for that.

Participation in elections is the solution, boycotting it is not. Yes, we know that there are many clear and obvious violations taking place in abusing governmental funds, the media, army and police forces, which are all in the hands of the state. We also know that there are high-ranking orders that PGC must be granted all local councils. We know that all of this is taking place. However, we are trying to prevent this from continuing and exceeding certain limits. We also know that lists of electors are filled with fraud. Mr. Mohamed Hussein Al-Farih, an expert in election affairs, had himself stated to Al-Sahwa newspaper a few weeks ago that the registered male electors were more than the male population in some governorates! This has not occurred anywhere else in the world. There are many outrageous violations and openly made faking attempts in the lists. The right response to that should be confrontation in the arena. We should participate, fight, and correct the violations happening in a legitimate, peaceful manner in a long-term plan. Boycotting elections and staying at home condemning these violations is no more than verbal action that will neither change the situation nor be in the interest of the people.

Q: From the time of its emergence, and during the times of being in power and in opposition, what has the YSP achieved so far? How do you evaluate your situation after the 1994 civil war?

A: I cannot simply tell you in brief what our achievements are. We are a political party, and any political entity or group sometimes commits mistakes and other times makes tremendous achievements. We continue to state once and again, that we did commit mistakes during our political life, but when we look at the current situation of Yemen, and compare it to the situation of former South Yemen during the YSP rule, you would find that we had many accomplishments. We established a strong country. We united more than 24 sultanates and emirates and formed a new state. The national front -former Socialist Party- emerged and built the state of law and order, with security and a reasonable level of income. The YSP had gone a long way in diminishing illiteracy in the south. Don't forget that in the late 1980s only 87,000 people in southern governorates were illiterate. It was going to be an easy task to complete the work and totally diminish illiteracy.

The YSP was able to establish a strong infrastructure despite its limited resources and the sanctions imposed on the south. It also ended tribal revenge, and established true security. You were

able to walk anywhere, sleep anywhere and not worry about yourself or property.

What is happening today, is totally opposite. We see tribal revenge taking place everywhere. We can see horrible security flaws everywhere in the country, which makes it no more a country with dignity. There are sheikhdoms and sultanates with almost total independence from the state, all doing what it likes within its boundaries. In today's Yemen, the strong prevail over the law. We are trying as the YSP to do what we can to re-establish the civil society. As an opposition party, we are doing our best. You should not forget that we were beaten up, and a war was waged against us that led thousands of our members to turn to streets and be displaced. Despite all of what we had gone through, we were able to say "NO" on many occasions, the last of which is the current constitutional amendments. Some groups, who used to clearly oppose the constitutional amendments surprisingly changed their position fearing the state's response against them.

Q: Do you mean Islah in your last sentence?

A: I don't mean a particular party, but rather all the people or groups from various parties including the PGC itself, and many prominent individuals as well. All of them were surprised when the amendments were initially proposed, called them unsuitable, and rejected them. We were the ones who openly stood strong in our stand in regard to the amendments despite all the threats and blackmail we received. We are still strong and confident in our stand in saying "NO" to the constitutional amendments, which represent a shameful retreat backwards in our democracy and the rights of the Yemeni people.

Q: In the 4th General Congress of the YSP, you decided to participate in the council elections. Your decision was later confirmed in the second assembly meeting. However, the YSP's Hadhramout Organization stated that it would boycott the elections. Does this indicate a division within the party? What will you do in that regard?

A: Indeed, we formally decided to participate in the elections, and confirmed that in our central committee. However, don't forget that the 4th General Congress of the YSP made another decision as well. We also decided to allow various groups within the party to express their viewpoints independently and openly. I must say that this is a new unusual step in the way political parties operate in Yemen and even in the Arab world. This is what we call internal democracy. We don't want to impose a decision on all the various sections in the party. You may have read in the Thouri edition (mouthpiece of the YSP) a few weeks ago, which published the

What Others Say...



Mr. Hassan Al-Odeini, Chief Editor of Al-Osbo newspaper, thinks that constitutions are usually flexible enough to cope with changing circumstances. Therefore, he does not agree with applying any amendments to constitutions unless great

political, social and economic changes take place. Such changes are not likely to take place in a short span of time, he says.

"Yemen's constitution was set up to suit two different tastes upon the declaration of unification. After the consolidation of unity, there had to be some amendments to back up the tendency towards a more open political system and an economic system based on open Market policy." However, he feels doubtful that the amending of the constitution, in 1994 and now, was due to this tendency.

Al-Odeini seems less enthusiastic about local elections either in their endorsed version or in that demanded by the opposition. "In my opinion," he said, "Yemen needs to build a modern centralized system based one law, order and equality."

Although a member of the PGC, Sheikh No'man Msad Othman claims to have no idea about the nature of the constitutional amendments. He said that neither he nor the citizens of Al-Dhalea know what is behind the amendments. "The official media promotes amendments without detailing the facts. It would have been better if promotion had followed a series of lectures, or the distribution of booklets and documents about the real nature of amend-

ments, instead of referring them to referendum in a short time, he said. He concluded by questioning the purpose of amendments, whether they are in the general interests of people or only serving a particular group.



The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) has for a long time been calling for decentralization and for local councils to develop democracy in a sense that all people can practice it, manage their lives, handle their shortcomings, etc., according to Mr.

Abdulghani Abdulqader, member of the political office of the YSP.

Despite all shortcomings, violations and the attempts to control results of elections, Mr. Abdulghani viewed Local Councils Elections as a promising start that will, in the course of time, be more developed. "People must not misunderstand our position and treat it as contradictory with our principle. We want to strengthen the beginning and reveal violations and show how to reject them," he said.

He looks upon the appointing of LC chairmen by the government as a kind of clinging to centralization which is a result of lack of confidence in these councils. "This will not help the experience prosper. There will be a kind of contradiction between elected councils and appointed leaders. Unless leaders are also elected, many differences will be bound to emerge," he said. As for the constitutional amendments, "At this particular time, I think that they will deepen the national divide because they follow a political

crisis when the country is in dire need for reconciliation upon which amendments might be more acceptable and appropriate, he said. "I think that the constitutional amendments help a particular party to be in power until it illegally reaches the position of one-party-rule."



Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Saif, Information Dep. chairman in the Supreme Election Committee (SEC), talked about measures pertaining to the referendum on constitutional amendments and local elections and said "We have started

carrying out an information plan by conducting a campaign to promote awareness in all the media through many series of programs. This plan includes many stages starting with the awareness promotion, covering activities of the SEC and covering activities of the observation committees in districts and the other sub committees."

With regards to the awareness promotion campaigns, he said "We maintain the interest of people to participate in the upcoming elections through different techniques including anthems, presenting shows of the legal and constitutional texts and acting scenes. Within the information campaign there will be several interviews with people concerned in the SEC on TV so as to elaborate more on many issues relating to these elections, voting process and voters."

The election guide has also been prepared, in which some annexes on the rights and duties of candidates are noted down. This guide will

be distributed in the field so as to help candidates and to stand them on a better stead regarding their rights and duties. They will also be used by committees as a visual reference that will help facilitate their work to enforce the law."

With regards to the international organizations avoiding monitoring the upcoming local elections, he said "Local elections are an administrative and not political activity so local organizations monitor them. It is enough that local organizations take part in them. A number of local organizations have applied to monitor these elections. On our part we will do the best we can do to provide the facilities possible. However, we can't afford the expense of inviting foreign organizations to monitor these elections."



"Should we talk about the ensuing local elections, we have to consider all its aspects and all the parties involved: the people and the two authorities concerned legislative and executive. Local elections have been endorsed both in form and content by the two authorities. Now it is up to the people to have the final decision on them, constitutionally at least," said Hafid al-Bukari.

He added: "Personally, I do not see any substantial content in the constitutional amendments in keeping abreast of the international developments taking place world-wide."

"I may not be exaggerating the point if I say that the current constitution has been formed to meet the times, and the political, cultural and social conditions that are ahead of our time. If that is the case then it is only proper that the constitution be amended to meet the time we

are in. And since the people will vote either in favor or against these amendments, it's they who have the final say. Even if the people decided to "tar their faces again", as one of the people commenting on those who will vote for these amendments, referring to the time when the Imam called the people to put tar on their faces so as to protect them and they did that.

As for the ensuing local elections, though it is an important step, paving the way for a healthy democratic and administrative experience, many problems and new wrong deeds may appear as a result, mainly due to the limited resources. For example, one may wonder how many projects and facilities can these councils' members establish if we take in mind the fierce and severe fight they will have to attain privileges, expenses, credits, cars, etc before even thinking of improving the life conditions of their people!

The other question mark is "What are the main resources of these councils? aren't they from the people themselves

So ultimately the people will come to realize that these councils are nothing but money-collecting funds, abusing what will be collected from the poor people, especially in such weak administrative systems in the country, fragile awareness level on the part of people and weak sense of responsibility on the part of officials. This happens at a time when constitutional amendments are calling for making wise use of expenses through extending the parliamentary and presidential elections terms for two extra years. However, despite this proposed declared policy, expenses will be spent lavishly every two years on the local elections. All in all, it seems that there is no other option. Therefore, it is only advisable to interact with what is possible rather than having a passive stance that will breed nothing new."

complete view point of the other Radical Wing in the YSP openly and freely. Naturally, there was an opposition from the Central Committee as 17 voices out of 199 voted against participation in the elections, while 18 were absent. This means that even though the Radical Wing is not of great influence on the overall votes, its stand was clear and represented its viewpoint in regard to the elections. It had a different opinion towards the elections, as it sees the elections as not so serious a matter and inappropriate because Yemen is still in the state of war and should remove all the war's aftermath impact before continuing with elections and that there should be national reconciliation involving all parties. They also claim that Yemeni people from various parties and positions should only start elections after they have rejected all their misinformation about the other parties. Even though the wing voted against participation, the overall number of votes favored participation, so that is what we will do.

Today, there are two different stands in Hadhramout. The first, which represents the majority, asks for participation and the implementation of the 4th YSP Congress decision, while the second asks for boycotting the elections. The Hadhramout Governorate Committee

"The governments wants to frighten and discourage the Yemeni electorate against voting for the YSP, and to also place the YSP under the continuous threat of the government's sword."

held a referendum and came out with a final decision of participating in the elections. In any way, the Hadhramout Organization announced that it would go with the majority decision and maintain their stand in regard to the elections. Despite that, some of our brothers decided to stay away from the election process.

Whatever happens, I want to assure that we will always stay united under the YSP and will not be divided or dismiss any group in our party. We want to continue to live with these differences with respect to each other. This is the simplest way to develop our party under common grounds. Even though our experiment of internal democracy is one of its kind in the region, and somewhat awkward to deal with, yet it is our guarantee for a bright and strong future.

Q: After the threats of the Vice President to dissolve the YSP, the Party Affairs Committee sent you a note threatening to take legal action against you. What is your response to that? And how legitimate do you see this threat?

A: You might have read the opinion of legal experts in newspapers saying that this as a whole is a political threat that has nothing to do with law or the constitution. The YSP held a formal legitimate congress attended by 2,500 people, and came out with appropriate decisions for the sake of the party. The (governmental) Party Affairs Committee wanted to veto a number of our congress decisions for political reasons. We believe that the main reason behind that is our stand in rejecting the constitutional amendments of rejection. This is one reason behind their threats. The other reason is that the governments wants to frighten and discourage the Yemeni electorate against voting for the YSP, and to also place the YSP under the continuous threat of the government's sword.

We know what the issue is all about, and will not allow anyone to change our agenda. We will continue to focus on the main issue in hand, which is to participate fully with the democratic operation, and call upon people to say "NO" to the constitutional amendments in the referendum.

Q: If the Party Affairs Committee carries its threat and raises a lawsuit against you, what do you think would be its consequences?

A: This is not in our hands. We are a party that has been in political life before this government. We are the ones who established, or among those who established the Republic of Yemen, and will continue to practice our right, which is one of our political rights as citizens. Practicing this right is also an obligation to the Yemeni people. Hence, if they want to dissolve the party, they can do it. They can dissolve our party, and they can even take us to prison, but at the end of the road, they will never be able to destroy our ideas or put an end to our existence.

Q: In the special session of the congress for Islah, President Ali Abdullah Saleh stated that the constitutional amendments are not temperamental or disparaging the people's rights. But is considered a confirmation of democracy and national unity and whoever says anything but that is a liar. What is your comment? And how on earth will you be able to encourage the public to say "NO" to the amendments?

A: The constitutional amendments speak for themselves as they tampered with the balance between authorities making the executive authority dominate the legislative and judicial authorities thereby widening the gap among the three authorities. It also enabled the Shoura Council, which will be appointed by the head of state to appoint the legislative authority. The amendments will increase the period of the members of parliament to 6 years without elections, and the period of the president to 7 years. This means stagnating the political activities for 7 years. It also enables the change of the constitution without even a referendum, which will create constitutional instability in Yemen. All the amendments are an obvious step backwards and has nothing to do with strengthening democracy whatsoever. This is exactly what the latest letter of the president to the Parliament mentioned when he suggested withdrawing the amendment increasing the tenure of the office of the president to 7 years. In his letter he said that he is committed to strengthening the multi-political environment and the peaceful transition of power.

This obviously shows that they know that the constitutional amendments are not in favor of our democracy. The amendments are in fact going to hold back our democracy.

In regard to encouraging the public to say "NO" to the amendments, we are trying our best. What is important is that we express our viewpoint, and we believe that there is a majority of the public who don't believe in the effectiveness of the amendments. However, there are many ways to affect and threaten the public so that they would think otherwise. One of these ways is the use of the media (TV and Radio) in which all the officials are openly encouraging people to vote "YES" for the amendments. On the other hand, the opposition is not given the least of opportunity to invite the public to say "NO" to the amendments on TV, Radio, or even on posters.

A few days ago, a few individuals in Aden tried to post posters calling upon the public to say "NO" to the public. They were taken to prison. There are also a number of reported arrests for the same reason in Dhahran governorate and in some governorates in the south. YSP members and activists are the main target of these arrests.

This is what the other side is doing, and that is what we are doing. But we still bet on the people and the Yemeni nation and we feel they would do what we think is right.

Q: The government has considered the extension of the president's term of office to 7 years and the parliament's term to 6 years as a step to decrease the economic burden. Is it true that they are doing this for the sake of the economy?

A: Never. What will be spent now on the local councils for two years is a lot of money and what will be spent on the appointed Shoura Council is also a lot. There is no financial or economic reason that could be considered an excuse. This is not logical at all. Funds are spent on occasions and even when there are no occasions. For instance thirty five billion Yemeni rials was spent on the unification anniversary last year.

The current authority is the last to talk about economical spending as it spends without limits for the simplest things. Even if we assume that there is some spending on a political or democratic process (such as elections), then it is an investment for the future and in the right place.

Q: What is the government and opposition crisis in Yemen? What are the reasons behind the absence of the opposition in the political reality? What is your response to the government's accusations that you bombed your own branch in Dhale?

A: In my opinion, the crisis is in the whole political system in Yemen, government and opposition. This country entered the democratic process after unification, and had quite a good experience during the transitional period which I personally believe was a unique period in our history. It was a time in which we had tens of parties tens of newspapers of different affiliations.

Yemen was a forum for discussion and awareness. There were many activities that were both exciting and eye catching.

However, then came the war and broke the balance that was there, and removed the basis on which the democratic process was founded. The war ended the initial conditions for democracy. Hence after the balance was disturbed after the war, the political system weakened so did the democratic process and the middle class. Most of the intellectuals and educated Yemenis left the country, immigrated, or became displaced. Then the whole system atrophied. Add to that the deterioration in the development of the country and the spread of poverty. The war caused deterioration of everything and at all levels, causing a crisis in the opposition and the political system as a whole. I believe there is a crisis in the opposition and another crisis in the party in power, because the project that was planned for after unification relapsed and the authority's main concern today has turned out to be survival. The opposition does not always compete with the rulers, but competes within it for the rulers. Today's opposition and other parties seem to be in continuous competition with themselves for the authorities or whoever is close to the authorities. In other words, the project turned to become a total failure. We should however, not give up hope but plan for the future and develop new political projects.

As for the accusation of the government that we bombed our own YSP branch in Dhale, it is an accusation that smacks sarcasm. Even though we did not hear an official accusation, we only came across them in some official newspapers. This accusation is only to cover up the government's weakness, particularly in the security issues. The government is unable to establish security, hence it is trying to accuse this and that. It is impossible for anyone to bomb or destroy himself. This has been said once and again. Hence, don't be surprised that the official media and press are losing their credibility everywhere. No one any more believes in what the government says in its explanation about the lack of security in Yemen.

Q: What are the solutions for the opposition to get out of its present crisis?

A: I believe that the opposition cannot get out of its crisis alone, but ask "How could the whole country get out of its crisis?" This cannot happen if two steps are not taken. The first step is to admit that the country is going through a crisis, because a patient cannot be healed unless he admits his illness. The second step is to sit and diagnose our crisis and work on getting quick remedies and start an overall economic and political healing process. There must be harmony among the Yemeni public as a whole and reconciliation between all of us. All the ones who left the country should come back and work on finding a solution other than the one we had before. It is easy to get written proposals but it is difficult to implement them.

Q: When you said "all the ones who left the country" did you mean the 16 men accused of organizing the war?

A: I mean all the ones who left the country, including those 16 men because they were the ones who represented a main constituent in accomplishing Yemen's unification in 1990. It is quite strange to understand how Yemen would be built if many of its people are out of the country displaced and deprived of Yemeni citizenship rights. I believe that if we wanted to build a strong Yemen, we should build it all together and it should accommodate all of us. We should be partners in this country in the good and bad times.

Q: Despite being a former Minister of Culture, you seem to have a stronger political than cultural position. What has your party done for spreading cultural awareness?

A: This is a topic that would require time to go into. However, if you look at the past and compare it to the future you would see that the YSP had done a lot during its time in power. You should go to the Ministry of Culture and ask where the various cultural bands that used to operate in the time of YSP. Examples are numerous, some are dancing bands, music bands, theaters, etc.. Today, all of these are being dominated by politics. As I said, the 1994 war was the main cause behind all of what we are seeing because it has become a social coup which gave the authority to the traditional powers, that are against culture. We have done a lot for promotion of culture, but the time limit prevents us from going through all what we did.

Al-Qirbi to YT:

"The extension of the periods of parliamentarians... are all going to develop the democratic process and widen public participation."

The People's General Congress (PGC) has openly called upon the public to vote "YES" to the constitutional amendments in the referendum and participate in the Local Council Elections. Both events will take place in less than a month from now on 20 February 2001.

To focus on the PGC's stand in regard to the constitutional amendments and the council elections, Yemen Times filed an interview with Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, the head of the political department of the PGC, and a prominent member of the Consultative Council.

Excerpts:

Q: How do you assess the role of the Local Councils in Establishing Local Governance in Yemen?

A: The upcoming national council elections are of great importance due to their potential in strengthening democracy and widening public participation. Through these councils, citizens will be able to administer their own affairs and play a role in the development of their regions. Hence, public participation in these elections will lead to electing individuals capable of achieving developmental programs for their areas. This will consequently lead to the success of this experiment on a national level and be involved in many more projects in future for the various regions after implementation of these projects and plans.

Q: What will the duties and responsibilities of the councils be? Will the councils represent the public 100% when its heads are appointed and not elected?

A: The local councils law gives a lot of authority to local councils because it is a modern law comparable to laws used in the area and in many emerging democracies. Unfortunately some people judge on the law before fully reading and understanding it. Even when they read it, they only look after the drawbacks and lacunae within it, ignoring all its positive aspects and the benefits it provides to the community. These individuals sadly interpret the law in a way that suits their individual or party interests and forget that the legislators of the law are bearing a national responsibility in drafting the law, which may include mistakes, but which can always be corrected through legislative and legal ways. There is no law whatsoever that does not have some drawbacks at least from certain specific viewpoints.

As for the appointment of the heads of the councils of governorates, I personally see no negativity in that especially when the law states that if confidence is lost in the governor or the head of the council, he could easily be replaced or removed consequent upon the demand of the elected council members. The role of the national councils is a developmental role for the region in question, as these councils are the direct choice of the public, hence their duty is mainly to serve their respective region.

Q: Some opposition parties decided to vote "NO" to the constitutional amendments. Will this affect the public participation in the elections? And if the public says "NO" to the amendments, will the elected councils still be legitimate? In this case, do you assume that the public would approve the amendments?

A: First of all, it is the opposition's right to vote "NO" to the constitutional amendments, but I personally believe that Yemenis have reached a level of awareness that enables them to see that the opposition's stand represents a misunderstanding of the core of the amendments. All that the opposition is doing is creating an environment of panic and chaos without any justification. Despite the opposition's actions, it is its right to say what it wants, and it is the people's right to say what they want in regard to the amendments.

As for the public participation, I believe it will be significant because the referendum on the amendments will be carried out along with the national council elections. This is what we, the PGC, are much concerned about so that there would be a large participating percentage of the eligible voters in this elections, which will enable the public to voice its opinion in regard to the amendments. The view that, if the public votes

"NO" to the amendments then that would result in the illegitimacy of the national councils, is wrong. The national council elections have nothing to do with the constitutional amendments or with the outcome of the referendum. The only consequence of a "NO" vote to the amendments would be the preparation for the upcoming parliamentary elections in April 2001. This wrong interpretation of the consequences of the results of the referendum is an irresponsible act that is aimed at creating confusion among the public, nothing else.



Q: How do you evaluate Yemen's previous experience with national councils? What will be the major difference between those older councils and the ones to be elected?

A: I believe that the upcoming national councils will be different from the previous ones because they will emerge in a democratic, not a single-party system. Forming these councils will depend on the free choice of the citizens, away from any interference by the state. The new national councils law grants local councils authority and control over the resources in their respective regions. Hence, these councils will be able to play an important national developmental role if the region's voters elected the ones qualified for the position. Otherwise, if the wrong choice is made, the area will most probably not benefit from the council's authority and will find it difficult to develop and improve its conditions.

Q: There have been no applications from any international organizations to observe the upcoming national council elections. How do you justify their stand?

A: First of all, these elections are for local councils, which do not reflect political differences or ideologies. Second of all, many international organizations see that there is no more need to observe elections in Yemen as they have seen that the previously held elections were tremendously successful and had little fraud and violations of electoral procedures.

Q: Do you honestly believe that the constitutional amendments are actually needed at all? If yes, why were they connected to the national councils? In other words, why this timing? Will these amendments preserve the constitution's principles that were signed when unification took place in 1990?

A: The constitutional amendments are necessary in our viewpoint as the PGC because they rectify some drawbacks and strengthen our democratic process, and not the contrary as some claim. These amendments also do not contradict any of our national and religious values of Islam. They don't contract with the ruling system, Yemen's revolutions and their principles, Yemeni people's rights, and Yemeni unity. The extension of the periods of parliamentarians and of the president, and adding more specialities to the duties of the members of the consultative are all going to develop the democratic process and widen public participation. As for the connection between the referendum and the national council elections, the main reasons are economic and are geared to increase public participation.

In regard to some claims that the constitutional amendments contradict with the constitution formed after unification, this is obviously wrong, as the fundamental principles of the constitution are not at all altered or changed by these amendments. I don't imagine that anyone could accept having the constitution unchanged for an infinite time because the world is changing, so is Yemen. There must be changes and amendments made to the constitution to cope with these circumstances. It is enough to have the Islamic legislation, which is one of the main sources of the constitution being unchanged for a long span of time.

Q: What were the eligibility conditions for nomination to the national council elections? Do you support leading female figures from your party?

A: The conditions, in terms of age or qualifications, are quite clear and well presented. The general secretary of a council should be at least 35 years old, and must have a university degree. As for women, the PGC always is, and has always been supportive to the

women's movement and participation in the political life and in this case in the national councils. The reason for that is because women constitute half of the nation and three quarters of the nation are represented by women and mothers. We hope that we will be able to have some influential presence of women in the upcoming national councils.

Q: It is said that the PGC does not have genuine public support, but was rather able to gain many votes because of its use of the resources it controls, including funds, media, and military forces. What is your response to this viewpoint?

A: These are frequent accusations we receive which are aimed at casting some doubt in the abilities of the PGC and trying to create confusion and fear in some of its members. The PGC is that party which has the highest number of members and affiliates. Its publicity is the widest and it has among its members, the most widely accepted personalities including respected intellectuals, religious personalities, economists, and the most enlightened men in Yemen. Those who are trying to raise doubt about our party's strength and popularity are probably living in a world of fantasy.

As for the ones who think that the PGC is using the state's assets and facilities for its own sake, they should first look at what their parties' spending and facilities which exceed our party's facilities. From where did they get this money? It is sad to see that the inherent weakness in some parties turns into a medium to raise doubts, create chaos and hurl insults on others.

Q: It is obvious that the public has lost trust in the PGC's program during 1993-1997. And afterwards, what does the PGC have to offer to convince the public to vote for it in the coming parliamentary elections? Is there a possibly to make a coalition government containing opposition parties after the new elections?

A: The claim that the public has lost trust in the PGC and its plans is obviously self-contradictory because the PGC is and will continue to be the party that, the people know, stands for moderation and balance, accomplishes achievements, and leads the country to a prosperous future. I do hope that the PGC would sit along with the accusers and critics to show them the achievements it had accomplished through the years in the economy and in the political life. It is unfortunate that even though international organizations and countries have admitted the accomplishments of the PGC, there still is a group that denies them. This group is like the ostrich hiding its head in the sand to refuse reality. The PGC has an announced program, which includes the viewpoint of the party in regard to national councils, and how they could serve to develop their respective regions, and how they should be a major part in building a prosperous Yemen.

Coming to the point of the possibility of joining a coalition to fight corruption and improve the economic conditions of the country, this reflects the ambitions by some other parties. The coalitions in the past only resulted in more corruption, and did not serve their purpose of diminishing it as some had claimed. I hope that the ones who suggest those proposals should think twice before proposing them so that they would not fall victims to their theorization and viewpoints that the PGC is the only party responsible for corruption. Everyone is involved in corruption and responsible for it, and the reports of the Central Organization for Control and Audit prove this fact.

Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet

I. What to Say

Helping the Disabled

Hatem: Hi, Mujib. Nice to meet you. I have been longing to meet you to congratulate you.

Mujib: Hi, Hatem. Nice to meet you too. What have I done to deserve your congratulation?

Hatem: Don't be silly. You have floated an NGO. It was in the news last week.

Mujib: Oh. I see. Yes, I was inspired by the concept of modern curriculum which calls upon the students to relate their education to social needs.

Hatem: That's great. In the interview with the news paper you have said that your N.G.O. would specially work towards helping the disabled. Why did you think of the disabled?

Mujib: Well. In my opinion this is one of the prime social issues. If our aim is developing the human potential, we can't afford to ignore this segment of our less fortunate brethren. They must be assimilated to the social mainstream.

Hatem: You are right. Society should accept the disabled.

Mujib: We realize that we can do more than what is being done now. Their potential should be harnessed. The disabled are not crippled; they are differently abled.

Hatem: What has been your experience working with the disabled?

Mujib: The work is quite fulfilling, exciting and challenging as well.

Hatem: How do you go about it?

Mujib: We start by making an initial assessment of their strength and then providing them selective training in different fields. After the completion of the training we try for their effective placement.

Hatem: What are your future plans?

Mujib: Our future responsibility would include working towards providing open employment to disabled adults and include them in the mainstream.

Hatem: Do you do any campaigning for this purpose?

Mujib: Well, we organize from time to time symposia and public awareness camps to appeal to the public to give the disabled a chance to survive and lead a decent life. The disabled have proved that they can work in a dedicated manner and lead a respectable life. The society should, therefore, accept and sympathize with them.

Hatem: It's indeed heartening to hear all that. I wish you and organization god speed.

Mujib: Thanks a lot. We do hope to get support from people like you for promoting our cause.

II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors if any, in the following sentences

- Although he is foolish but people like him.
- The accident took place as the bus was crossing a bridge.
- May you pass or not, I don't care.

- Loins are both found in Asia and Africa.
- Work hard lest you may not fail.

Answers to last week's questions.

- He took a **different** path from the one I had showered him.
- While moving on grass I saw a snake.
- As soon as the bell rang, the students rushed out of their classes.
- The choice is between a glorious death and a shameful life.
- This book is **as good as** if not better than that.

III. How to express it in one word

- Agreement during a war or battle to stop fighting for a time.
- Put a stop to a process or someone's movement.
- One who behaves in a proud or superior manner.
- Big guns mounted on wheels.
- Skilled workman in industry or trade.

Answers to last week's questions

- A group of small islands- **archipelago**
- Person who draws plans for building and looks after work of buildings- **architect**
- Places for keeping public or government records- **archives**
- Climate or region having not enough rainfall to support vegetation- **arid**
- Government by persons of the highest social rank- **aristocracy**
- Science of numbers- **arithmetic**

IV. Use the correct preposition after 'blame'

- Ramzi said that what happened was Hisham's fault. Ramzi blamed Hisham_____.
- You always say that everything is my fault. You always blame everything_____.
- Do you think that the current economic situation is the fault of the government? Do you blame the government_____.
- I think that the increase in violent crimes is the fault of television. I blame the increase in violent crimes_____.

Answers to last week's questions

- I don't understand this question. **Can you explain the question to me?**
- I don't understand the system. **Can you explain the system to me?**
- I don't understand how this machine works. **Can you explain to me how the machine works?**
- I don't understand why English food is so bad. **Can you explain to me why English food is so bad?**

V Words of Wisdom:

"Early to bed and early to rise
Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise" —Franklin

Thinking Critically: Interpreting literature

Dr. P.A. Abraham,
Sana'a University

In an earlier issue of Yemen Times I tried to discuss certain seminal issues regarding understanding of literature: what is the purpose of literature? and how to understand literature. This is a sequel to the earlier article.

Students of literature often have to interpret what they read in order to be successful in their examinations. In fact interpretation and understanding of literature go together. It is often said that the meaning of a literary work lies buried somewhere within it, waiting to be unearthed. This reasoning suggests that the reader has only to discover the writer's intent to find out what is implied in a poem or a story. In other words, the real meaning of a work of art is hidden between the lines, unaffected by the reader's experiences or interpretations. In recent times, however, a different model of the reading process- one that gives importance to the reader as well as the work he or she is interpreting- has emerged.

So it is an accepted fact that the reading process is sinter active: Meaning comes about through the interaction between the reader and the text. Meaning, therefore, is created partly by what is supplied by a literary work and partly by what is supplied by the reader. To begin with, the work itself will provide some factual details about the plot of a story, the action of a play, or the development of a poem. This factual information is important for the correct interpretation of a work of literature.

Besides these, the book also may portray the social, political, class and gender attitude of the writer. Hence, the book may contain an overtly feminist or class bias or subtle political agenda; it may confirm or challenge contemporary attitude; it may try to explain an elitist, distant view of characters and events or present a sympathetic, involved perspective. A reader's understanding of these attitudes will contribute to the interpretation of the literary work. A knowledge of the literary traditions and conventions will also come handy in the correct interpretation of a work of literature.

The reader also brings into focus his or her own personal views, experiences and ideas about the problems discussed in the work. In short, the notions about literatures influence the interpretation; so do the religion, social and cultural attitudes of the reader.

In fact, each literary work means different things to different readers depending on their age, gender, nationality, political and religious ideologies, ethnic backgrounds, social and economic background, education and experiences in life. For example, depending on one's religious beliefs a reader can react to a passage from the Holy Quran as literal truth or symbolic truth. Similarly, depending on the place one lives, or one's biases, or the nature of one's experiences, a story about racial discrimination may appear to be realistic, exaggerated for dramatic effect, or understated or restrained.

In a real sense, the process of interpretation of a work of literature is almost like a conversation, one in which the reader and the text have a voice. Sometimes, the book determines the direction of this dialogue; at other times, by using the knowledge and experience, the reader dominates the scene. Indeed every reading of a literary work is an interpretation. There is no single "correct" reading of a book.

Robert Frost's famous poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" explains this flexibility of the process of interpretation. On the one hand it may be described as a poem about the inevitability of death. On the other hand it is a comment on one's duty and responsibility above all things or about the conflicting pulls of life and art. Or the reader's associations of snow with quiet and sadness could lead the reader to define the mood of the poem as

melancholy. Some information about Frost's life or his ideas about poetry could enhance the appreciation of the poem. On several occasions, speaking about this poem, Frost himself had given different interpretations about his poem, sometimes insisting that the poem had no hidden meaning and some other time saying that it required a lot of explanation. This points to the fact that the meaning of the text is not fixed. Therefore, it is important that one should be open to the text's varied possibilities.

However, some readings are more plausible than others. Like a scientific theory, a literary interpretation must have a basis, and the book provides the facts against which the interpretation should be judged. Let us take, for example, Shirley Jackson's short story "The lottery" in which a randomly chosen victim is stoned to death by her neighbors. We may understand that the commercial aspects of the lottery suggest a contemporary pagan ritual. We may also observe that a number of specific details in the story suggest ancient fertility ceremonies. Yet from another point of view, the story can be viewed as a commentary on mob psychology. The way characters reinforce each other's violent tendencies lends support to this interpretation. A second closer reading of the story will most likely lead the reader in other directions, allowing to explore other possible interpretations.

The reader may also present unusual or creative interpretation of a literary work with the result that it may raise issues that lead to interesting and intellectually stimulating discussion. The special knowledge of the reader- a regional practice, an ethnic custom, attitude to gender - may give a unique perspective of the work. However, it is important that we must justify the interpretation by supporting our arguments with specific reference to the text. If the interpretation is based on one's own experiences, explain those and relate them with the work. This will provide our reading new insights. Nevertheless, it is important to note that some interpretations are not reasonable. While readers can formulate their own views, they cannot ignore or contradict the text to suit their own ideas or biases. We need to question and reexamine our judgments, as we read and reread the text, which should ideally be a continuous dialogue between the reader and the text. Evaluating a work of literature is different from interpretation, though both go hand in hand. While evaluating, we make a judgment. We reach

certain conclusions about the work- not merely that the work is good or bad, but how effective the work is. In evaluation, we analyze the work, breaking it into different parts and considering its individual elements. For example, fiction may use dialogue and symbols and other stylistic and narrative techniques. Plays are divided into scenes and acts and employ dialogues and special stage devices. Poems may be arranged in regularly ordered groups of lines and use poetic techniques like rhymes, meter, verse libre, etc. Understanding the choices writers make can lead the readers to new perspectives and can help make correct judgments about the work. While evaluating a work of literature, it is also important to consider whether a work is intellectually challenging or not. For instance, the extended comparison between a compass and two people in love, in the seventeenth century metaphysical poet John Donne's poem "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" is familiar to students. The poem illustrates how an intellectually challenging image can communicate ideas to a reader. Compressed into the comparison are ideas about the perfection of love, the pain of enforced separation, and the difference between physical and spiritual love. As complex the extended comparison is, it is nonetheless familiar to the careful reader. Most of us have used a compass to draw a circle and, hence, are able to perceive the relation between the compass and the two lovers.

So, an intellectually challenging work makes readers think. Although it is a complex process, the work gives readers a sense of satisfaction as he could put forth an effort to read and interpret.

Finally, a reader should consider, whether the work of literature gives pleasure, as it is one of the basic functions of literature. Of course, it is a subjective question. However, it is a starting point for critical judgment. When readers ask themselves what they liked about a work, why they liked it, or what they learned there, the process of evaluation begins. Though this process is largely uncritical, it can lead to a critical response. Sometimes it so happens that when you read great literature, with all its complexities, you may lose sight of the idea of literature as a source of pleasure. But literature should touch the reader on a deep emotional or intellectual level, and if it does not- in spite of its technical perfection- it has failed to achieve one of its basic purposes.

A Rainbow of The Hills

Dr. Anil K. Prasad
Department of English
Ibb University

Violet- colored flowers of the hills,
Not known to the market place
bestow
Sweet-smelling-wonderful
atmosphere
In the valley-spreading out their
welcoming hands
Like children welcoming the new
faces
Encountered with fearful smile
In the cradle of humanity.

Indigo blue, a favorite color of the
cover
Of a fair child-marble-white
innocence
A bundle of energy managing in
many ways
To explode the fountain of delight
For those who watch the worth
watching sight
And weigh in gold.

Blue Heaven above permeates
The whole-marble-white beneath
The life of the valley and the
mountain tops
Sprinkled with spots of white
gathering
Into a shape diverging readily
To go ahead of time.

Green innocence of green delight,
Clothed in the garments of green
Afternoons of rain-washed freshness

and greenness
The color that touches the tissues of
time to the core.

Yellow, golden yellow
As the warmth of the morning rising
Sun
And the soothing color of the
evening stars.
And the entire city celebrating
The festival of lights -Masha'Allah
! Masha'Allah!

Orange-blossoms of the trees of
time
Mellow with reddish-yellow sap
That gives the soothing, radiant
flame
That shows the rainbow after the
rains
In the sunshine of youth and spring.

Red charming faces of the young
and old alike
With the inner cadence of warmth
and love
Proclaiming a perpetual Paradise
Of powerful flow in the arteries and
veins,
Against the vacant feeling of vain
promises
A bouquet of generative feelings,
With a sense of Yogic purpose
In the Rainbow World.

The Rainbow World of the hills,
Is a vital, vibrant, bountiful and
radiant
raw material of life.

YOUTH FORUM

The Great Father, Dr. Thakur

Respected Dr. Thakur,

I am a student in the university of Science and Technology. I always remember your valuable help when I had difficulties in my studies. But more than that I remember your words of wisdom and encouragement which inspired me to be the best one like you. Please, my sir, let me call you my father. You are still my teacher and will continue to be my teacher. I have been amazed at the way of your teaching. You are certainly the best teacher. You simplified your explanation, your ideas. You were very kind with students. I haven't seen one like you. My pen can't express what I have felt towards you.

My father, I would like one thing from you through Yemen Times. I would like you to tell us how you studied the English language and problems you faced during your studies. I hope you will tell us about your life. Do you know why? Because I and many like me want to be like you- a great professor. I have

abilities to do anything. I keep you as the model of an excellent professor. I am very happy to see you in the university. Also Professor Sahu is the only one who encourages me. Ms Intsar Yasin, Zaizab Al-Baidani and many others have rendered valuable help to me. I take this occasion to pay my best regards to them all. I am thankful to Yemen Times, Professor Sahu and others. I would be very happy if Yemen Times continues to provide us an extra forum to learn the English language. My best wishes to all. I hope to see you all happy and in good health.

Nawal Abdul Galil
University of Science and
Technology, Sana'a

Light of Moon

Can I travel in the light of the moon
Can I get all my wishes fulfilled
The reply came to me soon,
Your wishes will be shattered to pieces
Your moon will never give light,
It will disappear behind the cloud,
But I believe that my moon is still bright,

It will call out to me some day aloud,
It will say to me "Dear, don't be sad.
Despite all the surrounding darkness.

Although all things come to be bad,
Think only of happiness,
Look for tomorrow with bright
expectancy.

Don't let the darkness dwell in your
heart,
Let the hope cheer your clear heart."

Elham Ibrahim,
college of Education, Mahweet

I Was a Boy

I grew with boys as one of them
I played their toys as wonderful
things
When someone saw me, he said,
'come on son'
So I wore trousers and cut my hair
But now it's time to quit playing
their games
That's what my father said 'you are
a girl
So bye boys I'm not one of you
And come on girls show me what to
do.

Fatma Alawi



Crystals

By: Mohamed Qadri

Yemen: Only for Wealthy!

I reached the conclusion: Yemen is only for wealthy people!
Poor Yemenis should immediately pack their stuff and travel abroad.

While the majority are dying of hunger, Haddah Street, in the Capital Sana'a, is observing daii, openings of modern and lavishly decorated restaurants and coffee shops. Such places are receiving, especially at evening times, crowds of food eaters and take-away snack lovers, in addition to those gentlemen parking their luxurious, modern, and extremely expensive cars to serve their children and families with delicious multi-flavored juices and ice-cream.

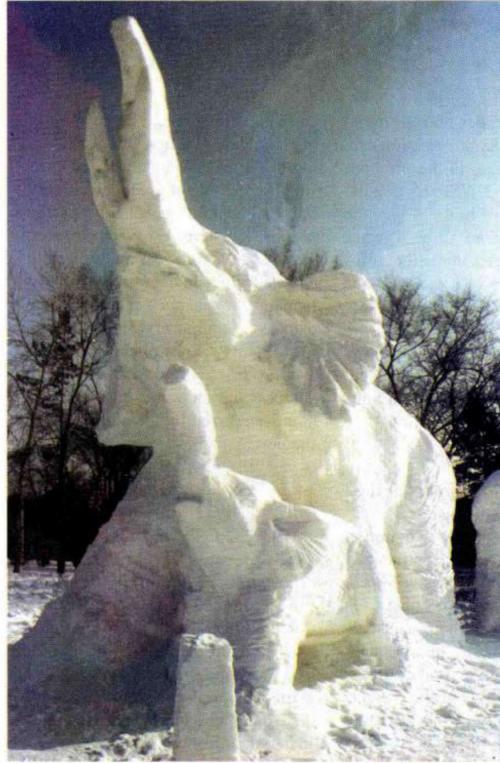
Pausing to examine which segment of society these people belong to will result in a final and decisive conclusion. These are either rich Arab students studying in Yemeni colleges or individuals who belong to certain rich families who can easily be counted and identified, but whose assets are beyond the counting ability of any ordinary citizen. In brief, these are the wealthy!

A glass of ice-cream costing YR 200, for example, means nothing to any of those getting millions out of producing non-marketable products world wide. With extreme ease, they could easily spend bundles of dollars now and earn double the amount they spent from their businesses. Others find corruption a good way to tap illegitimate sources of income and struggle to occupy governmental jobs that represent fertile hidden income sources, even if their 'formal' salaries are not that worthy.

However, spending YR 200 for ice-cream is not a wise thing to do for the majority of Yemenis. Such an amount is used to feed a whole family for a single day. Such an amount is transferred every day to a poor old lady by a very highly-ranking official as financial aid, and I have seen his instructions to pay this 'humble' amount written by his hand on a piece of paper myself.

Don't bother poor folks. Don't bet on making money here; it is hopeless, a waste of time and effort. Only listen to my sincere advice: If you get the chance to immigrate, go for it, and remember, Yemen is only for the wealthy!

Snow Animal Sculptures Make up a Zoo in Harbin



Harbin—Snow rhinos and "Mother and son" elephants are shown in the "Ice and Snow Zoo" in Harbin, capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, Saturday Jan.20, 2001. Snow sculptures of monkeys, bears, etc. that are strewn around a corner of the Harbin Snow Sculpture Park make up a snow zoo in the park. —Xinhua

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- كوب مصغر صالح لتخضير طعام الطفل مع شغاء للتخزين
- شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ بعمر طويل
- قاعدة الوعاء قابلة للانفصال
- المحرك لا يحترق بفضل قاطع الدائرة



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قطع متينة من المعدن الصلب بالكامل
شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ
٤ ملحقات قياسية
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شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ
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Power-up Version of MK-G50NR
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سرعة فوم ١١٠٠ قطع في الساعة
قطع متينة من المعدن الصلب بالكامل
شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ
٤ ملحقات قياسية
(ناعم، متوسط، خشن وملحقة الكمية)
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MX-T1GN
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ملحقات ممتعة بطريقتي رطب وتخش
شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ بعمر طويل
قاعدة الوعاء قابلة للانفصال
المحرك لا يحترق بفضل قاطع الدائرة



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٢ وظائف: في جهاز واحد (مصارف، خلط ومفرومة)
مفلز من المعدن الصلب بالكامل
شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ بعمر طويل
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والياسمين نرفها للأستاذ/
رمزي علوي السقاف
بمناسبة عقد قرانه الميمون.



المهنون:

والدتك وخالتك، وأخواتك
وأخوانك وأخواتك،
وجميع الأصدقاء
وطاقم «يمن تايمز».



National ناشيونال

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شركة ألفا المحدودة
ALFA



Press Scanner

**26 September,
18 January 2001,
Military Forces,
Weekly**

President: "Local Councils are an Experiment that We must Preserve"

President Ali Abdullah Saleh met last week with members of the executive office and with the heads of Taiz governorate provinces. In his speech, the president focused on many issues that are of great importance for all aspects of development in the governorate of Taiz. One of the main points was the issue of the constitutional amendments and the local council elections.

President Saleh said, "My hope is that every official here and in other positions should carry out his duties perfectly so as to make the upcoming referendum and local council elections, which are happening for the first time a great success, and which will provide local councils with several capabilities and duties. Local Councils are an experiment that we must preserve. The next two years will be considered a transitional period, during which time we will evaluate the success of this experiment. If this experiment succeeds, then we will be able to take more advanced steps in the future."

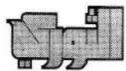
He further added, "The councils to be elected are aimed at implementing a decentralized basis of government, financially and administratively, and their objective is to provide the best services."

President of Yemen Receives a Letter from President Clinton "The Attack against USS Cole is not only an attack against the USA, but also an attack against the distinguished relationship between the two countries."

President Ali Abdullah Saleh received a handwritten letter from the President of the USA, Bill Clinton, in which he said, "During the last few years, both of us worked on strengthening our bilateral relationship, and your latest April visit to the USA represented a great achievement in our relationship. I hope you will work closely with the new administration to work on strengthening the unique relationship and increase cooperation between our two countries."

He also noted in his letter that the attack against USS Cole Destroyer last October was not only an attack against the USA, but also an attack against the distinguished relationship between the two countries. He also described the significant improvement in the cooperation between the two countries in an attempt to identify

fy who was behind the attack, and for justice to be served. He confirmed that the USA is committed to continue its relationship with Yemen, wishing the Yemeni people all the best in the year 2001 and the years to come.



**Al-Thowry,
18 January 2001,
Mouthpiece of the
YSP, weekly**

In an direct implementation of the PGC's plan The Supreme Elections Committee Drops 163 Names from the YSP's Candidates' List for the National Council Elections

The YSP blamed the Supreme Elections Committee for creating obstacles to its efficient participation in the upcoming national council elections and referendum on the constitutional amendments. The party also accused the committee of committing many violations in an effort to cancel the role of the YSP in the referendum and national council elections to be held on 20 February, and hence enable the ruling party to win the elections.

In a letter from Ali Saleh Obad (Mogbil), the General Secretary of the YSP, sent last week to the Chairman of the Supreme Elections Committee, he mentioned that there had been 163 names removed from the YSP's list of candidates which was presented in order to participate in the upcoming council elections. In the letter, he stated that many of the party's representatives' names were removed from urban regions, in addition to placing too many names in less populous areas, while removing all YSP candidates from many Yemeni cities.

He also stated that the YSP party has always expressed and continues to express its good intentions in dealing with the Supreme Elections Committee, but the committee had proven that it is not independent, and that it is biased towards the ruling party, and works on creating indirect obstacles in front of the YSP to prevent its efficient and rightful participation in national elections and the referendum.

He also clearly confirmed the unfairness of the committee and hence the pre-deciding of the referendum and national council elections in coordination with the ruling party.

In the Province of Radfan

Only 3 Representing the YSP in the Local Elections

The citizens of Radfan province strongly condemned the removal of the YSP representative from the original committee in the province and expressed their surprise and dismay

at the limited number of YSP representatives in the various election centers in the province. In the province of Radfan, only 3 YSP representatives were allowed in the 4 election centers, and 24 were allowed in the election committees, while the ruling party's representation was 60, and Islah Party's representation was 48.



**Ra'i, 16 January,
2001, mouthpiece
of the Yemen Sons
League Party,
Weekly**

Bomb Kills Worshipers at the Mash-had Mosque

A man was killed and two injured last Friday at the main entrance of the Mash-had mosque in the Musaik neighborhood east of Sanaa. The explosion occurred when one of the worshippers heading to the mosque to perform his "Magreb" prayer tripped on a disguised bomb at the entrance of the mosque, causing a strong explosion that immediately killed him and injured two others. Security officials claimed that someone attempted to cause a massacre in the mosque during the "Magreb" prayer at the mosque, which is usually crowded with worshippers, especially for Friday prayers, which are usually attended by prominent figures from Islah.

The UAE ready to receive Yemeni labor

The Minister of Labor and Social Affairs in the UAE, Mr. Mutahhar Hameed Al-Tayir confirmed that the UAE market is totally open to Arab labor and that this market depends on offer, demand, and qualifications. He also confirmed the willingness to accept workers from Arab countries if they prove qualified and are able to carry out their duties perfectly.

In a statement to the UAE's news agency (WAM), it was revealed that he had discussed with the Yemeni Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, Mohamed Al-Tayyib, the possibility of accepting qualified and skillful Yemeni workers in various working fields, stressing that there are no agreements or conditions in this regard, but rather the only condition is that the candidate should prove himself qualified through the standards of his work.



**Al-Umma, 18 Jan
2001, mouthpiece
of Al-Haq Party,
Weekly**

10 Men Killed in Saadah during an armed confrontation between Dahma and Wa'ila Tribes

In an armed confrontation last Monday between two Saadah's tribes, Dahm and Wa'ila, it was claimed by some sources in Saadah that according to initial reports, five men were killed, and 3 injured from Al-Amalisa/Dahm, and four men were killed and 4 injured from the other tribe. The sources added that the confrontation occurred in Khuzam and Abq areas east of the Hashwa area, where a horrifying armed clash took place using light and heavy weapons and even military units by both tribes.

Some sources stated that there is a relationship between this bloody conflict and the death of one of the sons of the Wa'ila tribe lately. On another level, it was stated that the original election committee in the Hashwa region was not able to continue its work due to the battle that caused several deaths and injuries on both sides. Most villagers in the region continue to wonder why the government is still idle and has not interfered to stop this bloodshed and destruction.

A Collision of 2 Ships at Hodeidah Port

On Monday, 15 January, at 12:00 am, a ship with the name of Graundpace, belonging to Hyundai and carrying automobiles from Europe to Yemen

collided with another ship at the port of Hodeidah. The first ship was moving to the Murshid station, which is supposed to take it to Hodeidah port, but the captain mistakenly passed section 1, where it was supposed to stop, and went to section 2, where it collided with another ship that was leaving the seaport. The collision caused a temporary halt of ship movements and operations until Wednesday 17. According to sources, the ship causing the collision was seized by the authorities of the port.



**Al-Usboo, 18
January 2001,
Independent,
Weekly**

Al-Umma Newspaper Called to Court because of a Complaint from the University

The Press and Publication Prosecutor started preparing a lawsuit against Al-Umma newspaper in relation to material published last October about the developments of the Faculty of Medicine. The Former Chief Editor of Al-Umma, Abdulkarim Al-Khiwani was summoned by the prosecutor and shown a copy of the complaint letter sent by Sana'a University after the newspaper had published a news item that allegedly had negative affects towards the university and its staff. Al-Usboo newspaper learnt that the complaint was based on two particular issues regarding the article, one of them describing an attempt by a university professor to bribe a university female student. It should be mentioned that the parliamentary report and judicial ruling in regard to Mohamed Adam's case indicated bribery as one of the reasons for his criminal actions.



**Al-Sahwa,
18 January 2001,
mouthpiece of
Islah, Weekly**

Mohamed Qahtan to Sahwa:

"The Supreme Elections Committee is Totally Biased towards the Ruling Party"

Mr. Mohamed Qahtan, the Head of the Political Department of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) stressed that the Supreme Elections Committee has proven its partiality and biasedness towards the ruling party. In a special statement to Sahwa, he mentioned that the committee did not abide by the legal measures in giving all opposition parties their share, either by using their seat numbers in the parliament or the votes they got in the last parliamentary elections. He confirmed that the Islah's candidates' share in the national council elections was intentionally limited either in the original committees in the provinces, in districts, and even in subdivision committees.

He also added that the committee has not included the Islah party even in supervising committees, as the committee has formed supervisory committees containing PGC members only in indirect ways that prove its biasedness towards the ruling party. Hence, by its actions, the committee has shown that it is not serious in its role in the coming national council elections, in which it should be totally neutral and unbiased.

He finally appealed to the President, as the protector of democracy, to stand firm and use his constitutional rights to demand that the committee be unbiased and ignore partisan reactions and work honestly and fully for the national interest, which will not be met unless opportunities for the different parties are given equally.



**Al-Balagh, 16
January 2001,
Independent,
Weekly**

Aburas:

"No allowances to members of national councils"

Minister of Local Administrative Affairs, Sadiq Ameen Aburas, stated that the national administration law

did not state that there would be any allowances for members of national councils or members of other administrative units, and considered these posts voluntary for whoever wanted to serve his region. Media sources claimed that Mr. Aburas said that there may be very limited funding for these positions in rare occasions and only to cover transportation costs. However, the minister has not mentioned how this would affect the councils' members efficiency and how well they would be able to accomplish their duties.



**Al-Haq, 21
January 2001,
Independent,
Weekly**

Ali Salem Al-Beidh Becomes a Cinema Actor!

Ali-Haq has learnt from a trusted source that preparations are underway in a prominent Egyptian production company, in coordination with the great actor Adil Imam, to start filming a documentary film starring Adil Imam along with many prominent actors. The film was inspired by his visits of last year (as an ambassador to the UNHCR) to Yemen and his witnessing of the sufferings of the Somali and Eritrean refugees in the areas of Jahin/Abyan and Kharaz/Lah. Sources said that 30% of the film would be documentary material, and that interestingly, Adil Imam's choice for an actor in the film fell on Ali Saleh Al-Beidh, the former Secretary General of the YSP, who he hopes will play a significant role in the film. The sources added that a delegation would be heading to the Omani Capital Muscat to negotiate with the legal advisor of Mr. Al-Beidh. The efforts to convince him will start by presenting the role as being of a humanitarian nature, as our country is serving more than 150,000 refugees, and reminding Al-Beidh that he was among the most anxious to receive the Somali refugees in Yemen after the civil war erupted in 1991.

VACANCY NOTICE

IPEC, The International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour of the International Labour Organisation announces the following positions in the Programme Management Unit based in Sanaa:

1. Bilingual Secretary

Requirements:

- Excellent spoken and written Arabic and English and excellent computer skills and ability to use internet.
- Ability to keep an efficient filing and documentation system.
- Must be willing to work extra hours from time to time and also ability to work under pressure.
- Will be required to assist the Programme Manager in drafting letters in both languages, take down minutes of key meetings including those of the National Steering Committee and during missions from IPEC regional office and headquarters.
- Good organisational skills and initiative as the incumbent will be required to assist in organising meetings and workshops and contact partners on behalf of the Manager.

2. Admin./Finance Assistant

Requirements:

- Excellent knowledge of both Arabic and English.
- Excellent background in finance and budgeting.
- Experience in international organisations and familiarity with UN financial and administrative procedures would be an asset. (Some training will be offered on IPEC/ILO admin. financial procedures)
- Good communication and negotiation skills required as the incumbent will be required to inform local partners on the IPEC/ILO financial systems and reporting, and ascertain that the financial systems of partners and action programmes are in order.
- He/she will assist the partners in financial reporting and ascertain that the partners supply financial reports to the IPEC Management Unit in an efficient and timely manner.
- The incumbent will also assist the Programme Manager in general finance and budgeting.

These positions are open to Yemeni nationals only. Applications and resume should be sent to the Programme Manager, IPEC/ILO, C/O UNDP, P.O. Box 551, Sanaa, marked: "Application" on the envelope, not later than 31st January, 2001.

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to greet all Yemen times staff and I hope them more progress and prosperity, but I have some comments that I tried several times to send.

Some times when you write about student movements in our universities, you're not on the right side, specially when you talk about Yemen Student Union, like what happened in the science college in Sana'a university when you published news when you'd observed the situation from one side, and didn't make an interview with one of YSU members to know some of facts about that situation.

Latif Alsafani

Email: alsafani@yahoo.com

Dear Editor,

Recent news and views coming out of Yemen point to more than meets the eye. The question we all are asking is: Why Yemen? After being at the forefront of modern civilization, Yemen today ranks among the least developed, poorest and highly dangerous countries in the world. Somewhere down the line of generations a horrible mistake happened. Now, it is the responsibility of all to come together to find a fitting solution to this mess and I honestly mean a (real big) mess that could have us, as a nation bogged down forever while the real world passes by.

Lets start with Government-As taught by the Prophet(SAW), the Government is responsible for the protection of it's people and their property, it's responsible for upholding without fear or favor the rights of all regardless of colour, creed, religion or race whether president or

peasant.

The educated among us-They are responsible for laying down the right and true path as dictated by Allah (SWT) through the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet. They shall select the best of the cultures of all other nations to develop our land and its people. The will be the light that guides in darkness.

The masses-Love, obedience to the law of Allah and respect for each other (life & property) must be the rule rather than the exception. Parents must urgently start teaching their children the real meaning of brotherhood and responsibility. Teachers must teach and train the youth of this society the true value of knowledge. Build in our children the desire to learn, the urge to research, and the resilience to come out stronger with each failure until the required results are achieved for the lasting benefit of this society.

Let there be standards in the society and we all strive to reach them. Unless and until we just come to our senses, Yemen will continue being in the map of the world only as a country where people EXIST, THEY DON'T LIVE.

Finally, I thank Yemen Times and its dedicated staff, without you our views won't go far. Guys believe me you have a lot of work to do. It is incumbent upon you to enlighten the people and without a doubt that comes with a lot of sacrifice. We cannot afford to lose as a nation. Thank you once again and good luck!

SALEM SAID

Email: salem007k@hotmail.com

Youth Forum

Take Me To Heaven

You elevated me
In a moment of ecstasy
My love runs so deeply
Can't be without you
For more than a day
Upto the stars you take me
I'm riding on clouds
Take me to heaven
Far away
Take me to heaven's bliss
Let's fly away
Each night I dream of you
there's a feeling I can't express
Cause your love showers
Down on me.
It falls just like rain
You set my soul on fire
Take me higher

Abdul-Latif M. A. Kairan.
College of Arts and Education,
Khawlan

Sacred Love

Food I might dispense, or even drink,
But to forget you I can't think
Even air, but no...., for air is our link
We breathe from the same air and in the same we sink
I sleep only to see you in my dream,
But when awake I miss you, so I came
Yet you started me to blame
To forget you, you want me
Or might be a man of no sense you want me to be
But no - I can't
And forget you I shan't
Except if I die,
But I won't leave you lament me and sigh
so, to prevent that I came to try
And take you with me when I die

Yahya Mohammad Al-Tawily

Taliban Denies Closure of Offices in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD—Taliban Sunday dismissed as baseless reports that the Pakistani government ordered immediate closure of all Taliban offices in the country. "We have neither closed our offices nor received any order for the closure," Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Mulla Abdul Salam Zaeef said here. Earlier reports suggested that Pakistan has ordered immediate closure of all Taliban offices as well as the offices of Afghan Ariana Airlines besides freezing of funds and other financial assets of Osama bin Laden to be in line with the U.N. sanctions on

Afghanistan. According to sources in the Afghan Embassy, despite denial of office-closing order from Pakistan, the Taliban militia have decided to reduce staff in diplomatic missions in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. Its supreme leader Mulla Mohammad Omar will approve names of the staff to be cut. There are 25 staff members in Afghan Embassy including 6 diplomats. Pakistan is among the three countries which recognize Taliban as Afghan government. The other two are Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. —Xinhua

Iranian Parliament Speaker Off to Visit Jordan, Bulgaria

TEHRAN—Iranian Majlis, (parliament speaker) Mahdi Karrubi left here Sunday for Jordan in an effort to boost bilateral relations. Upon his departure, Karrubi expressed the hope that exchange of visits between Iranian and Jordanian officials will lead to further expansion of bilateral cooperation, Iran's IRNA news agency reported. Karrubi's three-day visit to Amman is in response to an invitation made by his Jordanian counterpart Abdul Hadi al Majali. During his visit, the Iranian speaker is expected to discuss the expansion of bilateral ties and to review the latest regional developments with Jordan's prime minister, foreign minister and speakers of the house and senate. Karrubi and his accompanying politico-economic delegation will proceed to Bulgaria after winding up their Jordan visit. In the Bulgarian capital of Sofia, Karrubi is scheduled to meet the Bulgarian president, prime minister and other senior officials. —Xinhua

Israeli Cabinet Sets 3 Red Lines For Taba Talks

JERUSALEM—Israeli caretaker cabinet led by Prime Minister Ehud Barak decided Sunday to set three principles for the talks with the Palestinians which began in the Egyptian city of Taba Sunday evening. According to a statement issued after the cabinet meeting, the guidelines binding the negotiation team led by Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami are "red lines" regarding the return of Palestinian refugees, the fate of a disputed shrine in the Old City of Jerusalem, and the dismantling of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The statement said, "Israel will not allow the right of return of Palestinian refugees, in any circumstance, inside the State of Israel. "The prime minister will not sign any document that transfers the sovereignty over the Temple Mount (known to Muslims as al-Haram al-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary) to the Palestinians. "Israel maintains that in any agreement approximately 80 percent of settlers in Judea, Samaria and Gaza (the West Bank and Gaza Strip) will remain in settlement blocs under Israeli sovereignty." The new round of talks, according to a joint proposal by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Ben-Ami, will be held round-the-clock and end in one week or 10 days. Israel's peace cabinet approved Israel's participation in the meeting on Saturday evening. Barak hopes such a meeting will bring him some sort of peace deal which

will be used as a trump card in the campaign for Israel's upcoming prime ministerial election on February 6. However, the three red lines may block the way to peace as the Palestinians had repeatedly urged Israel to admit the right of return of Palestinian refugees, give them the sovereignty over the al-Haram al-Sharif, and withdraw fully from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On the other hand Nabil Shaath, Palestinian Minister of International Cooperation, Sunday expressed optimism over the imminent new round of talks with Israel. Shaath told the Cairo-based Voice of Arab that "there are good chances to reach an agreement" with Israel in the new round of peace talks, the state-run Middle East News Agency reported. Shaath stressed that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would by no means sign a peace accord with the Jewish state under the pressure of time factor, adding that the peace process should not be considered a race against time. The Palestinian side stressed that any peace settlement should be based on the U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, especially East Jerusalem, and guarantee the Palestinian refugees' right of return to their homeland. —Xinhua

Explosion in Front of Buenos Aires Mosque

BUENOS AIRES—A bomb exploded on Saturday in front of a Buenos Aires mosque, wounding a guard, reported the Argentina Ministry of the Interior. At around 5:45 a.m., two individuals riding a black motorcycle threw the bomb at the mosque, said the Ministry. The mosque security guard, Sergeant Rodolfo Mercado, was wounded and sent to a nearby hospital. He was diagnosed with head trauma and should recover. The low power bomb damaged the gate of the mosque and shattered the windows of a neighboring book store.

Argentinean President Fernando de la Rúa and Minister of the Interior Federico Storani strongly condemned the explosion. In a communique, Minister Storani said "We condemn every manifestation of religious, political or racial intolerance... We affirm that Argentina is a land of peace, under a democratic system that guarantees religious and political pluralism and racial tolerance." After the attack, Minister Storani ordered to deploy more guards and patrols around religious buildings. —Xinhua

UAE Launches Media City

ABU DHABI—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday officially opened a hi-tech Media City in Dubai, a regional trading hub. At the inauguration ceremony, Dubai Crown Prince and Defense Minister Sheikh Muhammad Bin Rashid al-Maktoum said "We want to be part of this world, interact with it and keep abreast with latest innovations, while maintaining our cultural heritage and cultural identity." He promised that the government would make special legislation to guarantee the freedom of expression within the context of social morals and values, saying that he was confident the Dubai Media City would add more diversity to the content and style of the media. Thirty-five media companies have reportedly been licensed at the 5-billion-dirham (1.37 billion U.S. dollars) five-story complex, according to the official WAM news agency. The building and adjacent ones are the first phase of the three-stage project, with the second phase scheduled to begin in two months and expected to be completed later this year. The third phase will begin in April and be completed in June 2002. The Ministry of Information and Culture was building an institute in the Dubai Media City to train media people, according to the crown prince. —Xinhua

Indonesian Govt, GAM to Form Working Group to Support Moratorium

JAKARTA—The Indonesian government and the separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) have agreed to form a working group designed to support the implementation of a moratorium on all kinds of violence and offensive actions in the troubled province of Aceh, a report said Sunday. The seven-point agreement was signed by representatives of GAM and the government on Saturday in Banda Aceh, capital of Aceh province, Antara news agency reported. Five of the seven points in the agreement concerned the cessation of all kinds of violence in Aceh and provided among other things for the formation of a joint working group. The two sides agreed to meet from February 12 to 14 in Switzerland to discuss the arrangement of a new security system, democratic consultations on procedures for their next dialogue. Meanwhile, the Indonesian military/police and GAM will soon form a joint forum to respond to conditions in the field so as to deal with any kind of violence at the lowest level, Aceh Governor H Abdullah Puteh said. On the other hand, four people were killed and 11 others injured in fresh riots hitting several parts of Ambon, capital of Maluku province, Indonesia, from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, a report reaching here Sunday said. By late Saturday, two bodies of

the four dead victims were still missing, Antara news agency quoted executive secretary of the Indonesian Ulemas Council's command post, Malik Selang, as saying. All the 11 injured are receiving intensive medical treatment at Al Fatah hospital and GPM hospital, he said. But the report did not say the reason for the fresh riots in Ambon. Reports said Ambon was paralyzed on Friday in the wake of the commemoration of start of the bloody conflicts that have gripped the Maluku for the last two years. An explosion rocked the area of Pohon Pule and Jalan Baru, close to Silo Church in downtown Ambon, at about noon local time on Friday, Antara said. No fatalities were reported in the incident, but terrified residents opted to stay home and roads were deserted as rumors of renewed rioting circulated across Ambon the past few days. Maluku and North Maluku provinces have been hit by conflicts between Muslims and Christians in the past two years, killing and wounding thousands of people from two sides. The situation has been better since the government imposed a civilian emergency in the areas in June last year. And now the government is preparing to withdraw troops from Ambon and other areas in the two provinces. —Xinhua

U.S. Police Arrests 9 Anti-Bush Protesters

WASHINGTON—U.S. police arrested nine people here Saturday as thousands of noisy demonstrators lined rain-soaked streets to boo George W. Bush's inauguration. The protesters chanted "Hail to the Thief" as they championed causes from abortion to electoral rights. Bush was sworn in as the 43rd president of the United States at the Capitol Hill at 12:00 (1700 GMT) Saturday. Amid the tightest-ever security measures for a presidential swearing-in, police said they had arrested nine protesters and charged them with disorderly conduct. Organizers said upward of 20,000 people had come from all corners of the country and abroad to protest the most hard fought election in decades. But the groups were dispersed throughout Washington's downtown area and all along the parade route. Police did not provide an estimate. Protesters loudly booed the inaugural parade along Pennsylvania Avenue which runs from the Capitol to the White House, shouting, "shame, shame, shame," as some made obscene gestures at parade marchers. They clashed briefly with police clad in riot gear at a few flash points while Bush remained in his limousine for most of the traditional parade route up Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House. A couple of protesters threw bottles before the presidential limousine arrived, and one hurled an egg that landed near the motorcade, the Secret Service said. But the protesters managed little else to interrupt the festivities in the face of a massive show of 7,000 police officers. The new president finally exited for a brief walk outside only after he reached a secure zone near the White House filled with inauguration ticketholders and no protesters. The protests were the largest since those during Nixon's 1973 inauguration at the height of the Vietnam war. —Xinhua

India, Pakistan Agree to Extend Samjhauta Express by 3 Years

NEW DELHI—India and Pakistan Sunday agreed to extend the Samjhauta Express train between the two countries by another three years and upgrade the services by providing sleeper and economy class accommodation in the train. An agreement to this effect was signed between the delegations from both sides after a five-day

deliberations to review the rail communications between the two countries, a railway spokesman said. However, there was no mention about Pakistan demand for extension of the Samjhauta Express train up to Amritsar. —Xinhua

Continued from page 1

Saudi Forces Advance into Yemeni Lands

On another level, the source told Yemen Times that as a reaction to the Saudi advance inside Yemeni lands, military confrontations erupted between groups from the Wa'elah tribe and troops of brigadier general Abdullah Daras stationed in Wadhi al-Atf on the border line between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. These armed confrontations claimed the lives of two persons from the Wa'elah Tribe and seven from Abdullah Daras forces, in addition to about twenty injuries on both sides. A report from the source's tribe indicated "All the people of Wa'elah tribe protest firstly to the Yemeni government for keeping silent about this new hazardous development. The tribe secondly protest and condemns this new aggression of Saudi forces inside Yemeni lands, particularly inside areas belonging to the Wa'elah tribe on the border line." The report also mentioned "Saudi forces are still, until this time, establishing new military barracks and new military sites inside Yemeni lands. Moreover, their heavy tools and machines are preceded by military forces inside the Yemeni lands." The report also added "This aggressive measure reveals the evil intent of the Saudi side."

Thousands of Spanish Protest Presence of British Submarine

MADRID—Between 70,000 and 80,000 Spaniards demonstrated for over two hours on Saturday in Algeciras, a port city in southwest Spain, against the presence of the British nuclear submarine "Tireless" in Gibraltar, local press reported. The demonstrators shouted slogans against the presence of the British ship. Among the demonstrators were 12 ecologists led by Francisco Casero, who have all been on a hunger strike since last Monday. About 100 people in the nearby city of La Linea de la Concepcion reportedly began

their 22-kilometer-long demonstration march to Algeciras at 8:00 a.m. to join the protest against the nuclear submarine. Local police said a total of 192 buses from different parts of Andalucia and many people from Morocco and Ceuta were also marching to Algeciras to join the demonstration. "Tireless" has remained in Gibraltar since May 19 due to a malfunction in its cooling system. The governments of Spain and Britain have been trying to solve the problem since then, but have failed. —Xinhua

Gulf Air Maneuver Kicks Off in Qatar

KUWAIT CITY—Member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) began conducting a joint air maneuver in Qatar on Saturday, Kuwait News Agency reported. A total of 30 warplanes from the six GCC states, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), are taking part in the war games, which will last until the end of this month. The aircraft, including the Mirage 2000

fighters from Qatar and the UAE, the Hawks from Oman, and F5, F15 and F18 fighters from Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, will conduct sorties of flights to get acquainted with the Qatari airspace and the common borders between the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The warplanes will also strike ground targets and get training on how to deal with anti-aircraft artillery. —Xinhua

مع باقات من الورد والرياحين يسعدنا أن نرفق التهاني والتبريكات الصادقة للأخ العزيز سمير راجح مدير العلاقات العامة في شركة التبغ والكبريت الوطنية بمناسبة ارتقائه مولدته التي اسمها

إيتھال

فالف مبروك يا أخ سمير وتربى في عزكم إنشاء الله... المهنون، وليد عبدالله السقاف، ياسر محمد أحمد، عدنان عبدالله السقاف.

أرق التبريكات وأجمل الأمانى نرفقها للشباب الخلق /

هشام أمين هراب

بمناسبة زفافه الميمون متمنين له حياة زوجية كلها فرح وسعادة..

المهنون: عبد العزيز الدهبلي، عبد الله عبد الإله سلام، وجميع الأصدقاء

أجمل التهاني وأرق التبريكات نرفقها للأخ /

علمي صيد، حسن العمادي

بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف. فالف ألف مبروك..

المهنون: اخوك، عبد الباري الحمادي، حميد وعبد الحفيظ وشاهر المجاهد، عبد الوهاب الجومري، وجميع طاقم موظفي شركة عالم الهندسة والتجارة، وأكرم السقاف، وموظفو وكالة الجزيرة للإعلان.

البقاء لله

(الذين يؤمنون أصابهم مصيبه فالويل لنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون)

نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق عبارات المواساة للأخ /

خالد عبد الواحد محمد نعمان وإخوانه

لوفاة والدهم /

الحاج / عبد الواحد محمد نعمان

نسأل الله له المغفرة والرضوان، وأن يلهم أهلهم وذويه الصبر والسلوان.

(إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون)

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Sunday	IY 742	Sanaa/London	1230	1930
Monday	IY 748	Sanaa/Paris	1100	1725
Tuesday	IY 740	Sanaa/Rome/Frankfurt	0001	0750
Wednesday	IY 742	Sanaa/London	1230	1930
Thursday	IY 740	Sanaa/Rome/Frankfurt	0001	0750
Friday	IY 748	Sanaa/Paris	1100	1725

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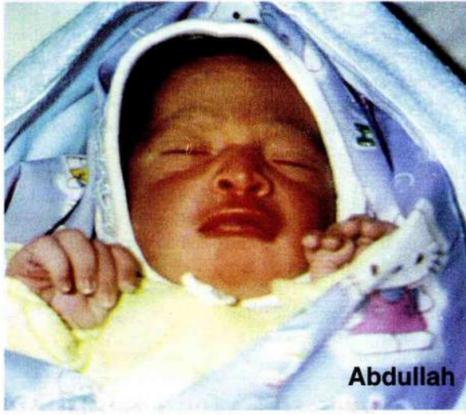
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First Test-Tube Babies in Yemen

The first ever test-tube Yemeni babies, Abdullah and Isra were born at the Assisted Reproduction Center's I.V.F. unit on January 10 and 13 respectively. Doctors confirm that both babies and their mothers are in healthy conditions, and that this success marks a major breakthrough in Yemen's medical history. This will open the way for thousands of sterile Yemenis to be able to produce children and will not require them to travel abroad for treatment.

Doctors, however, reminded us that test-tube baby production is not possible in many sterility cases.



Abdullah



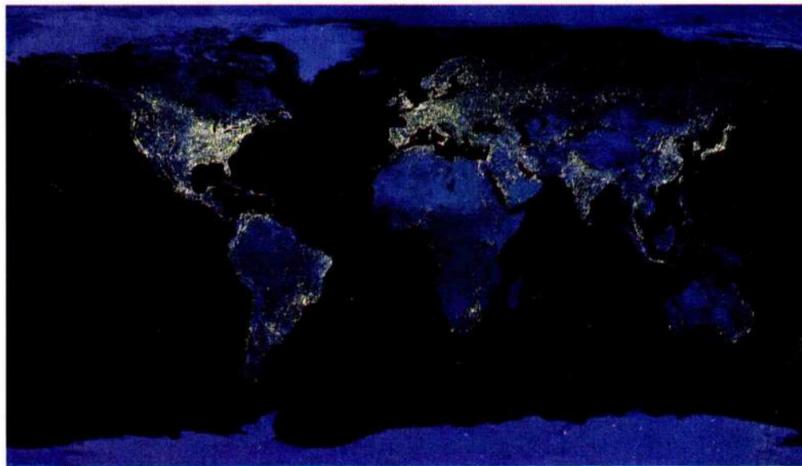
Isra

130 Year-Old Jahmas

Though over 130 years old, Sheikh Mohammed Jahmas, from Abyan, has never gone to hospital or had an aspirin. That is what he is proud of. Sheikh Mohammed has married twice in his life and has got 4 sons, 5 daughters and more than 60 grandchildren. Sheikh Jahmas is well-known in his village for constantly being in good shape. All we hope is that sheikh Jahmas would continue to be in good health and live longer so as to secure a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. Can he make it?



World From Above



The picture above of the world was taken on the 27th of November 2000 by a number of NASA Satellites. It shows all the inhabited and uninhabited regions of the world. The amount of light seen represents the development or underdevelopment of the region. Where there is light there is an indication of civilization and modernization. The world is brightly lit up in the three main developed areas: North-America, Western Europe and

Japan while the south is mostly in darkness (except for more developed areas such as Australia, South Africa and Brazil). The amazing fact about south and north shows in almost all the world, while the difference between North and South Korea is quite interesting. It's not only about countries, the difference is great between north and the south in all the continents like Africa or Latin America. But you must not forget the natural boundaries too, like the Sahara and the rain forests. A thought that many of the regions of the globe are unsuitable for mankind's civilization.

It's interesting how the population of China is so unevenly distributed, on the other hand how India's population is even. It also is interesting to observe how 25% of the 6 billion people in the world live along the coastlines, except for a few important but neglected coast lines like the Aden Gulf area and the west side of the red sea.

There are other physical features, but its interesting how the river Nile literally glows, and how dark it is around it, plus the great darkness in the heart of Africa.

If we concentrate on Yemen, we can see a small glow in the south coastal area. With a few drops of light in the North. This picture was taken some time before activation of the Aden Free Zone Area, a project which is worth USD. 6 billion. How many years do we have to wait before another one of these satellite picture will show more light in our country? Well these are just some of the things you can get out of this picture. And some food for the thought. Hopefully the message will get through.

Paul Smith PARFUMS

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ت: ٢٤٥٤١٨، فاكس: ٢٤٦٢٤٨
ص ب: ٣٨١٦
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فندق بحر العرب: إقامة، مطعم، عسانر، غيل باوزير-حضرموت. ت: ٥٢٧٠٠٨، فاكس: ٥٢٧٠٠٧

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الأقمشة الرجالية أحدث الموديلات وأجود الأقمشة لصاحبها: أحمد الأغبري، صنعاء - شارع التوفيق، الفاع.

جنز لبنان المتألق في عالم الخياطة الرجالية والنسائية والأبداع، العالمية مصممون لبنانيون، اشراف المسؤول الفني والآداري: أحمد محمد صالح صنعاء - قاع العلفي، شارع بيروت (التوفيق سابقاً). ت: ٢١٢٤٤٤

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مراكز طبية:

مجتمع الأسنان التخصصي لطب وتقويم الأسنان: تقويم وتجميل الأسنان بالأجهزة الثابتة، عيادات خاصة بالنساء والأطفال، تحت اشراف الدكتور/ ياسين معوضه، تعز-شارع جمال، القبة ت: ٢٢٢٨٤٤، فاكس: ٢٢٢٨٤٤، E-mail: YMTMDS@Y.NET.YE

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اسمات

البركاني للاستشارات الهندسية ACE، تصميم، دراسات، تنفيذ، ت: ٢٠٠٩٠٠-٢٢٢٨٩٠٠-٤، سيار: ٧٩١٢٨٦٦

التحريات

الشامي للتجارة العامة: الكترونيات، أدوات منزلية، كماليات، شعوب، ت: ٢٢٢٥٧٧

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أجهزة حديثة، خبرة عالية ت: ٢٠٢٢٢٢، شارع الزبير، أمام مستشفى الجمهوري.

مستوصف بغداد الطبي التخصصي: جراحة عامة جراحة تجميل-جراحة مسالك بولية-عظام-ومفاصل آذن وانف وحجرة-نساء-ولادة-أطفال-باطنية-أسنان-مختبرات وكشف بالموجات الصوتية والسنيطة، د. طاهر يحي عيطه، استشاري مسالك بولية/المدير العام، العنوان: صنعاء-ش. تعز، أمام وكالة تويوتا، ت: ٢١٧٧٥٨، فاكس: ٢١٧٧٥٩، بيجر: ٥٨٠٦٠٠، ص.ب: ١٥١٧١

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For further details, please contact Mr. Victor Ebenezar at: 268661/2/3 This coupon is valid up to 28/11/2001

"MOTHER HOSPITAL" Sana'a - Al-Safia - Near Al-Fadhmon School Tel: 240407, Telefax: 243603

Customer Service

Your FREE Classified Ads

المركز الإيطالي للديكور

ITALIAN CENTER FOR DECORATION

Ceiling tiles, floor plastics, wall papers, Metallic curtains and Gypsum.



أسقف مستعارة، أرضيات بلاستيكية، ورق جدران، سائر معدنية وحجسات

Dream Land Hotel

Single, double rooms and Suites Restaurant Sana'a Al-Hunaya Str.



فندق دريم لاند... غرف فردية وزوجية وأجنحة مفروشة ومطعم

Advertisement for MET Technology featuring a computer monitor and keyboard.

Advertisement for Hill Town Sanaa Hotel, a four-star hotel in the heart of the city.

Advertisement for M. A. Razzak Ali Mokbel, a trade, imports, and electrical contractor.

Advertisement for Crabtree Electrical Excellence, featuring a light fixture.

Advertisement for Maktabati Stationery and Office Equipment Engineering.

Advertisement for AlDubai For Trading, specializing in Mercedes-Benz spare parts.

Advertisement for Computer Town, offering programs, games, and computer maintenance.

Advertisement for D. Ali Alawi Eye Specialized Hospital/Taiz, featuring an eye specialist.

Advertisement for a lost item, specifically an Indian Diplomatic Passport.

Large advertisement for 'Situation Vacant' and 'Job Seekers' with various job listings.

Advertisement for 'Real Estate' featuring property listings and contact information.

Advertisement for 'Vehicles' listing cars for sale, including a Datsun and a BMW.

Advertisement for 'Computer' equipment for sale, including a laptop and CD-ROM drive.

Advertisement for 'Winner of last week is' featuring a Krups product.

Advertisement for 'Garages' for sale, including a 900,000 KM car and a 12,000 Deseil Turbo.

Advertisement for 'Home/Office Equipment' for sale, including a baby stroller and a tank of fish.

Advertisement for 'Computer' equipment for sale, including a laptop and CD-ROM drive.

Advertisement for 'IMPORTANT Numbers' listing emergency services like police, fire, and hospitals.

Advertisement for 'TRAVELS' and 'CAR RENTAL' services.

Advertisement for 'FREIGHTS' and 'INSTITUTE' services.

Advertisement for 'ACROSS' crossword puzzle and 'LUCKY WINNER' contest.

Advertisement for 'KROBES' commercial corporation, featuring various household appliances.

