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**INSIDE** 5 More Parties Comment on Elections 8 Islamic Movements Part I  
6 Industrial Sector Still Waiting! 12 Rajeh Bears the Brunt of Repression

## Yemenia Plane Hijacking Attempt and the Mysteries of PEN GUNS & FAKE IDs!

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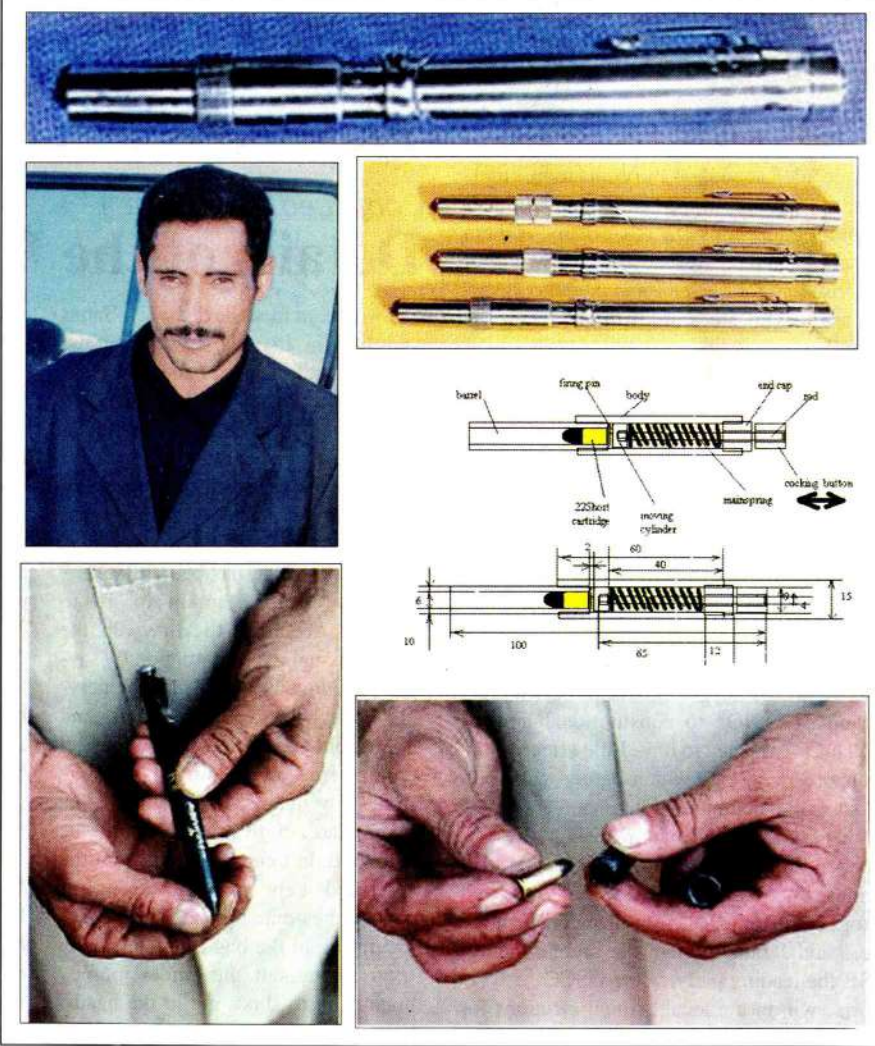
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The plane-hijacking attempt of last Monday 22 January, raised two very important issues: Pen Guns, and Fake IDs. The first issue, pen guns (or pen pistols) are an extension to the everlasting problem of weapon control in Yemen. At Yemen Times, we researched into where we could find these weapons, and where they are sold. We discovered that they are indeed available in many markets in the region. Jeyhana market, around 60 kms away from Sanaa is a market that contains many of these types of weapons (as seen in photos).

"Yemen has become a haven for market dealers of all weapons, from war tanks to the smallest pen guns imaginable," a weapon dealer told Yemen Times.

On another level, Yemen Times followed up closely the developments in the case of the failed hijacking attempt by Jabir Ali Sattar of the Boeing 727 Yemenia airplane, which took place a week ago. It was reported in many newspapers and news agencies that the hijacker was Mohammed Yahya Sattar, but Yemen Times learnt that this was a fake name used to mislead and confuse investigation teams. It was also revealed that Jabir got the fake identification card on the sixth of January, less than two weeks before the incident, which resulted in the interrogation of the two men who guaranteed him when he obtained his ID.

The issue of fake IDs is the second issue that raises a lot of concern. It was also reported that six Sana'a airport inspectors were detained for questioning as to how an armed hijacker boarded a flight carrying 91 people, including the U.S. ambassador to Yemen.

"It is not an irregular thing. Yemenis are being

issued thousands of fake cards every year, and yet the government does nothing about it. But when an incident like this happens, the authorities start to wake up, then go back to sleep again later," said a journalist who had looked into the question of fake IDs many times before.

This incident could help the government focus on two important issues for the sake of the country: law enforcement to prevent fake IDs, etc. and disarmament to limit the spread and use of weapons. Yemen Times is committed to follow the steps the government will take in this regard.

*More Details on page 2*

### Container Terminal Back to Normal Arrival of First Gigantic Vessel Since Cole Incident

According to sources in Aden, a gigantic Dutch container vessel arrived in the Aden Free Zone last Wednesday morning, marking the resumption of normal operations in the zone for the first time since the USS Cole incident.

The vessel, which was on its way to Singapore from Rotterdam, was 293 meters in length, had a carriage capacity of 51,931 tons and a depth of 12.5 meters and started to immediately load and unload containers to and from the container terminal according to the normal procedures.

General Manager of Saba Navigation Company, Mr. Hussein AL-Matloob told Yemen Times that this was the first time that such a huge vessel, traveling such a long journey, had stopped at the terminal. He also stated that there were going to be eight more such giant vessels stopping to load and unload containers to and from the Aden Container Terminal, three of which would be arriving in the first quarter. He concluded his statement by saying that the terminal is receiving ships of all sizes, with an average of 25 ships per month, from the Middle East and East Asia, and that the number is expected to grow to 35 once the new navigation routes are opened through Europe.

This indicates that the situation is slowly returning to normal, especially after extra measures were taken to secure the safety of all sorts of ships and vessels from all over the world, after the USS Cole incident had created some doubts about security measures at the port.

### Trial of USS Cole Suspects Postponed

Yemen Times has learnt that the Yemeni government has agreed to postpone the trial of the suspects in the USS Cole Destroyer attack carried out on October 12 leaving 17 marines dead and 39 injured. The postponement resulted from a request by FBI agents who demanded more time for interrogations. FBI agents have expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation of the Yemeni authorities in enabling the agents to question witnesses and suspects directly, despite a written agreement stating that questions can only be asked directly by Yemeni investigators. Reports state that there is a common belief that is slowly gaining momentum that the Al-Qaeda group led by Osama bin Laden could be behind the attack.

"People that are in custody now in Yemen claim to have ties to Al-Qaeda. We know they are in Qaeda from what they have said about their dealings with other things." A US official said.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is also cooperating with US forces to investigate the links of the terrorists who attacked the Cole with Al-Qaeda. "The US is working with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on elements of the investigation.. There is no question that Al-Qaeda was involved.. The question is who gave the orders." A Bush administration official said.

The exact timing of the planned court hearings is not yet defined, and it is expected that it will only be announced days if not hours before the actual hearings take place.

*More on P 12.*

### Al-Maswari Freed on Saturday

After more than two weeks in captivity, Mohammed Hussein Al-Maswari, 32, the eldest son of the Capital's Secretary was freed last Friday January 26. Yemen Times has learnt that he was released after tribal mediation was successful after promises had been given to the tribesmen of Bani Dhabian in Mareb in regard to their claims that the kidnapped had bought weapons for YR 40 million and didn't pay for them. Another tribal source mentioned that among the demands was the release of six tribesmen from the same tribe held in the government's prisons. Members of the Bani Dhabian tribe in Sanaa had kidnapped Mohammed Al-Maswari on January 10, and kept him in their tribal region for 16 days. Observers predict that the move of kidnapping individuals belonging to wealthy families may be an alternative for tribesmen if the latest incident proved to be successful.

### Amran Mosque Murderer to Go to Court

The Attorney of Amran Governorate last week began the interrogation in preparation to take to court Jubran Ash-Shami, who had earlier confessed of shooting at worshippers at the Al-Hadi Mosque in Yanoor Village in Amran on January 10.

The bloodshed was caused when Jubran shot at worshippers during their Isha' prayers resulting in the immediate death of three and the death of six more from their injuries, and the injuring of more than 18 men. The Head of the Security Office in Amran Governorate told Yemen Times that there had been no political or creed-related motives behind the horrible act. He also stated that two more individuals were involved with Jubran in the planning of the massacre. According to the same source, the two others continuously encouraged Jubran to take revenge on the villagers, including his uncle, because they had expelled him from the village because of his unsatisfactory behavior and reputation, and because of the many thefts and robberies he had carried out in the past.

At the same time, seven of the injured are still being treated at the Military Hospital in Sanaa, three of whom are in the Intensive Care Unit with little hope of recovery. Two of the injured are expected to be partially paralyzed.

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**Words of Wisdom**



"In Yemen, promises are broken every day, trust has become a rare commodity, as everyone is trying to get away with as much as possible in any way possible. This is a short-sighted policy which has a high cost to all of us. We need an immediate campaign to enhance public awareness if we are to succeed in building a modern state abiding by the law."

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

**Our Opinion**

**That is Who We Are!**

I have been repeatedly receiving messages from our readers, many of who are key officials in the Yemeni government, and some Yemenis living abroad, all asking me the same old question, "Why do you keep on printing negative stories? Don't you know your newspaper is read by foreigners, which means that they will get a bad impression about the country?"

This time, I decided not only to answer the question personally, but also to publish the answer on this editorial column for everyone to read. Let me be transparent, straightforward and precise in my answer.

First of all, Yemen Times is an independent newspaper, which delivers information as it is: facts, realities, and stories from life. We bring everything plain, with no decorations or exaggerations. Hence, when our reader reads a certain story, he/she would realize that it was precisely the way it happened. I don't say we don't commit mistakes, but if there are any mistakes, then they are unintentional and do not express any partiality in the story.

So, if there is a story of a kidnapping incident, or an explosion, or a murder, etc., we will be the first to report it as it is and show all the numbers and facts openly and without the consideration of the consequences.

Now, if there is a story about a cleaning campaign in Haddah Street, or officials starting to serve people well, or about the awakening of the Central Organization for Control and Auditing, fulfilling its duties to look into corrupt officials etc., don't expect us to cover this. Why? Because this is what is supposed to be happening. We cannot go on simply saying that this road has been cleaned, that project has been completed, or this school has been constructed. This is what is supposed to be done, and this is not what a journalist is supposed to be covering.

Remembering that the true journalist's role is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, we should always look after what is 'not' ordinary or routine. Our role is to report about the oppression that this citizen went through, about that corrupt official who has been eating away our resources for so long, about the breaking stories of murder, kidnapping, explosions, etc. Our role is not passive, it is objective.

This still doesn't mean that we always report issues that are negative. By 'not ordinary', I never mean to say 'negative'. The discovery of a new oil field is something exceptional and should be covered. The capturing of the long sought-after culprit in an extreme case like the USS Cole incident is a 'positive' story that we will never delay in publishing because it is worth publishing.

Hence, the interception that we love to publish what is 'negative' is simply wrong. We only publish what is worth publishing, negative or positive.

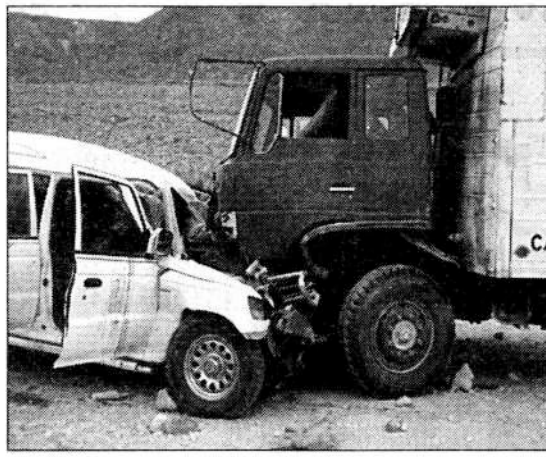
On the other hand, I really feel frustrated when a Yemeni tells me that we should write what is good so that the foreigner would get a good impression about Yemen.

For all that think this way I say, "If I am to write what is good only, foreigners would be the first to hate me." This is not what they or any other reader, local or Arab, wants. What they want is to know the truth from a totally independent stand. And if it will give a bad impression to say that corruption is devastating our economy, or if this issue's last page story about the poor little girl would frustrate a foreigner reading the story on the plane heading to Sanaa, and make him think bad about our country, and possibly change his mind about coming to Yemen, then I believe that this person is not a friend of our country and should not be here in the first place. A person who loves Yemen should be eager to know its problems, should understand its people's sufferings, should not only listen to the government and forget the people, but rather, he or she should seek the truth, the whole truth. A person who appreciates our effort to bring all the miseries of the public, which are happening every day, on our front or last page should be respected. He should be honored because he respects our democracy and understands that our democracy enables us to speak up loudly about our pain and sufferings, and never think of the consequences.

I know that there are many people who respect our stand and understand why we are doing what we are doing. To them and to the ones that are still not convinced by what I say, I repeat: "That is who we are, and that is who we will stay!"

**Accidents claim 1530 lives in 2000**

One thousand five hundred and thirty people were killed and 10953 were injured in 9931 car accidents during 2000 in Yemen, the Traffic Office reports. Losses and damage were estimated at 625,941,515 Rials. Three hundred and forty people were killed and 3271 were injured in 3868 car accidents in the capital, which holds the first position among all Yemeni cities by number of casualties resulting from accidents. Second came Taiz and then Ibb. Punctures, driving in the reverse direction, bad weather, lack of continuous technical check ups of cars and bad condition of roads are the most common causes of accidents.



**Islah Still Undecided on the Amendments Expected Surprise in Local Council Elections**

Observers believe that developments taking place in preparation for the local council elections may lead to a surprise in the overall results. It is not quite clear to what extent Islah, the second largest party, will be present in many southern and eastern areas, which may provide an opportunity for the parties of the Opposition Supreme Coordination Council (OSCC) to take

over. Observers claim that many of the citizens in the eastern and southern regions of the country have decided to support the opposition's united stand regarding the constitutional amendments and the elections and that many of them have lost hope in the PGC and that this may lead to a surprise win for the YSP and the other opposition parties who are still participating in the elections.

**USA Resumes Supporting Demining Program**

A party was held on Saturday in Aden to celebrate receiving American aid for the Demining Program. The celebration was attended by the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs- Mr. Mutahar Al-Saadi, Aden governor- Mr. Taha Ahmad Ghanem, American Ambassador to Yemen- Barbara Bodine, Cabinet Secretary - Mr. Sharaf Al-Hadi, Staff General Qasem Al-Sheibani and others. The aid grant included a number of vehicles to facilitate transportation. In his speech, Mr. Al-Saadi expressed thanks to the American government for their continued help in both technical and financial fields. The American Ambassador spoke highly about the level demining staff have reached. She also affirmed the American commitment to help the demining program.

**Head of President's Guards Failed Assassination Attempt**

A bomb exploded in front of the house of Brigadier General Staff Ahmad Shamlan, Head of the First Defense Brigade of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's Presidential Guard, last Wednesday morning. A security source told YT that the bomb exploded as the guard of his house, located in the Asbahi Complex, opened the gate for Shamlan's car to leave the courtyard of the house. "The bomb was placed so that it would explode once it sensed the gate's opening" the source said. One of the house's guards was severely injured, while little damage was caused to the house. Yemen Times asked whether Mr. Shamlan had personal disputes that could be the reason why he was targeted, however the response was that he had no personal conflicts with anyone whatsoever. The attempt is the first to be reported against a security official in such a high-ranking position in one of the Defense Brigades of the President. "Investigation into the incident has already started" the source concluded.

"We are motivated further by these assessments" a YSP official told Yemen Times.

In regard to the constitutional amendments, the divided position of Islah as to whether to support the amendments or not, has further weakened its position. "There is an internal dispute within the party and I believe that we will not reach a conclusion until next week," a leading Islah figure said.

It is interesting to note however that the members of the national opposition council have stated that they would boycott the local council elections, and say "NO" to constitutional amendments. This is expected to have little effect on the decision of the OSCC, which agreed earlier to come out with a common strategy and cooperate in nominating candidates from their parties, or independent individuals closest to their parties' ideologies. "It is time for us to coordinate and work together for the sake of our parties and the people," said Jarallah Omar, the second man in the YSP, the leading party of the OSCC.

A surprise win in the local council elections for opposition parties in southern and eastern areas could be devastating for the Islah party, and could in the long run be a potential threat to the ruling party, analysts conclude.

**Sons Complains Against PGC**

The Sons of the Yemeni League party sent a letter of complaint about the PGC to a number of official and international organizations concerned with democracy in Yemen. The letter brought forward the threatening and dismissing of Saleh M. Muthanna, the party nominee for the original committees in the district of Rahba, by the head of the committee and member of the PGC, Hussein Abdullah Al-Futeini.

The letter appealed to all bodies concerned with democracy to reject and condemn such violations of laws and freedoms.

"We do not accept marginalization in a country whose rulers call for democracy, public rights and political participation. What happened to our nominees is an example of what happens in the other governorates," the letter concluded.

**IN BRIEF**

**PGC Corrupts Electorates**

A leading member in the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) condemned dishonest attempts by the PGC to corrupt electorates by making them take a divorce oath as a guarantee to win their votes. While political parties race for the elections, analysts and observers expect a great success for the PGC in the northern governorates and for the Opposition Coordination in the southern and eastern ones.

**Hiv Carrier Seduces The Well-To-Do**

An young Arab woman was arrested last week in Sana'a following a report from Yemen's Embassy in Emirates that she was afflicted with AIDS. The woman is said to have practiced prostitution in Dubai before she was deported. Since her arrival in Yemen, it is

alleged that she rented a flat and practiced prostitution with many well-to-do people.

**Gang Breaks into Hodeidah Shops**

A gang made up of five armed persons broke into a number of shops in Hodeidah last Monday 22. Following a report about an armed gang roving the city, military forces started tracing them up. One of the gang members was arrested near the beach and is now undergoing interrogation.

**Attariq Chief Editor Runs for Election**

Mr. Ayman Mohammed Nasser, Chief Editor of Attariq Newspaper, nominated himself as a candidate for local elections in Attawahi in Aden. Mr. Nasser enrolled as an independent.

*Continued from Page 1*

**Details of the Horror Flight**

The whole incident began when Sattar went into the first class section on the plane and sat in one of the first class chairs. The IY 448 flight from Sanaa to Taiz seemed to be going smoothly, when suddenly Sattar, a Yemeni believed to be from the northern province of Sa'adah, pointed his 'pen' gun at the pilot of the plane and shouted that "the plane has been hijacked" and ordered the captain to go to Baghdad. According to Al-Ayyam, the captain explained the situation by saying, "The hijacker seemed to be nervous while he was giving orders, and didn't want anyone to respond or react to him. He was holding a pen gun against my head, with a bullet in his mouth, and a third in his pocket. The hijacker didn't change his tone all the way, and kept on threatening to explode the bomb that he was allegedly carrying in the bag in his hand. He stood throughout the whole journey threatening to shoot me in the head." The captain added, "The way that we chatted on the way slowly comforted him, and convinced him that the fuel would not be enough to fly to Baghdad. Then I realized that there was a possibility to rescue the 91 passengers we had, of who many were women with children."

plane, he turned crazy. "In one or one and half minutes, all the passengers had fled the plane. Only then did the hijacker realize what had happened and his temper rose to such a level that I thought he may indeed try to execute his threat (exploding the bomb), because he had been deceived twice. First when we landed in Djibouti, second when the passengers fled the plane." Captain Anees Amer said.

Then the hijacker screamed, "I am dead, I am dead, but I will explode this head." Only then did the crewmembers jump to the rescue and spray foam from a fire extinguisher into the hijacker's face and wrestle him to the ground. One crewmember was slightly injured by a shot from the hijacker's small pen gun. Then it was all over.

No doubt, Captain Anees along with Female Captain Assistant Roza Mustafa were able to accomplish the remarkable task of saving the lives of more than 95 passengers on board during the flight of horror IY 448 from Sanaa to Taiz. The passengers on board included the US Ambassador, H.E. Barbara Bodine and the Yemeni Ambassador to the USA, H.E. Abdulwahhab Al-Hajri, along with members of a US delegation and US embassy staff members, including the Political Attaché of the US Embassy, Mr. Steve Walker.

Interestingly, it was later reported that an airport security source said that the hijacker set his cigarettes, a bottle of water and the pen gun on the table next to the walk through X-ray machine so that the gun was not scanned.

The bag in which the man claimed to have explosives was later determined to be packed with personal belongings and toys.

**BCTF Licensed**

Mrs. Shada M. Nasser, lawyer, has obtained a license from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to establish a forum for culture and thought which she will call "The Belqis Cultural and thought Forum". The forum aims at:

- \* Training Yemeni woman in culture and thought.
- \* Help in supporting the poor families, children and the handicapped.
- \* Studying and documenting the history of Yemeni woman and her role.
- \* Studying and documenting the role of Yemeni woman in the national movement.
- \* Supporting women to take their



positions in the political and economic life through making them aware of their political, social and cultural rights and their rights in education and labor.

Measures are being undertaken to open the forum which will be located in Sana'a.

**'Public Relations at Banks' Published**

Mr. Ahmad Ismael Mohammed Al-Bawab, Public Relations Manger at the Yemeni Bank for Reconstruction and Development has finished his book "Public Relations at Banks" comprising definitions of public relations, their importance to institutions, etc.

The book adds to Al-Bawab's credit a new beneficial work that will help many people in the same field.



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**P&G Life Journey, Fourth Draw Witnessed**

The Fourth draw of the Life Journey organized by the Proctor and Gamble Company was held last Wednesday 24.1.2001 at the company headquarters in Sana'a. The draw was from all the governorates of the republic and was attended by a number of businessmen, outstanding social dignitaries and media men. 25 prizes were distributed in this draw of which 15 prizes were pilgrimage trips. The participation rate from governorates was as follows: 49% Sana'a, 33% Taiz, 9% Hadramout, 5% Dhamar, 4% Aden, 3% Hodeidah, and 3% Ibb.

صدر العدد الثامن والخمسون من مجلة الأطفال (أسامة) التي يصدرها قطاع كفاءة ورعاية الإبتام جمعية الإصلاح الاجتماعي الخيرية. ويرأس مجلس إدارتها الدكتور طارق ستان أبو لحوم - رئيس الجمعية.

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Dr. Abdulrahman to YT:

# "The Yemeni cadre has to follow up all new developments in medicine"

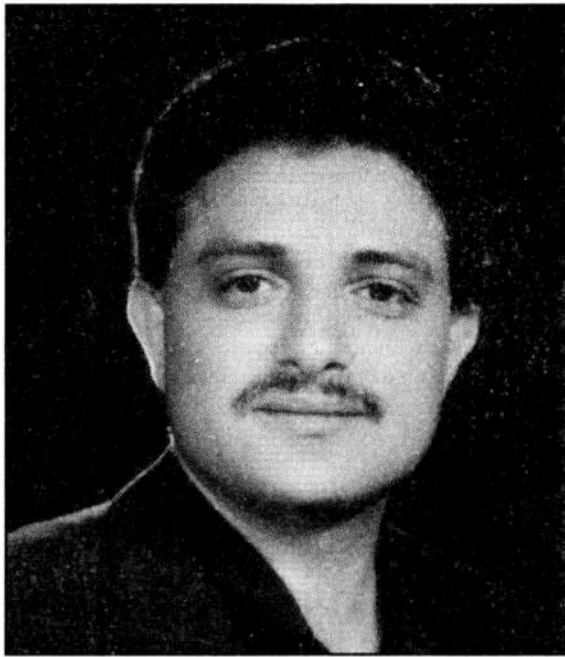
**A**bdulrahman Ali Ahmad al-Shamiri, was born in 1964 in Sahban, Bani Saif, Taiz. He completed his secondary studies in Hodeidah and then carried out his compulsory military service. After this, he was granted a scholarship to study medicine in Germany. He finished his study in 1989 and worked for a year in Basedow hospital. Then, he came back to Yemen at the end of 1990. He served in al-Ghaidah city and then came back to Sana'a to work in the 26 September Hospital in Bani Matar for three months. Then, he worked in al-Thawrah Hospital Neuro department at the beginning of 1992. In 1994 he left for Austria to complete his higher studies. He worked in the university hospital of Vienna until May 1998. Then he moved with his professor Richling to the Christian Doppler Clinic in Salzburg. Mr. Abdulrahman also participated in many conferences and training workshops abroad. Mr. Saif al-Sahbani met with him and filed the following interview:

From 1996-1998, I worked on practical research on vascular neurosurgery. My research was then published in international medical magazines in Germany and the USA. In February 2000, I participated in a conference and training workshop held in Belgium on Neuro intensive care. I also participated in the training workshop held in Britain's Cambridge University on Neuro Monitoring.

**Q: Why do not you come back to Yemen?**  
Neurosurgery is one of the most complex and high fields that requires a lot of expensive resources. Our country with its poor resources lacks such equipment and tools for many reasons including economic reasons. I hope the government will set up fully equipped hospitals. I also hope the government will give the private sector a chance to work in this field.

I feel that the Yemeni cadre has to follow up all new developments in medicine in terms of attending training workshops, seminars and courses abroad. However, this may cost them a lot sometimes. I am sure that the Yemeni cadre, if given the chance, can do a lot. However, it is a matter of resources as I said before. I will come to the country when I find that the resources for my specialization are available in the country so as to apply what I have learnt.

**O: How do you assess the health situation in Yemen?**



**A:** The health situation in all the countries of the world, rich and poor, is a heavy burden that needs a lot of funding. It is a big problem for many countries as this institution is a consuming institution in the first place. Health has become very costly not because of the high cost of the workforce but mainly because of the high cost of materials used in examining and the machines and above all the treatment. Our health problem, shared with many other developing countries is that the government is not able to cover the expenses, besides the low standard of individual income making people unable to afford the expenses of treatment. Moreover, the expenses of training doctors are also very high. However, I believe that the countries of the third world are able to cure all

these problems if they have the will to do that.

**Q: How do you view the private hospitals in Yemen?**

**A:** Private hospitals are a good initiative, when established within a framework of regulations and agreed upon conditions, particularly those relating to the government monitoring their performance in a strict and precise way. People's lives are not to play with or to conduct experiments on and are not to trade with. The policy of reward and punishment is to be applied on both the owners of hospitals and on Health Ministry employees monitoring these hospitals.

**Q: Any last word?**

**A:** First I extend my best regards for all those who work for the welfare of our society either inside or outside. I also keep my fingers crossed so as to see our country develop in all fields, especially in the health field.

**Q: What was your dissertation on?**  
**A:** In the beginning of 2000, I finished my dissertation which was on neurosurgery. The dissertation title was the treatment of vascular diseases including vascular mal-formation, aneurysm and many other diseases. Professor Richling was the one supervising my dissertation in Vienna University, Austria.

**Q: What are the conferences and research that you worked on?**

**A:** During my stay in Vienna university, I attended many training courses including Microsurgical Training.

Continued from page 2

## LOCAL NEWS

### COCA Holds its 10th Anniversary

The Tenth Anniversary Meeting of COCA leaders was inaugurated Saturday morning 27.1.2001 in the COCA headquarters. The meeting is being held during (27.1-1.2.2001) and focuses on issues that have a general auditing effect. It is also to shed light on efforts exerted to develop techniques and theories of auditing work ensuring the total quality management for the outcome of auditing work. It also focuses on evaluating and

endorsing the plans of the authority. Throughout the week a number of papers are going to be presented, including a paper on the total quality of assisting activities for auditing performance and another paper on encouraging authorities and institutions to address their limitations and to work in accordance with the recommendations of the COCA. A workshop is going to be organized on how to make the reports of the authority more effective.

The inauguration meeting was attend-

ed by all the managers of the authority along with members of the Dutch review court and the German project cooperation manager in the authority.

### Men have a role in fighting HIV

The Yemeni Anti-Aids Society held in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, a speech ceremony on the international day of HIV. A number of speeches were delivered in the ceremony asserting the great hazards of HIV.

The report indicated that the first case was discovered in Yemen in 1990 and that the number of those affected exceed 1200 cases. The report also noted that statistics may not be absolutely true as there may be some cases unreported.

Statistics also indicate that about 18.8 million persons from all over the world have died due to this disease, of whom 3.8 million are children. Statistics also show that 34.3 million persons are suffering from aids virus and are expected to die within the coming decade. In 1999, the number of those affected by HIV was 5.4 million. Reports indicate that the number of those reported to be infected in Yemen is decreasing. However, the flow of people to Yemen, especially from the Horn of Africa, considered to be one of the most infected areas, should be taken on board.

### Third Psyche Course to be Inaugurated

The third psyche training course will be inaugurated the coming Thursday in the Psychological and Neuro Hospital and will last for four weeks. The course was organized in cooperation with the British Embassy and British Council. A number of specialist doctors from the hospital, Sana'a University and Science and Technology University will train 30 persons working in the hospital, Central Prison Authority and some governmental hospitals in the Capital.

### الإستشاريون لطب العيون The Eye Consultants



The center is a branch of a major surgical ophthalmic center in Riyadh, SA

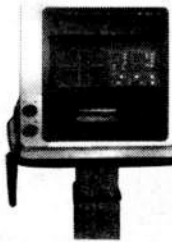
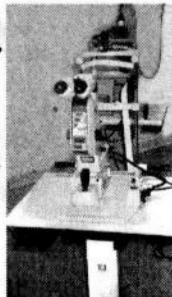
• The center aims at providing superior, advanced medical and surgical management of ocular ailments, equipped with the latest state of the Art technology in the field of eye care.

- Beside the clinics, Our Ancillary services include:
- 1- Automated visual field perimeter.
  - 2- Automated corneal Topography.
  - 3- Ultrasound unit of A&B Scan.
  - 4- Digital fundus Camera for colored fundus photographs & flourescine angiography.
  - 5- Argon (blue-green) laser photocoagulation system.
  - 6- Yag Laser System.

• The Eye Consultants we provided with an advanced operating theater, with the latest technology in eye surgery.

• The Eye Consultants plays an important role in supporting many hospitals, clinics, doctors in the field of ophthalmology.

• Visiting consultants program, Board of international consultants, are the Special criteria of the eye consultants.



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## The New Year Cultural Evening Celebrated By Kerala Club Sana'a

The Kerala Club, an Indian cultural and Social organization registered under the Embassy of India, started functioning two decades ago and has been involved in various cultural and social activities among the Indian community. The Kerala Club celebrated a new year cultural program on the evening of 10th January 2001 at the Indian Embassy School and Cultural Centre Auditorium. The function was inaugurated by His Excellency the Ambassador of India to Republic of Yemen and people from various levels of the Indian community attended the function. The evening glittered with the colorful performances of various artists from the Indian community. During the event, Miss Sunaina Vijayan was rewarded for securing the highest mark in the Republic of Yemen for the CBSE (X Th) Examination in March 2000. The program and an associated raffle draw were sponsored mainly by Gulf Air and the co-sponsors were Shaher Trading Co. (Xerox), Hadda Hotel, Caltex, Taj Sheba, Yemen Pay Phones, Kings Travels, Coca Cola and Thabet son (Minolta).



## Could Yemeni Bedouins Have Used Luxor in Their Travels?

Philip Smucker  
Luxor, Egypt

In the valley below lies the shattered visage of Pharaoh Ramses II, whose "frown, and wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command," inspired one of the most famous poems of the Romantic era in British literature.

"Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!" wrote Percy Shelley, imagining the words of the dead Pharaoh after visiting the site in 1817. The poem is a cautionary reminder of the fleeting nature of both authority and art.

Now, in order to save what is left of other magnificent works in the Valleys of the Kings, Queens, and Nobles, Egyptian officials have vowed to cleanse a tribe of former Bedouins from homes and hovels perched atop the tombs of Ramses' relatives.

The plight of the 10,000 Qurnawi highlights a growing international dilemma: How can modern man balance the rights of the inhabitants of cultural-heritage sites with the world's interest in preserving them for generations to come? From middle-class North American suburbs set on top of Indian burial grounds to Bedouins who live atop Queen Nefertiti's tomb, the problems are similar, say archaeologists and human rights activists.

"Our priority has to be to preserve the treasures in the ground below, but, at the same time, respect the citizens who live above them," says American archaeologist and Egyptologist Kent Weeks.

The Pharaonic tombs contain wall paintings that tell us much about ancient Egyptian life as well as human nature.

The government, in its campaign to clear the hills, is accusing the tribesmen of digging for hidden treasures, harassing tourists, and dumping human waste into the tombs.

But the tribesmen, who used stone chisels and kitchen knives to help corner a band of Islamic terrorists after the brutal massacre of 58 foreign

tourists in 1997, are pleading with the international community to save their ancestral homes.

They deny the charges and accuse the local police of brutal tactics, including using bulldozers to demolish their homes in the early hours of morning. Officials have long accused the Qurnawi of squatting above the tombs and stealing precious cultural heirlooms. Beginning in the 18th century, European archaeologists, as well as corrupt antiquities dealers, employed the tribesman to plunder the tombs and their artifacts. But despite constant tensions between tribesmen and central authorities, tenacious villagers held onto their valuable hillside plots. Frenchman Vivant Denon, a writer present during the 18th century Napoleonic conquest of the area, described a clash with the Qurnawi as akin to a "war against gnomes."

But increasing European tourism and the world's growing appreciation of the tombs beneath the homes of the Qurnawi have sparked fresh calls for their ousting.

"Egypt is working with the entire international community to preserve these sites" says Ahmed Nouby, a government official coordinating efforts to persuade the Qurnawi to leave peacefully. "They say they inherited the land from their forefathers, but their forefathers were squatting on public property."

Mr. Nouby praised the Qurnawi for helping the government in its battle against Islamic terrorists in 1997. He also says that he had personally protested against the government's brutal tactics two years ago when he witnessed a local policeman gun down four unarmed Qurnawi in a dispute over building rights. But he said that the relocation of the village two miles north of the valley is "for their own good."

"Their constant harassment of foreigners with phony artifacts and petitions to 'buy, buy, buy' are not good for the image of Egypt" he insists. "Besides, they dig in the ground for artifacts like moles, at night when nobody is keep-

ing an eye on them."

The Egyptian government has already built a modern village, a new mosque, and a tourist bazaar for the villagers farther up the Nile River where tests have shown there are no Pharaonic tombs. Nouby claimed that, despite continued vows by Qurnawi elders that they will not leave, 48 families signed contracts to move last month. Foreign archaeologists and long-time residents of Luxor are split on how best to save the tombs and help the Qurnawi.

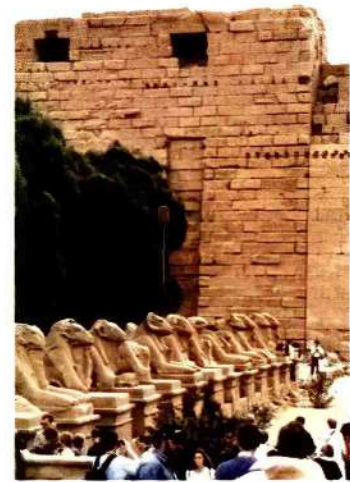
Dr. Weeks, who surprised the archaeological world in 1995 with the discovery of the tomb of the sons of Ramses, says, "They should be moved as long as they are given decent homes and amenities." Several of Weeks' loyal tomb excavators are Qurnawi, who, he says, comprise four clans of Yemeni Bedouins who used Luxor, better known as Thebes, as a camp on their caravan route between Africa and the Mideast.

"It is really only a question of money and proper plumbing," says French Egyptologist Alain Fouquet Abrial. "If you build a system that protects the tombs, you've also got to pay to maintain it."

For centuries, the inhabitants here used donkeys to transport water to their homes. That water, when used up, seeps into the soil and down into the tombs, destroying precious paintings that have survived thousands of years. Efforts by sympathetic foreigners to push through government projects that would provide proper sewage systems have been cold-shouldered by Egyptian antiquities officials.

A spokesman for the Qurnawi, Mohamed Abdel Salam Ahmed, defended his tribe's right to live and work in the hills. "We are the guardians of these tombs, and the proof of that is how we hunted down the terrorists who attacked foreign tourists in 1997" says Mr. Ahmed. "What would the police have done without us? Now they say they have no use for us."

Ahmed, whose grandfather worked as



a laborer with the British Egyptologist Howard Carter when he uncovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922, looks wearily down the hill at the ruins of the temple of Ramses II and sighs: "We have every reason to defend these tombs since they are our livelihood."



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# Human and Political Rights in Yemen: A SEMINAR



**Imad Al-Saqqaf**  
Taiz Bureau Chief  
Yemen Times

The Women's Forum for Research and Training held a seminar on Human and Political Rights in Taiz last Wednesday January 24, 2001. In her opening statement, the Chairman of the forum, Ms. Suad Al-Qadasi explained the forum's role in

spreading awareness about human and political rights in general, with particular emphasis on the rights of women in political and social life. In her speech, she stated that the main objective of the forum was to spread awareness about the rights of women to freely express themselves and to explain their problems and sufferings so as to encourage civil society and the media to suggest and discuss solutions to violent incidents which target Yemeni women. The forum, according to Ms. Qadasi, aims at developing mechanisms to

coordinate different women's organizations and come up with common ground. The forum hopes to reach its goals through the various activities it carries out, and by presenting studies and research about the condition of women in Yemen.

Later on, Dr. Salaheddin Haddash presented a working paper on human and political rights -mainly concerning elections- in Yemen. He mentioned the constitutional articles that grant Yemenis the right to vote in all elec-

tions and further stated that internationally approved standards of human and electoral rights are met in the constitution. According to Dr. Haddash, the main obstacle facing the election process in Yemen is illiteracy, as many violations take place through interfering in illiterate electors' votes during the election process. This in itself is an obvious human rights violation that should be stopped. Dr. Haddash concluded his statement by presenting steps that could help avoid future problems in the election process:

- Forming an independent and honest Judicial Court to deal with election violations and end any disputes over voting problems
- Providing equal coverage by government-run media organs during and before the election period for the parties participating in the elections.
- Not using governmental resources, including funds and other assets, in favor of the ruling party over all the other competing parties.
- Supervising and correcting candidate and electoral lists on a regular basis.
- Encouraging women to participate in the electoral process.
- Preventing and avoiding the use of violence during the elections.



Afterwards, female lawyer Nabile Al-Mufti presented a working paper about human rights and the political right of forming parties and groups in Yemen. In her paper, she stated that the Yemeni law that organizes political parties and movements, grants Yemenis the right to form political parties and groups on condition that they do not contradict Islamic values, Yemen's unity and independence, the republican system, the revolution and constitution's objectives, the national and Islamic values of Yemenis and the universal declaration of human rights. She also mentioned other conditions for forming a political party, including not setting up any sort of military structure, plus other conditions. She also mentioned that the law gave the judicial system the exclusive

right to stop or suspend any political party. Hence, it would be impossible for any authority or governmental office to order the closure or suspension of any party without a decisive verdict from a court, which must first have received a written request from the Head of the Party Affairs Committee. Ms. Nabile concluded her statement by mentioning the obstacles facing political and civil freedom in Yemen, and the NGO law recently endorsed by parliament.

After all the working papers were presented, a discussion session was held, in which many intellectuals and professors from Taiz University debated the reasons behind the low participation of Yemeni women in elections, and their absence from political life. The seminar concluded that there should be more intensive efforts to spread awareness among the female population of the important role women should play in future elections.

Among the participants in the seminar were Yusuf Abu Ras, Manager of the UN Information Center in Yemen, Suzan Darlin of Helsinki University, Finland, Abdulmalik Al-Marhabi, Representative of the Friedrich Stiftung office in Yemen, and Faiza Abdullaqib, Deputy Manager of the Arab Institute for Developing Democracy in Aden.

## Other parties' stands concerning local elections and constitutional amendments

### League of Yemen Sons (Rai) to Say "NO" The Nasserite Democratic Party to Say "YES"



**Dr. Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sheikh**  
Head of the Main  
Office of the League of  
Yemen Sons League  
Party

"Local government is an important pillar of any democracy. No developing country can improve unless every one of its citizen contributes to the improvement of democracy.

Striving for local government is a public demand that should come hand in hand with democracy. Those who treat it as something beyond reality tend to ignore the great sacrifices of national pioneers and movement leaders throughout history.

Local councils are not a totally new experience for Yemen. Before unification, there used to be cooperative authorities with reasonable self-governance in former north Yemen. Without doubt, the upcoming local councils are much more democratic and independent. However, there was an attempt by the government to merge these authorities with local councils in 1985 and this shows that local councils have always been on the mind of the leadership.

In the former south Yemen, we used to have local public councils which were, despite people's participation, controlled and directed by the government. In 1956, the League of Yemen Sons Party was able to establish a unique example of local governance in the Lahj Sultanate. It established a constitution that guaranteed the rights of all citizens and abolished anarchy by conducting elections. An independent judicial system and court were also established. This experience did not appeal to the British colonial rulers who realized the danger represented by the spread of this phenomenon to other Sultanates. So they invaded Lahj in 1985 and arrested the leaders of the League Party.

The League of Yemen Sons bases its position on its political ideology and its realization of local, regional and global changes. Our party was the first to call for the adoption of decentralization in the country, and presented a complete draft law for local elections. The government of the unified Yemen responded by issuing the Local Authority Law which has many drawbacks and contradicted some of the constitution's core articles. So the government has called for modifications to the constitution to suit their new law, instead of the other way around.

The stand of our party in regard to the local council elections is clear and decisive. Our party:

- 1) will not boycott the local elections.
- 2) will not make any decisions in regard to the nomination of candidates.
- 3) has the full freedom to react to any political maneuver according to the general concepts and norms of the party.
- 4) encourages the nomination of honest independent candidates.

We have decided to participate in the elections to strengthen democratic practice in our beloved country. But we also know that guaranteeing fair and serious elections is a prerequisite for the success of the whole process, and save it from becoming no more than an artificial decoration. Therefore, the League of Yemen Sons

believes that the commitment of the Supreme Election Committee to have a fair and accurate election process during all the different stages of the elections is vital for the success of this democratic process. We, as the League of Yemen Sons Party, openly expressed our opinion and clarified our vision to the Conference on Electoral Development Administration in March 1999, in which we affirmed the importance of the participation of all parties, under the conditions of fairness and equal opportunities.

As for the constitutional amendments, we openly reject them and call upon the public to say "NO" to them. We believe that even the constitutional amendments that were applied after the 1994 civil war are not adequate and only served the victorious side, at that time the PGC and Islah. Moreover, the constitution amendments cause more confusion and includes more drawbacks, including:

- 1) Vagueness in describing how peaceful transfer of power should be carried out.
- 2) Lack of steps as to how to deal with the election of the vice president once the president is elected.
- 3) Constraint of democracy by requesting a 10% approval from the parliament before nominating presidential candidates.
- 4) Ambiguity in articles concerning the economy, and lack of guarantees of capitals and investment.
- 5) Judiciary and local authorities both controlled by excessive authority.
- 6) Founding a *Shoura* Council with no more than artificial authority.
- 7) Local councils have no right to elect their chairmen.

Despite all the negative aspects of the local authority law and constitutional amendments, we still insist on not boycotting the upcoming local council elections. We believe that total acceptance and total rejection are a fashion of the past, which should not be adopted any more. We need to go forward and express our views openly, and hope for a good result in the coming elections."



**Abdo Mohammed al-Janadi**, Nasserite Democratic Party Secretary General

"In order to start our debate about the importance of local council elections, we first need to go back to the local authority law so as to understand the authorities involved and their duties. The law has in some sense presented a wide range of guidelines and given reasonable authority to the newly established councils if compared to the previously established local councils, except for the nomination of the governors and districts directors. This means that if and only if voters cast their votes for those who truly deserve to be elected, will our democratic practice be pushed forward. I believe that success in enforcing laws will be one of the main priorities and responsibilities of local councils.

"I support the view that it is better to be optimistic than pessimistic because I feel that local councils will emerge to serve the public, and then political reforms may follow, leading to the enforcement of state laws. This is of great significance, especially when remembering that many violations in

administrative, financial and security sectors are attributed to the fact that effective laws are not enforced.

"It seems to me that the biggest difference between the current councils and the previous councils is that the current ones are being set up in a reasonably real democratic environment. It is worth noting that authority is to be granted to local councils in many fields including social development, service and administration, financial development, planning, education, health, security, plus others. All these will positively affect the lives of the Yemeni people. If these councils work properly, there will certainly be remarkable benefit for the public and an increase in the standards of living. Members of these councils will also be protected by law so as they can never be harmed by officials usually appointed by some corrupt governors. The constitution gives these members the right to have a say in the councils and a simple vote could easily cause loss of confidence in these officials and consequently lead to their removal from their position. This will certainly make the government select qualified officials in these councils and local council members themselves may be removed if proven passive or not productive for their respective regions.

It could be true that affiliating the local councils to the Ministry of Local Government would decrease the possibilities of success, especially as we are at the initial stages when more authority and independence are vital for the success of the forthcoming local councils. On the other hand, if local councils are abiding by the law and making use of the authority they are given so as to serve their communities and people, then there would be little effect from the government's supervision and interference.

All in all, what is important in this democratic practice we are going through, is that the public's opinion be heard. What is also important is the participation of different parties in a hopefully reasonably fair electoral process.

As for the campaign launched by other parties against the constitutional amendments, we do respect it but we do not agree with it. We have the view that these amendments do not constitute a setback to our democracy. Rather they are necessary steps needed due to social and economic changes taking place world-wide. Some of them are actually measures to enhance our democratic transition and help expand the basis of participation. Besides, these amendments are not the first of their kind. This is the second time that such amendments have been suggested. The actual public referendum on amendments, electing the president and defining his term in office by two rounds, and electing local councils, are all the fruits of the first amendments which in my view were a way to enhance democracy. In short, the current amendments are not a setback from the democratic transition, just as the constitutional reforms are not a setback. We are also against the belief that the SEC is taking sides with the PGC because there are many members formally representing different political parties in the SEC. These members were from many different parties including PGC, Islah and the YSP. They were also chosen by the members of Parliament.

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Has the government forgotten its 1997 plan for the industrial zones?

# Industrial Sector Still Waiting!



**Ridwan Al-Saqaf**  
Aden Bureau Chief  
Yemen Times

**M**inister of Industry and Chairman of the General Committee for Investment, Mr. Abdulrahman Mohamed Ali Othman told a local newspaper that the priorities of his ministry during the coming period will be to set up a strategy to encourage foreign and local investment in industry. He added that the ministry will present a plan to provide facilities for investors and will work on increasing productivity levels and the quality of local products and increasing industrial exports.

The minister's statement came as the government approved a major change in one of the articles of the investment law, aimed at enabling foreign investors to purchase and use land and real estate with ease and with the protection of the state.

The change will apply to the article that restricts the freedom of foreign investors by forcing them to obtain prior permission from the General Committee for Investment before purchasing or disposing of investments. This also comes during the time in which the parliament is expected to discuss and possibly endorse the changes approved by the cabinet a few months ago regarding the investment law. These changes pave the way to minimize the steps needed to get licenses for investment and also to provide exemptions to investors.

It is worth mentioning that the above changes were encouraged by the World Bank in order to provide an appropriate and encouraging atmosphere for investors in the industrial sector. The cabinet had already last year approved a strategy to promote industrial investment with the cabinet's resolution number 133 for 2000, which was passed after the industrial survey done by the Ministry of Industry together with a number of foreign organizations. Through the survey, the industrial sector's situation in Yemen was analyzed along with a study of all the obstacles faced by investors in the industrial sector. This comes as an increasing number of investors complain about the current situation facing industrial investments. Many of the complaints were raised through letters sent to the government, by meeting the leadership, and even in scientific, commercial, and industrial conferences held all

over the country. The 4th and 5th Businessmen Conferences in Aden held in 1999 and 2000 consecutively were an occasion on which many Yemeni, Arab, and foreign investors brought this issue to the surface. The obstacles facing the industrial sector in Yemen can be summarized by the following:

- Smuggling. Thousands of products similar to ones locally produced are being smuggled in every day. Even though these products are of lower quality, they are in demand due to their lower price because they are not taxed by the state. This is the main cause that leads to flooding, which is a negative phenomenon that could potentially have a severe effect on the local economy, especially in the industrial sector.

- Customs taxes applied to imported materials used in industrial investments in Yemen are also a major obstacle facing industrial investors, because this leads to higher manufacturing costs, resulting in higher prices for the consumers. This encourages the import of ready-made goods, hence discouraging the manufacturing of products locally.

- Multiple taxing (for productivity and sales). Too many taxes result in heavier burdens on the various industrial companies because they cause an increase in prices of manufactured goods, leading to less interest among the public, and more competition with imported ready-made goods serving the same purpose.

In brief, industrial development can only be achieved if industry is providing quality products at reasonable prices. Hence, if the government ever plans to encourage industrial development, it should remove all the bureaucratic obstacles facing investors in the industrial sector, and should reduce taxes paid by this sector, and work on preventing smuggling of foreign products by increasing security and enforcing the law.

Businessmen agree that if the government is sincere in its commitment to encourage the industrial sector, it should start by providing a completely structured industrial zone with a strong infrastructure that includes all the necessary services such as electricity, water, communications, transportation facilities, and sanitation facilities, all at economical prices.

However, it is unfortunate that the government has failed to implement the three industrial zones, in Aden, Hodeidah, and Mukalla, which it decided to establish in 1997, when the Minister of Industry was Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Sofan. The imple-

mentation of these projects never started despite the fact that a feasibility study of these industrial zones was made as part of a technical and scientific cooperation agreement with Egypt in the same year. The study's results showed that there was great potential for a successful industrial zone in the governorate of Aden as part of an industrial triangle between Aden, Lahj, and Abyan governorates, with an initial estimated area of 6 square kilometers which could have been expanded in the future.

Even though it is not an easy task to launch these industrial zones due to their extremely high building costs, the government could have taken some solid steps towards implementation, and should have encouraged donor countries and organizations to help support the project financially. Experts say that the project's great potential could have easily convinced these countries and organizations to provide assistance to the Republic of Yemen.

Building these zones will create employment opportunities for thousands, and will help decrease poverty. Unlike current industrial complexes, which are near housing complex, the proposed zones will be located away from cities, hence preventing environmental pollution. However, it would still be efficient to build some housing complexes within a reasonable distance of these industrial zones, which would consequently help distribute the population.

It would be smart of the government to proceed immediately with the building of these zones before the private sector, with the BOT system or with one of the systems used successfully in the region and in many Arab states, such as Egypt, which has several industrial zones.

Around 4 years have passed since the government decided on going forward with these zones. When the government made this decision, businessmen and investors were optimistic for the country's future in regard to industrial development. We are afraid that what was said was no more than propaganda used by the government to get public support for the 1997 elections, not more, not less. We are running out of time, especially as we are witnessing an increasing demand for not only three, but even more industrial zones to meet the demand of the local market, and to be able to produce goods capable of competing with foreign products in Yemen and for exporting to other countries.

The government's role is not limited to providing the atmosphere needed to

attract investors and businessmen to launch their industrial projects and investments. The government's role includes monitoring the quality of the products of these factories, and making sure they meet the standards it has set up for locally produced goods. It should also verify that the raw material used in producing these goods are within quality limits. All of this should be done in an unbiased manner, regardless of this or that businessman's contributions to the overall economy of the country, simply because the health of Yemeni citizens should be on top of the government's priority list.

All of the above should only be carried out after formulating and approving a law that would organize all issues related to the industrial sector. The Yemeni Standards Committee should set clear laws that indicate the standards that must be met by local goods produced by factories in Yemen.

The above laws should not only be used to monitor the quality of goods, but should also be used to make sure that labor rights and health standards are met in these factories. It is funny to notice however, that government run services, such as the municipal cleaning services have the worst of records in terms of the health conditions of their employees. But this should not be a reason to overlook the importance of monitoring working conditions in privately run factories and industries. The Ministry of Industry should also work in close coordination with the Ministry of Supply and Trade in monitoring the quality and standard of imported goods either to be directly sold in the market—especially those that are similar to locally produced goods—or to be used as raw materials in local factories.

All of the above tasks require a lot of hard work, commitment, organization, skilled workers, and funds. This drives us to the question of whether the Yemeni Standards Committee would be able to issue the required laws, and enforce them. The issue of funds is vital—they are needed to ensure that employees working in this sector will not be bribed or taken advantage of during the process of quality inspection and assurance. On the other hand, will the Ministry of Industry start working on implementing the already available laws in this regard, and give us some answers to our questions about the long forgotten industrial zones' projects.

Will investors, businessmen, and all the Yemeni people have to wait too long for these projects to start? Let's hope not!

Yemen has to go so as to reach its target, he said "What we know today is that economic development is not a start and finish process. The world is changing every day. If we take the case of Yemen as an example we will find that the next step to be taken is to see what Yemen can do to attract investment. But Yemen is not the only country that wants to do that, Arab and foreign countries want to do the same thing. So you constantly have to be working on this. Economic reforms are now simplifying procedures, diversifying and deregulating the economy, privatizing. These things have to be an on going process. We don't want to worry just about today, we want to worry about the next ten years."



**Tawfeek al-Shara'abi**  
Yemen Times

## EX-director of WB to YT:

**"The government should not do things that the private sector can do."**



**Tawfeek al-Shara'abi**  
Yemen Times

**M**r. Inder K. Sud, the ex-director of the WB paid a final visit to Yemen to bid farewell to officials in the Yemeni government and friends in the private sector. His first visit to Yemen was in 1995 during what was a hard time for the whole of Yemen. After meeting with officials and friends from the private sector, He held a press conference, met with media people and answered their inquiries about the many activities of the WB in Yemen.

In an answer to a YT question on what Yemen has achieved so far through the reforms programs, he said "Yemen has to be congratulated on what it has achieved in terms of laying the foundation for a good and solid economy. Now the foundation is there which means a stable macro economic situation and exchange rate policy. If we remember the conditions of 1995, we can see the difference.

"Yemen has also a still developing tra-

dition of openness in the government towards elections and democracy which I think will stand Yemen in very good stead in the future. But at the same time the solid foundation of democracy can only be on the basis of growth and for that I think, much needs to be done to encourage the private sector, and to encourage private investment, Yemeni, Arab and foreign."

Regarding the privatization policy that the Yemeni government is conducting on many crippled as well as successful institutions such as the National Bank in Aden and the Aden refinery, he said "To me privatization is extremely important if Yemen is to have a bright future. The government should not do things that the private sector can do. This lesson is learnt in every country all over the world. The government should focus on things it must do such as education, health and basic services, because the private sector has to come in."

"There are many reasons for this including that the government has never had enough money, enough resources or enough capacity and the government should never replace the private sector. And even if the government is making money, when the pri-

private sector comes to take over, it will make it expand and grow, bring more investment and that is the main reason why you want privatization.

"This is why we have been actively encouraging the government to undertake privatization. The privatization program is just at its starting phase right now. The National Bank of Yemen and the Aden refinery are being privatized. Hopefully, in the future, things like telecommunication, electricity, cement factories. We have been working very closely with the government so as to have a proper system. Privatization is not a one-day decision to privatize an institution and give it to someone. Privatization needs very careful preparation. It needs openness, transparency so people can see what is being done. So I would say that the privatization program is getting started. It has not taken off yet. The groundwork has been done and I hope progress will be achieved in the future."

On economic reforms and how far

## ECONOMY NEWS

### YR 93 Billion worth of New Projects in Yemen

During the month of January 2001, the General Investment Authority gave permission to a number of investment projects in the field of industry and mining. The projects consist of 8 factories for manufacturing cement granite and marble mining and excavation at a cost of YR 50 billion, an oil refinery in Hadhramout and another in Hodeidah at an estimated cost of YR 43 billion for both. The Authority also recommended to the House of Parliament some amendments to the current investment law. The amendments are aimed at giving investors the right to register their projects without prior permission, consequently reducing the number of steps having to be fulfilled by investors before starting their projects.

### More than DM 81 million Granted to Yemen

Yemen was granted 81.3 million Deutsche Marks in the form of two grants to support several developmental projects in various regions of the country. The projects include:

- DM 31 million for sanitation projects in Bajil and Beit Al-Faqih
- DM 4 million for the expansion of the water reservoir station in Ibb
- DM 36.3 million for a sanitation project in Sa'adah City
- DM 10 million for the renovation and expansion of a number of elementary schools in the governorates of Ibb and Abyan

### Fishery Agreement between Somalia and Yemen

An agreement was signed last week in Sanaa between Yemen and Somalia to promote cooperation in the field of fishery resources. The agreement states that the Yemeni Ministry for Fisheries would provide expertise in helping Somalia restructure its own Ministry of Fisheries and provide all assistance needed in this respect. The agreement also calls for fishing activities in the Arab Gulf area separating the two countries to be organized, taking into consideration the brotherly relationship between the two countries while respecting the interests and national sovereignty of the two nations according to international marine law.

## Saving, Investment and Economic Growth - PART 1

Dr. Alexander Bohrisch\*

**T**he purpose of this article is to give a short general overview of the interrelationship between savings, investment and economic growth and to assess the situation related to Yemen with regard to savings, investment and financial intermediation. To the extent possible, statistical data from the Central Bank of Yemen and the Central Statistical Office (CSO) were used. However, care is required when interpreting saving and investment data because they may be subject to a more or less large measurement error, reflecting gaps in basic statistical information on economic activity in Yemen. Economic growth is typically measured as the annual change in total output (real GDP) or as the annual change in output per head of the population. The latter is a broad gauge to improvements in the standard of living of the population. Economic growth is a vital - albeit not sufficient - condition for lasting poverty reduction. Historically, economic growth is a relatively recent phenomenon (and statistically evidenced for a longer period of time mainly for Europe and the United States of America). Until the year 1500 there was practically no sustained economic growth of output in Europe. This did not change much in the following centuries. Between the years 1500 and 1700 output per capita increased by a tiny 0.1% per year and between 1700 and 1820 by no more than an average annual rate of 0.2%. It is only in the last 150 years that the industrial nations experienced sustained and higher growth rates. Thus, in the United States of America, the average annual rate of economic growth per capita was somewhat more than 1.5% during 1870-1950, but rose to slightly more than 2.0% over the period 1950-1998. In fact, it is the period 1950-1973 which witnessed exceptionally rapid growth. Per capita GDP in the world economy rose at an

average annual rate of nearly 3.0% and in western Europe by even 4%. These rates have since not been attained and this period is therefore also known as "Golden Age". This performance reflected the interaction of a host of favorable factors, but an important one was the surge in rates of fixed investment in response to opportunities provided, inter alia, by technological catch-up with the United States of America.

A landmark in the research on the sources of economic growth was a study published in 1956 by Robert Solow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a later Nobel Prize Winner. Solow developed a theoretical framework which allows us to estimate the contributions of production factors (capital and labor) and technical progress to increases in output. The growth contribution of technical progress is calculated as a residual, i.e. as the incremental output which is not accounted for by changes in the traditional factor inputs. Although based on a number of simplifying assumptions, Solow's work highlighted the crucial role of technical progress in the long-term growth process.

At about the same time, some international organizations (UN, World Bank, ILO) also carried out economic growth studies. These studies pointed to the important role of education and outward oriented trade policies, which, in a more general way help to strengthen competitiveness and, therefore, economic growth. Thus, international trade will not only allow the import of capital goods but will also tend to strengthen the competitiveness of domestic firms, which, together with access to larger markets, will improve the growth performance of the economy.

\* Dr. Alexander Bohrisch is currently with GTZ (German Technical Cooperation), Sana'a Office until June 2001. Before, he has been a senior staff member of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva, Switzerland. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of GTZ.

## Foreign Investors Allowed to Possess Land & Estates

Mahyoub Al-Kamali

**T**he Cabinet has recently given the go-ahead for foreign investors to possess land and estates in the Republic of Yemen. In this context, Article (7) of the investment law will be amended accordingly. The cabinet move is hoped to ensure the success of foreign investments. Other laws such as civil law and estate law will also be amended to facilitate land and estate possession by foreigners and non-Yemenis. Businessmen regard the cabinet decision as an additional feature to the investment law issued in 1991.

Foreign investments are now equal to their local equivalents, they say.

The newly amended law gives foreign investors the right to possess land for their projects, residence, etc. wherever they like, providing them with an atmosphere of tranquillity and stability. It will also help both local as well as foreign savings to contribute to the money market.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Industry, many opportunities are awaiting investors in the food industries including packing vegetables and fish, the cheese industry, oil production and honey bottling. Foreign investors can also invest in the leather industry, for example.

Footwear, clothes, blankets, carpets, furniture, etc. in Yemen are also in need of paper, chemical, plastic, metal, etc. industries.

Investors in the fields mentioned above will enjoy many privileges that are guaranteed by the investment law. They can import the material needed for their industries and will also be exempted from income taxes for 7 years beginning from production date in addition to the many tax-breaks that they already enjoy.

The cabinet decision to allow foreign investors to possess land and estates to use in their projects is a step forward towards attracting foreign capital to invest in Yemen.

# COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## Local Elections Delirium 2/2

“All right everybody take your seats, the choice of the people has arrived”, yelled Tawfiq as he escorted Salah into the diwan of Tawfiq’s house. Salah was amazed at the large gathering Tawfiq had managed to put together: “I did not think that the upcoming Local Council Elections would create such a fuss”. “Can’t you see how everyone is excited that you have accepted to attend the meeting” said Tawfiq as both men walked up to the top of the modestly long diwan, when compared to the diwans of more wealthy citizens. Tawfiq commented to the gathering: “Twenty years ago this was the biggest diwan in the city of Sana’a, now it is a second rate qat session room. However, we remain simple in outlook in the old city of Sana’a. We want to make sure that this simplicity carries on for the next generations to come on. We not only have to preserve our buildings, there is a lot of culture in here that must be saved, otherwise centuries of cultural and civic upbringing will go down the drain and the plastic culture of the Diplomatic Quarter of the city will take away the breath of life out of the city. Here is the man who knows Sana’a and its traditions and he is the only I know who can uphold the traditional values of the city and echo our concerns.” “Wait a second there Tawfiq, I only accepted to attend your meeting; I have not said that I accept your nomination. I am truly honored and grateful for considering me as your candidate. However, you are really asking me to make a big leap from my normal trouble-free life. I believe as my father always said, ‘the doorway to trouble is found by getting into politics. To keep

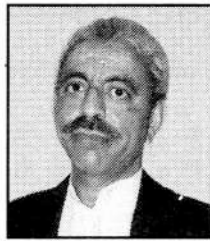
trouble as far away as possible, you have to stay out of politics”. Salah reiterated his hesitation about being drawn into the game of politics. Yet, Tawfiq did not fully register Salah’s last apprehensions: “All right folks, here is the man to represent our neighborhood in the District Local Council. I just can’t think of any better nominee. All of you are aware how much searching we have done amongst our fellow citizens for that right candidate, who will become our voice in Government. It is about time that the local authorities are activated and only people like Salah can give us a glimmer of hope that this whole affair will not turn out to be a meaningless flop like the national democratic strides.” A friend of Tawfiq suggested: “Look, let us convince our friend here that we are not accepting no for an answer to our call”. Turning towards Salah he continued: “Salah, when public duty calls on you there is just no grounds for second thoughts”. Salah was somewhat embarrassed: “Thank you very much Fawzi, but I am not sure that I am the right man to meet your expectations. I have little experience in political positions or the experience to take on the more experienced political muscle that are bound to be confronted as issues come before the Local Council. Moreover, I am not quite sure that the Local Councils can deliver much in the wake of the Local Administration Law and the new amendments to the Constitution. I am not convinced that decentralization has truly been entered into our political set up. Somehow there is something missing”. Tawfiq took the floor: “What did I tell you people, Salah may be reserved at times, but for sure, he understands the inner intricacies of the society that most people tend to ignore”. He con-

tinued, while turning towards his friend, next to him: “You see Salah, that is why you are needed for the job. We want you to be our voice, who can prove that the proper legislative framework is still missing for real local rule and government. If all the local councils managed to have one or two members who could speak their minds constructively as you can, surely some sense is bound to reach the worshippers of centralized Government, that have turned government into a monstrous do-nothing bureaucracy. You will have substantial support at the grass roots level and you can always count on them for support. I know you very well. How can we forget how you were able to turn our secondary school Parents and Teachers Association into the most active and effective citizen’s lobby. That turned our school into a model school, and its students achieved the highest grades. All your fellow students remember that it was Salah who was the guiding spirit that made his father move the other parents and even the teachers into constructive criticism and action to upgrade our school significantly. Your father was the one who insisted that the administrators and the teachers of the school should be accountable to the PTA. Any complaint signed by five parents and or teachers against the school official or teacher would subject the latter to a hearing and possible dismissal. Yes, there is no question about it, you have a knack for behind the scenes maneuvering. We believe that this qualification will be handy in the kind of obstacles that truly sincere and serious LC members are bound to face”. A pessimist in the meeting aired his views: “The Local Council is not the school PTA and there is considerable money involved. In addition Government now is not what it was 15 years ago, both in size and in com-

plexity. Salah would be one out of twenty members. The Government will have considerable influence on quite a lot of them. Salah will have to cultivate a lot of political muscle to outdo these guys. I am not quite sure, he or anyone else for that matter will be allowed to nurture such support.” Tawfiq was ready with the response, but first threw a twig of qat to the pessimist: “Look, Abdullah, if Salah has trouble inside the machine, he can always count on us to support him, by maneuvering subtly to activate us behind him through using all the legal means at our disposal to let the Government know that Salah’s ideas and views are shared by quite a lot of people. On the other hand, the Government just can’t own everyone, the LC members are not going to be paid from the Central Government, if they are going to be paid at all. In addition, they have a right to make public

officials accountable to them in their jurisdiction. This is the first time that even the idea of accountability has been given some procedural consideration. Salah understands how to use such minor powers to the maximum benefit of the constituency”. Salah cut in: “In all fairness to Tawfiq, many of those PTA ideas came from him. He knew his parents were not able to make them move in the PTA, so his wisdom got him to coax me to get my parents involved, since he knew my father, God bless his soul, was outspoken and convincing when he wanted to be so. I insist that it is Tawfiq who is the more qualified for the position than yours truly. In all fairness to all of you and the people of Sana’a, I say it is Tawfiq who should be the subject of your attention here and not I, although I am honored by your consideration.” Fawzi was quickly interested in Salah’s nomination of Tawfiq: “I agree with Salah that Tawfiq is indeed highly qualified and more interested than Salah is for the position. There is no question about Tawfiq’s political acumen. Had it not been for all the finagling with the Parliamentary Elections in the last round, Tawfiq would have been in Parliament acting as our representative. There was no

doubt that he was going to win, but he was literally forced to withdraw his nomination at the last minute, because the Government had wanted the dead meat we now have in Parliament there to represent us. To this day, I have never seen the guy’s face on the televised sessions of Parliament and I have never seen him anywhere in the District, let alone in the neighborhood. I say we should give Tawfiq another go at it. Perhaps the addicts of tight centralized government will not worry about Tawfiq being far away from the capital city”. With Tawfiq as our choice, we will give the big parties the message, that when it is local, we want the decision to be ours. We are tired of your failures and your contempt for our interests and concerns” Abdu added: “We know that democracy is still a long shot from being a fact of life here in Yemen, but at the local level, we want to see as much of it as possible. We are behind you Tawfiq, and let us see how far we can go. Let us pray that it shall be forward. When the machine is awesome and aloof from the will of the public, prayers are bound to be called for to solicit God’s mercy on the people of Yemen. After all God’s mercy is more accessible than that of our autocratic Government”. Amen.



## A Word from the Christchurch and Ras Morbat Clinic in Aden

On 1 January 2001, at approximately 0530, a bomb placed just outside the perimeter wall adjacent to the kitchen area of the church residence in Tawahi detonated. Fortunately the two people in residence at that time were neither killed or injured. The property damage was extensive: window frames and glass on the ENTIRE side of the building were destroyed as was a large section of the perimeter wall. Doors were blown in and damage occurred to many items in the residence. It is estimated that cost of repair will be about \$25,000 to \$30,000 USD, money which we would much rather have been spent on resources: medicines, equipment and supplies which we use in the treatment and care of people who come to Ras Morbat Clinic for medical and eye care. Damage also occurred to people in the neighborhood, their homes and small businesses. There is another kind of damage also. We are saddened by the fact that some apparently see the Christian Church of Aden and its community as an enemy of Islam. We, the Christian community and people, are not an enemy of Islam. The Church does not have a primary motive of changing Muslims into Christians as some declare. More than half of our staff of 25 persons are Muslim. Our staff are a diverse group of people who have learned to work with and care for each other in our common effort to serve the people of Yemen, and dialogue is a goal. There are common enemies of Islam and Christianity, and to society in general: they are ignorance, unfaithfulness and selfishness - (use of resources for self-gain and benefit rather than for the common good) among others. Our scriptures, the Bible, teach us that we are to serve and care for one another, to visit the sick and those in prison; or to

help the needy. Islam through the Quran declares respect for the "people of the book," Christians, and to the prophets; Mohammad (PBUH) and Jesus (Issa) among them. We appeal to all God-fearing persons to promote justice, kindness and caring for all people. The people and country of Yemen are beautiful and attractive in many respects, something to be treasured and developed for the good of all. We at Christchurch and Ras Morbat Clinic cannot believe that what has happened is representative of Islam or of Christianity. Further, as the world draws ever closer together with modern communication, it is necessary that all people learn to live with respect for each other, allowing all people freedom to follow the religion, culture and way of life of their own choosing. The Yemeni newspapers, and announcements from various agencies speak of democracy, fairness, openness: let it be in reality and not just in words. Mosques exist in many Western countries of the world; and we hope that this old Adeni church can exist in the city of Aden. References to past injustice, even hatred, are never useful. We cannot live in the past, we wish to live and build a better life and society with justice for all. We at Christchurch and Ras Morbat Clinic intend to maintain our life and work here among the people who are our neighbors and friends. We thank you, those who have helped in cleanup and repair, and expressed their sorrow at this time. And we wish the very best for Yemen, Aden and its people.

Dr. Roger A. Bruggink  
Pastor and Project Manager  
(Christchurch/Ras Morbat Clinic) - Aden

### The UNHCR Branch in Yemen: Has it Gone Astray?

## The Organization meant for the Good of Refugees Turns out to be to their Harm!!?

When an international charitable body, of the volume, vitality and importance of the branch office of the UNHCR in Yemen, swerves its humanitarian mission, the consequences tend to be disastrous for its 'clients,' the refugees. It is due to the fact that the emancipatory organization has not achieved a single success for the benefit of the refugee seekers, that those who are living in permanent states of 'sublime fear' have given up resorting to the humanitarian organization! Such a conclusion hasn't been reached arbitrarily in favor of the emancipatory organization branch. On the contrary, it has been reached by close scrutiny and a painstaking inspection of the inconsistent behavior of the organization's branch conducted over a number of years. The first negative result of such demeanor that can be observed at the branch is a lack of discipline, which manifests itself in matters such as the loss of files of some of the applicants for refugee status, and deliberately misguiding some of those applicants about the decisions taken in their cases regarding recognition of their refugee status, and telling them that their cases are pending. Or in the permanent delay in taking decisions in cases which are supposed to be decided with great urgency. Other than that, there is an incredible negligence in the settling of some applicants' claims, or in ignoring the claims themselves. Besides the high costs of contacting the organization which refugee's have to bear: it is entirely forbidden to see an officer - let alone his "excellency", the representative. The deputy representative and the protection officer are not to be seen unless there is a prior appointment, and when you ask them to specify that date, they tell you that it is not

possible! - as if all the cases presented before the office need to follow the whole zigzag route, or as if those people, including the representative himself, are not there for the purpose of helping the poor refugees! Nevertheless, even the two reception days have recently been canceled after the well-known "Somali-stone-assault" against the emancipatory branch, nearly two months ago. This goes on while the branch protection unit practices its dubious criteria to evaluate similar cases differently: Very often there have been similar cases judged in a discriminatory manner resulting in improper assessments. Other times, the protection officer, who is a volunteer herself, does not inspect the claims of a given group of applicants as "case by case study"; she would decide plurally on them. e.g., she regards the sum of the Sudanese claims as the same, despite the apparent differences. But the most miserable situation a candidate at the office can be made to endure is the lack of transparency. And this can vary to take the form of elusion in evading the enquiries of the refugees or withholding the necessary information under the pretext of official secrecy, a thing which is capable of disabling the efforts of any mighty giant. Numerous cases have been given up while following the crippled and uncertain process because of sheer exhaustion. Many cases have been pending for over a year; other applicants have been left to meet their miserable fates in the hands of their native embassies and consulates (a number of applicants have handed the office a written complaints on the issue), a third group (refugees from Arab countries) were told that the Yemeni government does not accept Arab refugees within its borders and yet, the protection unit did not hesitate to hand many of them letters telling them "they do

not meet the UNHCR criterion for resettlement"...! And thus applicants give up following up their applications, making the whole matter a sheer waste of time. Meanwhile, all refuge conventions (the 1951 convention in particular) urge the donor countries to provide their guests with the necessary means to lead a decent life, and to give them priority regarding job opportunities. Neither the UNHCR branch (except for a limited number of Somalis who are granted very little sums of money), nor the Yemeni hosts supply the refugees with the above mentioned facilities. The annual report issued by the office last December states that despite the fact that the Yemeni government has recognized and signed the various refugee treaties, it does not accept political asylum seekers from Arab countries. In the circumstances, all the refugees around the world are totally dependent on what the UNHCR and the hosts offer them. This happens at a time when the branch office has completely stopped receiving any further applications for protection! And this was a fact that Mr. Dugheish (a former employee at the UNHCR subsidiary organization "PAD" in the managing staff of the RCC) articulated in an interview on the Jazira TV Channel; that the whole affair in the office is messy and mixed up with rampant corruption... For whose benefit do such things happen, or why does a UNHCR branch which is essentially founded to comfort and lessen the sufferings of the refugee seekers, turn out to be a means of adding extra burdens onto the already weakened shoulders of these poor refugees? Really, I don't think that what is going on, in the UNHCR branch office here, can benefit a refugee seeker in any respect.

Hanafi Mohammed Saleh  
A Sudanese Refugee in Yemen

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am respectfully responding to the letter written by Mr. Gary G. Swenchoins Sr. that was published in the Yemen Times dated January 22nd through January 29th. Firstly, I would like to send my sincere condolences to you, and the other families that lost their loved ones. I am positive that condolences cannot compensate for such an atrocity that was inflicted on innocent sailors. As a Yemeni American, I solemnly condemn the brutal attacks on the American Sailors and I would like to share my views and answer your questions related to this tragic attack. It is to my understanding that the Government on both sides, Yemen and the United States are still undergoing tight investigation regarding the USS Cole attack, and the day this tragic incident took place, the Yemeni Government did issue an official statement sending regrets and condolences to all the victim's families. I personally read this statement, which can be read on our Embassy to USA's website at www.YemenEmbassy.org. I strongly believe that Yemen is very serious in their relationship with the United States and vows to keep friendly ties. I sympathize that the statement issued does not bring back the loved ones that were lost, but respectfully, I would like to correct you, as the government did acknowledge this state-

ment.

I'm saddened to understand that this act of violence committed by deranged criminals has unfortunately convinced you of your opinion concerning the Yemeni government and the Yemeni population. Sharing my views as a Yemeni American, I cannot emphasize the social disgrace, and humiliation this has caused to our peaceful nation. My apologies are not enough, and words cannot heal your pain, but I have compassion, and I pray for you and all the victim's families and hope that this vicious act does not hold us all fully responsible in the eyes of the highly respected American people. God Bless You & the Families that lost their loved ones!

Nadia YC  
Washington, DC  
Taiiz04@aol.com

Dear Editor,

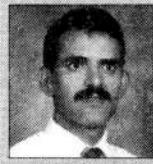
Thank you for your prompt reply to our letter concerning the attack on the USS Cole. We feel that an apology is in order on our part. We read how your ambassador had been present at the Memorial Services in Norfolk, Va. and that your leaders did in fact make a formal apology to our nation and the victims families as well. It would have been considerate, and appropriate of our own government to make us aware of those facts immedi-

ately. They never did. We would have like to have met, and talked with your country's ambassador at the Memorial Services. We are sorry for making that accusation. Thank-you for setting the record straight. We also want it to be known that we do not hold any animosity towards your country, and/or people. If anything that makes us angrier at our own government for its continued mishandling of the USS Cole attack. I am sure that you know by now that the previous administration is attempting to "whitewash" the attack by claiming that everyone in our governments chain of command was responsible for the attack. They think by distributing a small amount of blame amongst everyone, no one can be held accountable. The previous Secretary of Defense (Mr. Cohen) investigation is only partially right. We are saddened that our government wants to protect the individuals who are partially responsible for the deaths of 17 American sailors. He (Mr. Cohen) has since left office as have many of the others who were responsible for this tragedy. Our son has become a victim again, this time his own government has let him down. Again, there are too many unanswered questions. Again, we thank you for the information and in contacting us. Also, thank you for your condolences for the loss of our son.

Gary G. Swenchoins  
debnukem@webtv.net  
P.O. Box 1610 - Rockport, Tx. 78381  
(361) 729-3290

## SPECIAL ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS IN A SERIES: PART I

## Ikhwan Al-Muslimoon Islamic Movement



Hassan Al-Zaidi  
Yemen Times

The issue of Islamic movements worldwide has been raised extensively and frequently in the last few years. For us in Yemen, the killing of 4 tourists as a result of the Abyan Islamic Army's kidnapping of a tourist group was the beginning of a long search into the truth behind Islamic movements in Yemen and their relationship with other Islamic organizations worldwide.

However, the recent USS Cole bombing by an Islamic group resulting in the killing of 17 US marines, made a study of these movements vital in order to assess possible threats from such movements. Hence, there were intensive efforts by investigation bureaus and western governments to know more about these movements and to understand their

potential threat at all levels. Today, FBI, CIA, and many international police investigation units are doubling and tripling their efforts to understand the map of Islamic movements worldwide.

However, Islamic movements should not always be interpreted as negative, especially when in view of the fact that several Islamic movements are of peaceful nature and respectful history. Democracy and available civil rights have enabled several Islamic movements to evolve and operate in Yemen, some from within Yemen, and some as part of regional and global Islamic organizations.

During the last few months, Yemen Times received an enormous number of requests to publish a report on Islamic movements worldwide in general and in Yemen in particular. Hence, starting from this week, we start a series of articles about Islamic movements. In this issue, we will be presenting the "Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslimoon" Islamic movement. Here we will be explaining how the movement started and evolved and will also be covering all aspects of the movement in terms of its activities and beliefs.

#### A Brief Historical Background on Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslimoon

The Ikhwan Islamic movement is the strongest and most popular Islamic movement in Yemen and in the world. The movement is based on calling upon Muslims to return to Islam in conformity with the Holy book of Allah (Quran) and to the prophet Mohammed's (SAS) teachings. It calls for the implementation of all Islamic laws and regulations (Sharia) in all

aspects of life. The movement stands against what it calls the extension of secularism into the Arab and Islamic world.

Before moving on to discuss Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslimoon's movement in Yemen, we need to have a thorough idea about its background, which takes us to its country of origin, Egypt.

The movement was founded by Sheikh Hassan Al-Banna, who lived from 1906-1949. The actual move-

ment was started in 1941 in Egypt, and initially had 100 members chosen by Al-Banna himself.

In 1948, Mahmoud Fahmi Al-Niqrashi, then the Prime Minister of Egypt, ordered the dissolution of the Ikhwan movement, confiscating its properties and arresting its main leaders. In December 1948, Al-Niqrashi was assassinated, and most fingers were pointed to the Ikhwan movement as the ones who planned and carried out the assassination. During his funeral, Al-Niqrashi supporters called for revenge against Al-Banna, who was assassinated less than three months later in February 1949.

In 1950, Al-Nahas's government released all members of the Ikhwan movement based on a verdict by the State Council, which ruled in favor of the movement stating that the initial dissolving of the movement by the earlier government was illegitimate. On 23 July 1952, a number of prominent Egyptian army officers led by Mohammed Najeeb ignited the July Revolution with the assistance of the Ikhwan movement. However, after the success of the coup, the Ikhwan refused to participate in the forthcoming government unless they had some direct control over the state's policies. Gamal Abdunnasser, by then the President of the Republic of Egypt, considered this condition to be a means of controlling the revolutionary government, resulting in tensions between the two parties until the government arrested many of the Ikhwan leaders and displaced thousands of activists of the Ikhwan movement on the grounds that it tried to assassinate



Abdunnasser at Al-Manshiyye in Alexandria. The government executed six of the movement's leaders, Abdulkadir O'da, Mohamed Farghali, Yusuf Tal'at, Hindawi Duwair, Ibrahim Al-Tayyib, and Mohamed Abdullatif.

During 1965-1966, the campaign against the movement gathered momentum resulting in the torture and execution of 3 of its leaders, including Said Qutb (1906-1966), who was considered the second leader of the movement after Al-Banna. Qutb was one of the most prominent Islamic intellectuals still respected by Muslims everywhere until today. He was arrested in 1954 and was in prison for 10 years until he was released upon the intervention of the then President of Iraq, Abdulsalam Arif. However, it was not long before he was imprisoned once again and faced the death penalty along with Yusuf Hawwash and Abulfattah Ismail, who were all executed in 1966.

There were also a number of leading Ikhwan figures that became prominent in other countries in the region. Dr. Mustafa Al-Sayyaghi (1915-1964) was among the founders of the Ikhwan movement in Syria. Sheikh Mahmoud Al-Sawwaf was the leading figure of the Ikhwan movement in Iraq. In Jordan, Abdullatif Abu Qawra represented the Ikhwan movement in 1945.



Coming to Yemen, the most prominent Yemeni Ikhwan leader was Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Zubairi, who founded Hizbullah in Barat (near Saada) in 1965, three years after the Yemeni revolution in the north.

#### Ideologies and Policies of the Ikhwan Movement

The connection of the Ikhwan Al-Muslimoon movement to Islam is all inclusive and never leaves any single issue in Islam without implementation. The Ikhwan movement believes in the importance of having their movement active globally through bureaus and representatives all over the world. Hassan Al-Banna sums up a the movement in one sentence "a Salafi identity, a Sunni movement, a Sufi fact, a diplomatic structure, a sport group, scientific and cultural league, an economic legacy, and a social vision." Al-Banna states that the policy of Al-Ikhwan movement includes:

- 1- Staying away from disreputable issues
- 2- Avoiding arrogance and being dominated by others
- 3- Not being involved in any political or party-oriented establishments
- 4- Concentration on gradual growth and capacity building
- 5- Preference for practical work over propaganda and promotional publicity
- 6- Focusing on the younger generations (explaining the movement's ideas to the youth)
- 7- Concentrating on rural areas in spreading the movement's ideologies.

Al-Banna also described the special characteristics of the movement as follows:

- Divine, because the main objective of the movement is to let Muslims come closer to Allah.
- Global, because it targets all Muslims and non-Muslims alike, with no difference whatsoever of any human over the other, except for faith
- Islamic, because it is based on Islam.

Al-Banna also adds that the requirements that should be met by a faithful and committed member of the movement are that he must:

- 1- sincerely work on reforming himself so as to be:
  - a person of high morals;
  - healthy;

- educated;
  - capable of understanding his creed appropriately;
  - a devout worshipper of Allah
- 2- be capable of establishing a Muslim family that would appreciate and respect his ideology and also abide by all Islamic regulations and rules.
  - 3- work on guiding people to do good deeds within society and fight all sinful behavior, by first serving as an example for others, and then by advising the people in the community.
  - 4- Liberate the nation from foreign non-Islamic occupation or domination in either political, cultural, or ideological senses.
  - 5- Reform the government so as to make it truly Islamic and apply the rules and regulations of Islam in all aspects of life.
  - 6- Work on uniting the Islamic nations under one rule, so as to return to the once strong Islamic state with all its previous glory.
  - 7- Spread Islam all over the world, so as to avoid sedition or conspiracy among the Muslim nation, and to make Islam the global and only religion in the world.

#### Ideologies and Creeds: related Concepts of Al-Ikhwan

Al-Ikhwan used and adapted the Salafi movement's concepts of:
 

- calling for the use of practical evidence to convince non-Muslims to adapt Islam and Muslims to strengthen their faith in their religion
- Stressing the importance of the main sources of Islam's regulations, the Holy Quran and the prophet's life, so as to refrain from any sort of worshipping of any other God but Allah and to arrive at the ultimate level of faithfulness.

The Ikhwan movement was influenced by the movement of Sheikh of Mohammed bin Abdulwahhab, the Sinoosiyye movement, and the movement of Rushd Ridha. These three movements are mostly an extension of Ahmed bin Hanbal's teachings.

Al-Banna had adapted all the previously Islamic concepts in his movement, and added to them what was needed in his own time and environment. He stood against all the various currents flowing at the time in the Arab region and particularly in Egypt.

To be continued next week:  
Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslimoon in Yemen



### Open Invitation Presentation

The World Bank's  
World Development Report 2000/2001

## Attacking Poverty

February 7, 2001  
10.00 am - 12 noon  
Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA)  
Auditorium

John Page  
Director, Poverty Reduction Strategy  
World Bank

All are welcome. Simultaneous translation into Arabic will be available. However, due to limited equipment, a special invitation will be needed for access to the translation equipment. Please contact The World Bank, Sana'a (Saleha AL-Nahdi, 413-708) should you require translation.

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## 7th Conference of the Authors' Union Branch in Taiz

Taiz Bureau  
Yemen Times

Under the patronage of Taiz Governor, Ahmed Al-Jahri and under the motto "Freedom of Creativity is a Reinforcement for Democracy and Modernization", the Taiz branch of the Author's Union launched its seventh conference, last Wednesday, January 24 at the Cultural Center in Taiz City.

Izzeddin Saeed presented the Taiz union branch's report, which included financial, cultural, and administrative details of the branch's activities during the last year. Later on, Dr. Abdulkareem Qassim of the supervisory committee and Dr. Ahmed Hammad Abdullah representing civil society unions and parties, emphasized the positive role of the branch in promoting free speech and democracy. They both encouraged authors in Taiz and everywhere to reflect creativity in their writings and strengthen their viewpoint to reflect the demo-

cratic values of the freedom of expression.

The conference's working session started with the approval of a list of nominees for the various posts within the union's branch. The general secretary of the branch read out the nominations, and a democratic process of electing the new secretary and representatives began. At the end of the session, poll results were announced, declaring the members who would be appointed as representatives. This was followed by a discussion of the report of the objections committee along with the concluding resolutions and decisions of the union's branch.

At the end of the conference, Mohamed Al-Ansi, deputy assistant of the governor, stressed in his speech on behalf of the governorate, the importance of the union's role in addressing issues of great significance for authors in Taiz. He wished the branch great success in its activities, and hoped that the conference would come out with substantial decisions that would promote the role of not only the Taiz branch of the union, but the entire union with all its branches.



# When Drinking Water is Untreated.....

Martin Dansky B.Sc.

Of the several parasitic diseases of which the local population should be aware, amoebiasis, and specifically giardiasis, is one that can be contracted in Yemen regardless of the season. First of all the amoeba causing the dis-

ease is classified in the animal kingdom as a protozoan, a unicellular organism that divides by fission and not by mitosis as in the case of human cells. The protozoan is a flagellate, meaning it has a tail like flagella which enables it to swim. There are other protozoans that are not flagellates, like the dysentery amoeba which is a much more serious parasite and

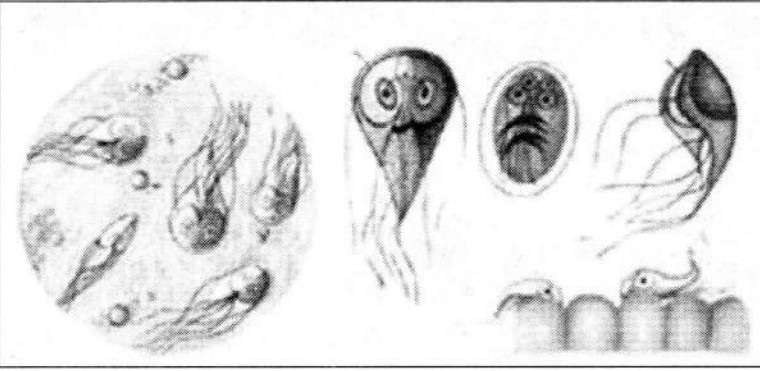
which will be discussed in another article. Both organisms can survive in a cyst form, that is a form which enables them to survive droughts and inhospitable conditions.

The organism can be found in contaminated water and is easily contracted by careless householders, especially villagers who do not boil their water supply efficiently. Water sources can be contaminated by impure effluents or untreated water effluents. This could be the case in villages where people wash and get their home supply from the same stream.

Unlike the dysentery organism, this organism does not invade the body tissue. It enters the alimentary tract and swims its way to the intestinal lining where it attaches to the villae cells with a ventral depression that acts like a suction cup. It can cover extensive areas of the

intestinal mucosa or inner lining thus causing its clinical symptoms: diarrhea, indigestion and stomach cramps. The only way that it can be transmitted is through the faeces in its cyst form. The amoeba can be diagnosed by its classic cyst form which has four nuclei i.e. it is a tetra nucleate. Also, when a large amount of these organisms are present in the intestine, the loose bowel movement caused is fatty and contains a yellow mucous.

For amoebiasis in general, emetine chloride or antibiotics such as tetramycin have been suggested as a cure. This alkaloid can be isolated from the dried roots of the ipecac plant native to South America. For chronic cases, that is cases which continue for a length of time, organic iodides and arsenics are suggested. For giardiasis on the other hand, nitro-imidazoles have proven to be more efficient.



# British Council Promotes Rational Use of Drugs

On January 21st, the British Council launched a \$20,000 project to help ensure that the erroneous prescription of drugs as well as the over-use and misuse of medicine does not make the cure worse than the disease. The Yemeni Society for the Rational Use of Drugs will hold two, two week courses at Sana'a and Aden Universities for internship medical students, financed by the council's small grants scheme.

"These students are mature enough to understand our message and flexible enough to change their style of prescription", project manager Dr Afrah Abdulaziz Al Zoba told The Yemen Times. "Choosing experienced doctors for the course presents two problems: it is difficult to find them and they tend to be set in their ways".

There are five main reasons for the widespread misuse of prescription drugs in Yemen:

- (1) High illiteracy rates make it impossible for people to read the instructions, which come with the medicines. This means there is no awareness about expiry dates.
- (2) Many drug companies offer financial incentives to doctors and pharmacists to promote certain drugs. Ethical standards can be compromised because doctors are poorly paid and those working in government hospitals have to supplement their meager incomes by opening private clinics at

night time.

(3) Prescription happy teachers and professors in medical colleges pass on their habits to students who receive a lot of information about drugs but little training in rational prescription. There are many gaps in the doctors' knowledge as they often do not keep up to date with the latest information and developments about new medications.

(4) Scant implementation of the law dealing with the prescription of drugs.

(5) Self medication: people often buy drugs directly from the pharmacy without consulting the doctor.

"We are focusing on three main areas: knowledge, ethics and economics", Dr Al Zoba explained. "After the first project for medical students we hope to implement another project for the older generation of doctors".

The Yemeni Society for the Rational Use of Drugs launched an education programme for consumers and health workers aimed at ensuring that suitably priced drugs reach the needy members of the society.

"We tried to establish a community pharmacy, with the focus on education, at Sana'a University. The Dutch agreed to fund it and the university was supportive of the idea, but the Ministry of Health did not agree", Dr Al Zoba said.

In 1998, the society launched a Yemeni Drug Action Programme through a TV and radio campaign, posters and discussions in mosques,

markets and gatherings of men and women, to promote the rational use of drugs.

The society pointed out that drugs are not a universal panacea. If someone is suffering from malnutrition they need to improve their diet and not fill themselves up with vitamins. An attempt was also made to dispel the myth that antibiotics can cure every illness.

"I worked as a pharmacist and I have seen the problems first hand", Dr Al Zoba emphasized. "People come to the pharmacy and ask for half the dose because they can't afford what has been prescribed. Or they ask for the cheapest drugs".

An information sheet concerning the UNDP's (United Nations Development Programme) GEF (Global Environmental Facility) activities on Socotra provides a penetrating flash of insight into the problems of the misuse of prescribed drugs.

In contrast to the practice of most government hospitals on mainland Yemen where some financial contribution is required from patients, medical services and drugs delivered by the hospital on Socotra are free of charge. This encourages misuse of medical services and drugs and leaves the medical system without any local budget.

When the drugs arrive, unnecessary and uncontrolled prescription and distribution habits usually deplete stocks in less than two weeks as the local population tries to get as many drugs as possible. Some people will even

pretend to be sick to get drugs which will be stored and self prescribed according to the limited knowledge of the individual.

In rural areas foreigners are always asked for drugs and when drugs are available, people bring many of their children in order to get as much medicine as possible making rational prescription impossible. Injections are generally preferred to drugs taken orally even though they are cheaper and more effective. Infusions of dextrose and saline are often self administered even for minor illnesses. In popular thinking blood transfusions cure everything and they are certainly overused and would be done even more frequently if it were cheaper and more easily accessible.

There are 28 pharmacies on Socotra. They differ considerably in the number of drugs available and in the medical know-how of the owners who often prescribe drugs themselves. Dr Al Zoba, no stranger to the intractable problems of Yemen's health services, admits that the society is battling against seemingly insurmountable odds. But it is better to light one candle than curse darkness. "We are an NGO. We can't make laws, we can't improve the health services but we can exert some pressure and make some suggestions. Eighty doctors will be trained to prescribe drugs rationally. Imagine how many patients they will treat throughout their working lives".



## OPHTHALMIC EDUCATION (23)

### Your Eyes and Computers (VDUs) - Part 1



**Mahfouth A Bamashmus**  
FRCSEd, FRCOphth  
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon  
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There is disagreement about whether computer screens (VDUs) can cause damage to your eyes but we do know that environmental factors affect visual comfort and performance. This article is intended to help you to have a more pleasant and less fatiguing work environment.

Computer (VDU) users complain about their eyes about twice as often as other people at work. If you are about to start work with a VDU, you should have an eye examination. The optician can then see if there are any problems which could give you trouble and advise you how to avoid them.

#### Eyestrain:

Even though you can see clearly, it is still possible to have tired eyes. If your eyes are having to take in a large amount of detail over a long period of time, eyestrain is more likely.

Eyestrain is the term used to describe a wide range of problems including tiredness, irritation, soreness and sensitivity to light.

Computer (VDU) users are more prone to eyestrain than the average worker. The most common causes are:-

1. A fault in the focusing of the eye;
2. The eyes not working "as a team";
3. Incorrect positioning of documents;
4. Unsuitable lighting;
5. Poorly designed work areas;
6. Lack of adequate maintenance and poor placing of the VDU and keyboard.

All of which can be corrected by attention to the work environment and regular visits to an eye doctor.

#### CONTACT LENSES

Contact lenses are suitable for use with VDUs as they give less distortion and reflection than glasses. However, when first used with VDUs, problems may arise if the lenses start to dry. This problem usually disappears once the wearer has got used to the lenses. It is also important to blink normally and to keep contact lenses clean and free from scratches to achieve the best possible vision in all circumstances.

Older VDU users who have contact lenses for an existing eye problem may need additional reading glasses.

#### EYE CO-ORDINATION

Each eye is moved by six muscles; but if these, or the nerves controlling them, do not work properly, it makes it difficult for both eyes to work together. This may make your eyes tired and sore, and you may get headaches or blurred or double vision. It is a simple matter for your optician to find this during an eye examination.

#### EYE EXERCISES

After an eye examination, if your optician finds that your eyes do not work together properly, eye exercises can sometimes solve the problem. During treatment, you may have to spend a short time each day on the exercises. It might also be necessary to wear glasses.

#### MEDICAL HISTORY

If you have headaches, or marked discomfort from "flicker", or problems with VDUs, televisions or fluorescent lighting, you should be sure to mention this when you have your eyes examined.

#### WHICH SCREEN?

VDUs with "non-reflective" screens and clearer letters have improved working conditions for users. Unfortunately, models with highly reflective screens and poor letter definition are still marketed. You should not be able to see reflections when sitting in front of an unlit screen.

VDUs come in a variety of screen and character colors and increasingly, with multicolor displays. The legibility and suitability of the display are affected by the contrast between the screen and the characters as well as the general office lighting. It is not primarily a question of the colour. Brightness and contrast controls should be handy. Most VDU screens can be adjusted to suit your requirements.

Regular maintenance of VDUs is essential. The screen should be kept clean and any flicker or unwanted movement of the letters should be corrected as soon as possible.

#### POSITIONING OF EQUIPMENT

Incorrect siting of equipment may cause strain. Frequently, a VDU is positioned where a typewriter was originally, but good positioning for typing is often very poor for VDU work.

Keyboards need to be movable and should be positioned to ensure maximum comfort for the user. The position of documents should also be variable. The overall work range is normally between 33 - 100 cm. There should be sufficient space behind your VDU for you to be able to look past the screen so that your eyes can relax.

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Some tasks are tiring, because they are physically or mentally demanding or monotonous. Complaints of eyestrain can be caused by psychological factors such as stress, repetition and lack of interest. Users should have a different task for short periods every hour or so to help reduce tiredness.

During training, mental concentration and unfamiliar visual tasks can be expected to cause eyestrain. Usually this doesn't last long. If it does, have your eyes examined!

*Routine eye exam by an eye specialist is very important. It is your sight and your eyes need all the care they can get.*

Reference: Eyecare information Service, London.

البقاء لله

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

((الذين إذا أصابهم مصيبة قالوا إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون))

صدق الله العظيم

# Condolence

Yemen Times, staff and management, would like to pay its hearty condolences to

**Mr. Hisham Basharaheel,**

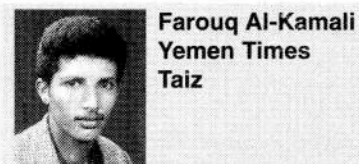
**Editor-in-Chief of Al-Ayyam Newspaper**

**and to the whole Basharaheel Family**

**for the loss of his daughter Hana,**

**May her soul rest in peace in heaven.**

# Race of Queen of the Kingdom of Sheba in Question: Was Queen Bilqees of Ethiopian Origin

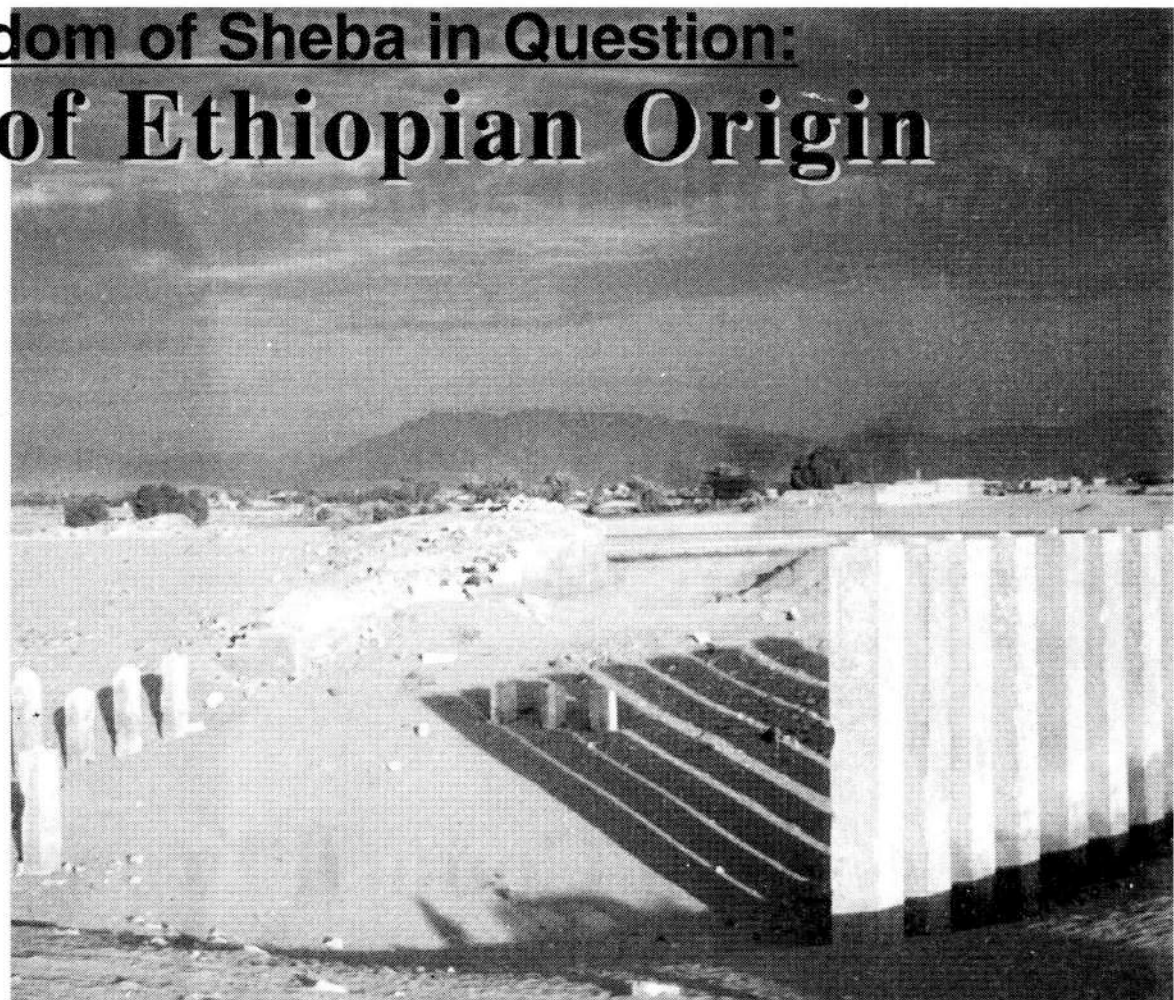


Farouq Al-Kamali  
Yemen Times  
Taiz

Who is Queen Bilqees about whom many legends have been written? Is she really Yemeni or Ethiopian? What is her real name? Did she rule Yemen or Ethiopia? What is the story of her visit to King Solomon and their marriage? Do Yemenis or Ethiopians possess scripts and engravings to prove that Bilqees was their Queen? Strangely, Dr. Abdullah Al-Sheiba, president of Taiz University, denied, in a lecture, existence of any engravings, antiquities, etc. proving that Queen Bilqees was Yemeni. "There is no agreement on her name or her travel to meet Solomon," he added. In his "Studies on Yemeni Ancient History", he mentions an Ethiopian legend about their queen 'Makida', the world-wide famous ruler of Yemen and Ethiopia. She decided to visit King Solomon who was famous for his wisdom and kingdom. They were married and she gave birth to a baby who later on became the king of Ethiopia. The book narrates another story about a girl called the 'queen of the south.' Her nation used to worship the snake. Every family had to sacrifice its elder daughter for the snake. When it was the turn of the 'queen of the south', she managed, with the help of 7 saints, to kill it. A drop of the snake's blood fell on her leg and turned it into a donkey's. When she was made the queen, she headed for Solomon to get back to her natural shape. There she was married to Solomon, who also, as the story tells, slept with her maid before they returned to Ethiopia. In Ethiopia both of them gave birth to two babies.

Dr. Al-Sheiba questions in his book the reality of the Queen of Sheba who came to King Solomon according to the Holy Quran and The old Testament. And who is the Queen of the South and the Queen of Good Omen who were mentioned in the Old Testament? What is their relation to Ethiopia? What were the results of their visits to Solomon, other than, gifts and converting to a new religion? "Answers to these exclamation marks are not mentioned in the religious resources" he said. "But the two stories almost reach the same conclusion: the king of Ethiopia was Solomon's son," he added. It is a well known fact that Sheba is part of Yemen and Bilqees or Makida, is known as the Queen of Sheba. In addition, Yemeni immigration is connected to Sheba land and the historic map of Marib is related to Sheba. However, one cannot be confident; sure about the date of the emergence of the Sheba civilization. To make things more clear, we also met with Dr. Muttahar Al-Iryani, Mr. Al-Izzy Mosleh and Mr. Mohammed Hussein Al-Farih. "Yemen was certainly ruled by a queen in the 10th Century AD. Her throne was placed in Marib. Neither the Holy Quran nor The New Testament identified her name nor we have been able to find any engraving dated back to the same era. However, that does not mean that the Queen is a mere fabrication. There are still a lot of buried engravings which have not seen the light of the day yet. All the engravings that have so far been discovered date back to later eras. Hopefully we will make more important discoveries dating back to the 10th Century AD, and even before that when scientific excavations are carried out. The future-planned excavations will certainly give us more evidence and more details about the existence of the queen. Researchers should not deny the existence of a Yemeni Queen,

for the Holy Quran clearly points to the story of a queen that ruled Yemen. We have to look for more evidence," said Muttahar Al-Iryani. The manager of the Taiz Antiquities Office, Mr. Al-Izzy Mohammed Mosleh said in response to whether Bilqees is Yemeni or Ethiopian: "The Ethiopian civilization emerged in the 5th Century AD. The visit of the queen to the king Solomon took place in 950 AD. This means that there is a difference of about 450 years between the Ethiopian civilization and the visit. This can prove that the queen is not Ethiopian. All evidences suggests that the Sheba land lies in the south of the Arabian Peninsula and the engravings discovered in Marib indicate kings of Sheba. The Holy Quran 'Bait': "I (the hoopoe to Solomon) have come to you from Saba (Sheba) with true news," and the other Quranic indications about the land of two gardens and Marib Dam are all indications of the fact that Sheba and Sheba land are Marib. Besides, Orientalists confirmed that Sheba land is in the Arabian Peninsula." In an interesting speech about the Civilization of Sheba, its queen and her visit to King Solomon, Mr. Mohammed Hussain Al-Farih, a member of the Arab Historians Union, said: "Some doubts have been shed on the reality of the Queen of Sheba, whether she was the queen of Yemen or the queen of Abyssinia and what evidence is their for her name," "In my opinion, the basic thing to be discovered is the real location of the Sheba Queendom. It was known to the ancient Greek and Roman historians who identified its location. They talked about Egypt, Babylon and Ethiopia. They also mentioned that that Sheba Queendom lay in the South of the Arabian Peninsula (Arabia Felix) "Sheba is the most fertile land in Arabia Felix and its capital, Marib is a



great city," writes an orientalist. "Arabia Felix exudes perfumes and incense. It produces frankincense, myrrh, cinnamon, etc.," writes another AD. Agatharchides writes: "There is everything that can make you happy in Sheba. The people of Sheba are among the richest in the world. They trade in Arab and Indian goods which they took in caravans to the west. they have also huge ships crossing the Indian Ocean." "Planus' allocated a whole chapter in his book "Natural History" to Arabia Felix. In this chapter he excessively talks about Sheba, Myrrh and incense production, and the caravans' route to Gaza. The Greek and Roman maps including Patlimos' 190, located Arabia Felix, in which it identified Sheba land as Sheba. Meanwhile, Ethiopia was identified by its real name or Abyssinia," he added. In response to a question about the engravings which prove that Bilqees was the Queen of Sheba, he said: "Marib was the capital of Sheba. Its traces are still there. Some orientalist have been doubtful about the Queen of Sheba and her visit to Solomon saying that the civilization of the south of the Arabian Peninsula dates back to 5th Century AD, while Solomon lived in 10th Century AD. However, the new discoveries have refuted this, showing that civilization of the Marib dam dates back to 2000 AD. The German Archaeological Institute's excavations in the location of the historic dam of Marib showed that the dam's sections date back to 2000 AD. A huge section to distribute water dating back to the 8th Century AD, was also discovered. The German expedition described the dam as a titanic Sabaeen institution that survived thousands of years. An American expedition, headed by Dr. James S. from the university of Pennsylvania in 1985 came across antiquities dating back to the 13th and 14th century AD. This proves that the Sheba kingdom civilization is more ancient than people think. It was believed that Baran Temple (Arsh Bilqees) and Ilmaq Temple (Mahram Bilqees) dated back to the 5th Century AD. However, discoveries by the German expedition led to the conclusion that the temple dates back to the beginning of the 10th Century AD. Other scripts found in Marib dam, Pennsylvania Temple, Mahram Bilqees, Sirwah, Naa'it, Amran, Dhafar, etc. which were copied by the American expedition in 1952 and were published by Albert Gam in "Sabaeen Scripts in Mahram Bilqees" date back to the same period. Studies show that the kings of Sheba lived between (835-1220 AD). The calendar used was a Sabaeen one and the first year of it agrees with 1220 AD. This year mark the emergence of the Sabaeen kingdom under the leadership of Pennsylvania Dhi Riash after whom one of the temples was named," he continued.

Al-Farih said that Queen Bilqees was put on the throne as the 17th ruler of Yemen in Silheen Palace of Marib in the middle of the 10th century AD. Sabaeen kings and queen were described by Ben Khaldoun as the kings of Yemen as well as the Arab Peninsula. And Al-Masawdi described them as the crown of the earth. In an interpretation of the Holy Verse "But the hoopoe stayed not long: he (came up and) said: "I have grasped (the knowledge of a thing) which you have not grasped and I have come to you from Saba (Sheba) with true news. "I found a woman ruling over them: she has been given all things that could be possessed by any ruler of the earth, and she has a great throne" Ibn Kathier says it tells the greatness of the Sabaeen kingdom and queendom. All scripts, engravings and studies confirm that the Sabaeans ruled the whole Yemen. In Hamed Abduqader's "The Sublime Nations" he mentions that Sheba land extended to the north of the Arabian Peninsula under the leadership of Taghlat and Sarjon. He adds that during the reign of Queen Bilqees the borders of the queendom were bounded by those of Solomon's. "The scripts found in Maan and Lower Euphrates prove that they were ruled by the Sabaeans," says Dr. Adnan Tarsisi, adding that the rule of Sabaeans over these districts was over in 640 AD. The 'Kildaneans' who settled down in Babylon originally derived from the Sabaeans, and later on they ruled it. Dr. Sami Al-Ahmad says in his book, "Alloghat Al-Gazriah" that the Sabaeans and kildaneans are originally from Yemen. This was proved by the scripts found in Babylon in Iraq which were written in the old Yemeni font (Mosnad). An old Chinese script, translated by A. Forke, documented the visit of the Chinese King, Muvon Chou, to the south of the Arabian Peninsula in the middle of the 10th Century AD. Forke added that the visiting king arrived in the queen's palace with his scepter and was warmly received by the Queen. He gave her a lot of presents. The rule of the Queen Bilqees extended over the Ethiopian plateau and the Kildaneans in Babylon. Later on, the Kildaneans established their own kingdom of which Nabokhadh Nassar (605-562) AD was the greatest. One of Nabokhadh's contemporary figures was Yashoa Ben Sirakh. In "Alphabetum Siracids", a book compiling the Yashoa's words, it was mentioned that the King Nabokhadh Nassar was the son of the Queen who visited King Solomon. However, the marriage of Solomon and Queen of Sheba is not certain because none of the Holy Books mention it. About the Queen's visit to King Solomon, as mentioned in the holy Quran, Al-Farih said: "The Holy Quran registered all events that took place before the visit and before she said: "I am going to send him a present, and see with what (answer) the messengers return." "History

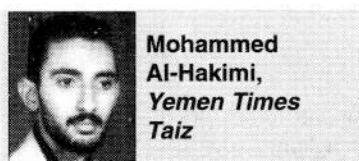
resources tell that the delegation sent to Solomon did not only return with Solomon's answer which rejected the present but also with details about his wisdom, religion, strength and his supernatural powers. She did not believe all this stuff and, thus, decided to visit him." In 931 AD, the queen left her Queendom to meet Solomon with a huge army. She was riding a golden carriage followed by caravans loaded with gold and precious stones. The aim of the delegation was to prove that Sheba was the strongest and richest queendom. The Torah begins the story of the visit to Jerusalem by describing the great procession and presents and gifts carried. "The American expedition which carried out excessive excavations in Mahram Bilqees in 1952 came across a script bearing the name of Bilqees," said Al-Farih. Head of the expedition, Dr. Windle Philips, in his book "Bilqees' Treasures" says that he found a number of scripts and engravings which included the name of Bilqees.

## What is the real name of Queen of Sheba?

The Ethiopians called their queen Makida, but the most famous name for queen of Sheba is Bilqees. Montgomery Watt, an orientalist, related the name to the Greek word 'Pallakis' which means 'a lover girl'. This comparison was also adopted by the German orientalist Ghosht Roch and the French Scholar Kardi F. Drami. Another French scholar did not agree with them saying that the word combined two parts which mean the 'girl of the treasure'. Others say it means the 'honey girl,'" said Al-Farih. "However," he added, "The name should be connected to kings of Sheba and the engravings available, the name is made of 'Bilq' or 'Balq' and 'lees'. According to the Al-Muheet Arabic Dictionary, 'Balq' means whiteness and 'Bilq' means sharp redness while 'lees' is the god of the Sun. Thus Bilqees means 'the redness and whiteness bestowed by the god of the Sun' or 'the women of the sun beauty' or 'of the divine beauty.' Dr. Muttahar Al-Iryani thinks differently. In his opinion, the 'Be' is a preposition and 'Qais' is another name for the greatest god of Sabaeans 'Ilmaqah'. "Belgesh in the Hebraic means 'the beautiful woman,'" said Al-Izzy Mosleh. "Today the world recognizes, even in songs, that queen of Sheba means the beautiful woman," he added. It is at least certain that queen Bilqees is the Queen of Sheba the capital of which was Marib. There might be different opinions about and disagreements with the name of the queen but the most important is that she lived in Yemen and ruled the Sheba land. This proves that the Queen of Sheba was Yemeni.

## Does It Really Happen?

### YEMENI SUPERSTITIONS - PART III (LAST)



Mohammed Al-Hakimi,  
Yemen Times  
Taiz

#### • Signs of disasters of woes

It occasionally happens that dogs turn their eyes to the sky and keep barking for a long time. It's believed then that some great disaster will soon happen in that area.

#### • Take care of menstruous ladies

If a menstruous lady steps over someone, it is believed that he won't grow up anymore. Some say pimples appear on his skin.

#### • No need for ultra-sounds

If a pregnant lady wants to know whether the baby she is carrying would be a baby boy or girl, simply she can get a dead snake and throw it up in the air. When it falls and lies on the ground, she can then distinguish. If the snake lies on its back, this means she will have a baby girl and vice versa.

#### • Counting stars can cause troubles

It's believed in some areas in Yemen that counting of stars can be harmful. Thus, whoever counts stars, will have pimples all over his skin particularly on the hands and face.

#### • Never sweep floors at sunset

Some believe that if any one sweeps floors at sunset he/she will be in danger. It's believed that one of their relatives will soon be no more.

#### • Visitors, no more

It has been known to lots of people that throwing salt in the air soon after your guest had left your house can be effective. He won't be back at your door anymore.

#### • Avoid having ugly children

Ladies who are in the family way are advised not to gaze at ugly children. Otherwise, they will have ugly ones like those. The opposite however is not true.

#### • Make your beloved return back sooner

This spread a lot when Yemeni people used to migrate to Saudi Arabia and other neighboring countries. When they get too late, their families used to get nostalgic. Thus, they used to burn hair and aloe to make them feel homesick and patently eager to come back.

#### • Don't get sterile

In some villages children are not allowed to bath in cold water. It's believed their sex organs will be ineffective and accordingly they may get sterile.

#### • Never have shower at sunset

Having shower at sunset can be harmful. It's believed some evil spirits will hurt the body e.i. he/she may get paralysis or go insane.

#### • Garlic can fight evil eyes

Slices of garlic are placed over wrist of the arm to defend children from evil spirits and eyes.

#### • Don't catch your death

Some people

believe that if they dream during sleep that someone gets married, this means or can be interpreted to be death for them. And if they dream that someone dies, this means he may resume to live long.

#### • Keep your articles out of the reach of pregnant ladies

Pregnant ladies can destroy yogurt and make injuries worsen. If it happens they look repeatedly at them.

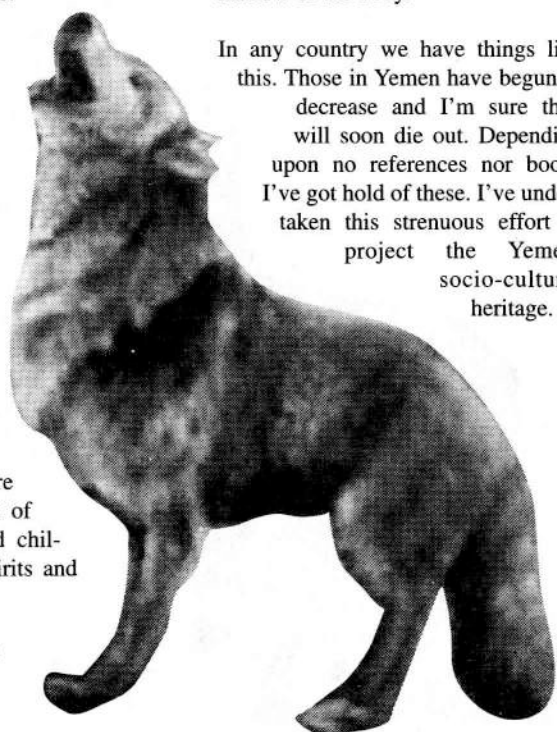
#### • Never kill this!

A reptile looks like a lizard, yet, the former is too small. It keeps nodding its head. If someone kills it, its believed they may die or fall ill.

#### • Lest you go crazy!

Looking frequently at the mirror for a long time can make little children go crazy. This is also true of talking to the shadow of the body.

In any country we have things like this. Those in Yemen have begun to decrease and I'm sure they will soon die out. Depending upon no references nor books I've got hold of these. I've undertaken this strenuous effort to project the Yemeni socio-cultural heritage.



# Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu  
Associate Professor  
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## I. What to say

### Science and Spirituality

(Sadiq and Hussein after they listen to a group discussion on science and spirituality)

**Sadiq:** How did you appreciate the points of view expressed in the group discussion on science and spirituality?

**Hussein:** It was highly topical and relevant to the present context. I agree with the speakers that spirituality can truly form the foundation for a better society. But did you get the point about science and spirituality?

**Hussein:** Yes. The point that was made was that science and spirituality seek the same truth. Don't you remember when the speaker said one's scientific temper is driven by the spiritual strength of mind. Both are complementary and supplementary. One cannot work without the other.

**Sadiq:** Yes. I see the point. I was in perfect agreement with the point that science has no meaning unless it puts a smile on everyone's face. Yes it was well put by the speaker that it is the spirituality in a person that drives every scientific endeavor.

**Hussein:** Another point that struck me was that it is our inner source of thought, a single powerful thought that generates all our action. I realize the tremendous importance of cultivating a positive and healthy mental climate which can usher in a spiritual bent of mind.

**Sadiq:** What is of urgent necessity for ever person is to nourish certain human values. Then only we may think of reviving and rejuvenating the mind in the spiritual path. On the other hand, if the spiritual aspect of mind is neglected or ignored, it would most certainly lead to mental tension and other negative emotion.

**Hussein:** In the modern age of Information Technology we should pay due attention to the Inner Transformation, as well.

## II. How to say it correctly

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

1. Scarcely he had entered the room, I recognized him.
2. He is more intelligent but not so hardworking as his brother.
3. Unless you do not pay attention to what I say, you will not succeed.
4. The teacher asked Mohammed that why he was late.
5. It is not certain that if he will come.

### Answers to last week's questions:

1. Although he is foolish, yet people like him.
2. The accident took place when the strain was crossing the bridge.

3. Whether you pass or not, I don't care.
4. Lions are found both in Asia and Africa.
5. Work hard lest you should fail.

## III. How to express it in on word.

1. Kill an important politician treacherously for political reasons.
2. Public hall in which a meeting of law makers takes place.
3. Science of observing the position of stars and predicting how they influence human affairs.
4. Traveler through outer space in a rocket.
5. Science of the sun, moon, stars, and planets.

### Answers to last week's questions

1. Agreement during a war or battle to stop fighting for a time- **armistice** or **truce**
2. Put a stop to a process or someone's movement- **arrest**
3. One who behaves in a proud or superior manner- **arrogant**
4. Big guns moving on wheels- **artillery**
5. Skilled workman in industry or trade- **artisan**

## V. Given below are some sentences. Read a sentence and complete another sentence with the same meaning. Each time begin in the way shown.

1. I don't mind pop music, but I prefer classical music. I prefer \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He has enemies but he has a bodyguard to protect him. He has a body guard to protect \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I got all the information I needed from him. He provided \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I bought a pair of shoes this morning. They cost YR 1000. This morning I spent \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Adel said to Ahmad, "Don't forget your appointment with the doctor." Adel reminded \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answers to last week's question

1. Ramzi said that what happened was Hisham's fault. Ramzi blamed Hisham for what happened.
2. You always say that everything is my fault. You always blame everything on me.
3. Do you think that the current economic situation is the fault of the government? Do you blame the government for the current economic situation?
4. I think that the increase in violent crime is the fault of television. I blame the increase in violent crime on the television.

### V Words of wisdom

"The best companions are the best books"

— Lord Chesterfield

# English Usage: Left and Right

Sivadasan,  
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University

Political leanings are referred to as "left and right". A few years ago south Yemen was under the control of leftists, and North Yemen was ruled by the rightists. What does it mean? Once an acquaintance of mine explained it with reference to the driving rules of motorists as it is left-hand drive in England and right-hand drive in America. It is because he makes his own guesswork to find out an explanation to all those that he doesn't know. But it is not so simple as it is. Leftists are radicals and liberals (having socialist ideas) in their political attitude while rightists are conservatives and reactionaries as the world recognizes them. The terms "left" and "right" are used in the same sense throughout the world. The group that

comes in between is called "centrist" as the word "center" obviously means "not aligned to left or right" those who take such non-aligned stand can be called "moderates" as well. The best example to cite at present is the rule in countries like China, Cuba, etc. for "leftists" and the rule in capitalist countries for "rightists". The reason for this classification is the way the seating arrangement of the members of the parliaments (legislative assemblies) of some European countries was made. Those who sat at the right-hand side in the parliament became "rightists" and those who took the seats at the left-hand side were known as "leftists". The term "leftists" means members of the left as the term "rightists" means members of the right. This tradition has given rise to a number of related terms like "leftism", "rightism", "left-winger", "right-winger" etc. So the use of "left" and

"right" in politics is based on the conventions followed by the earlier parliamentary systems in the world. It has become an established usage in the language and you cannot change it. It is another story altogether in the case of driving rules. It is right-hand driving that Yemen follows. That is drivers keep right while driving to give way to the vehicles that come from the opposite direction and the vehicles coming from the opposite direction also keep their right-hand side. In countries where left-hand drive is followed, it is the other way about. These are the conventions followed in different countries. But both the systems help the drivers drive smoothly and they don't have anything to do with the political ideology, nor do they have any connection to being left-handed refers to one's using left-hand more easily or usually than his right-hand.

# SOCOTRA CONSERVATION FUND: Ensuring UN's Bio-diversity Project Continues

The Socotra Conservation Fund is being established to ensure the continuation of the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) GEF (Global Environmental Facility) bio-diversity project.

The current five-year project will come to an end in April this year but the UN is determined to ensure that a local institution is set up to oversee the preservation of the world's last surviving subtropical island and its unique eco system with more than 800 species of plants and many undiscovered species of insects. Dr Tony Miller of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh recently collected the first specimen of a tiny carnivorous plant which grows on moist tree trunks in the higher reaches of the Haggier mountains.

A Washington based consultancy firm and the Yemeni Environmental Protection Council have laid the legal framework for the trust. It will be managed by a board of directors consisting of representatives of the Yemeni government, the local community, international donors and scientists. The board will appoint an executive director and the trust can start work as soon as the Prime Minister gives the go ahead.

'We hope the trust will attract financial support from donors in the US and Western Europe who are supportive of conservation', Dr Salah Hakim the head of the UNDP's Socotra Office told The Yemen Times. 'The government has shown considerable interest in the island and the prime minister has visited twice. He has even requested the British ambassador to ask Prince Charles to be the fund's honorary chairman.'

The UNDP GEF project has six main objectives:

- \* To strengthen institutional and human resources capacity;
  - \* To establish and implement a zoning system and masterplan for the conservation and sustainable use of the terrestrial and marine biodiversity of the archipelago;
  - \* To promote sustainable plant resource management;
  - \* To promote sustainable marine resource management;
  - \* To promote environmental awareness and education;
  - \* To develop and implement an eco-tourism management strategy.
- Eco tourism is defined by the World Conservation Union as 'environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas in order to enjoy, study and appreciate nature and the accompanying cultural features both past and present. It promotes conservation, has low visitor impact and provides for beneficially active socioeconomic involvement of local populations'.

The overriding concern of the project is to conserve the globally significant biodiversity of the Socotra archipelago

in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean some 400 km south of the Arabian peninsula. As well as Socotra, the archipelago has three smaller islands, Abd Al Kuri, Samha and Darsa.

The small island of Samha is home to about sixty people. It can be reached from Socotra by boat in four hours. Abd Al Kuri is reachable in approximately ten hours. Both islands are barren with very little vegetation and drinking water is of poor quality. No schools or health facilities exist. The people of these islands depend on fishing and occasionally come to Socotra for medical help or trade but in general they are extremely isolated. The island of Darsa is not inhabited.

The UNDP JEF project has focused on the development of a zoning plan for Socotra, which has been accepted by the Council of Ministers. The plan sets out guidelines for development and conservation and designates certain areas as 'sensitive' and in need of total protection. Other areas can be developed to a limited extent while infrastructure and services will be concentrated in non-sensitive areas.

Dr Hakim emphasized that the local people have been involved in the UNDP project since its inception. Five thousand school children were given an introduction to conservation. Extension officers, respected members of the community, were recruited on a part-time basis to prepare monthly reports about any changes in the landscape. The traditional leadership structure on the island has been respected and all the UN's activities have been discussed with the sheikhs and muqadams (community leaders).

'The people are conservation orientated and know how to preserve the biodiversity. The Sheikh must give his permission before a tree is chopped down but when people are struggling for survival conservation takes a back seat', Dr Hakim said. "We have to prove to them that conservation will be beneficial and will provide a good source of income'.

If eco tourism is developed the locals could provide tourist guides, accommodation and other services such as meals. The genuine openness, warmth, friendliness and desire to make guests welcome are priceless assets of the Socotri character destined to guarantee the success of the tourist industry. While there are no injuries or deaths from human violence, the peace loving people have made their island a haven in a hostile world, where nature has made their homeland a tourists' paradise.

From the aqua lagoon at Qalansiya to the snow-white dunes at Ras Momi, from the alpine meadows of the Haggier Mountains to the desolation of Nowged, Socotra is a land of surprising contrasts. Rising to over 1700 meters, the Haggier Mountains loom over Hadibo, Socotra's administrative

capital. The red granite of the peaks has been stained a ghostly grey by the lichens, which grow thickly above the tree line. Perennial streams radiate from the misty heights, green ribbons of life teaming with endemic fish and freshwater crabs, limestone plateaux fan east and west providing alkaline soils for the Dragons Blood Tree.

Bottle trees, cucumber trees, statuesque relatives of the melon, provide fodder for starving animals during times of drought.

The island is ideal for sailing, boating, swimming, scuba diving, hiking or just relaxing on the unspoiled, wild beaches with an amazing assortment of shells.

To win the confidence of the locals and show responsiveness to their needs the UNDP also instigated a basic needs project to alleviate poverty, improve the quality and accessibility of primary health services and design and implement an integrated water management system using improved traditional techniques.

While the UNDP's project is likely to culminate in the creation of the trust fund, the \$1 million master plan study for the Socotra Archipelago commissioned by Yemen's Environmental Protection Council and the Ministry of Planning and Development, financed by the EU and undertaken by four international companies, is also nearing completion and starting to produce tangible results. Eighty projects which can be undertaken within a ten year period have been proposed along with 2 small immediate impact ventures which can be carried out very quickly with very little money.

Proposals for a twenty to forty million dollar plan to upgrade the islands roads, a must before serious development of tourism can be contemplated, is also being prepared.

Dr Hakim is confident that the UNDP's biodiversity study has put Socotra on the tourism map of Yemen and further afield. He admits that the island is still not well known but it certainly has a promising profile.

Socotra is still one of the least developed places on earth. It remained shrouded in mystery as its granite peaks are shrouded in mist which was once described as Yemen's best kept secret.

But the island's isolation is ending. The locals used to speak of sustained 80-knot winds that traditionally closed the island to air and sea traffic for up to half the year. Today the new runway at Mori enables Yemenia's planes to land all year round.

For centuries the islanders have lived in harmony with nature and preserved a unique, traditional life style in their little corner of the world: Today the government, international companies and donor agencies are helping them to ensure the survival and optimum development of their unique, subtropical island.

# YOUTH FORUM

## A Murder

I was standing in front of the villa of the general, which seemed to me very boring and disappointing. My ambitions were very great. One of them might be the ownership of a villa like this. It was very painful to me to realize that I was just a guard. The guard who watches the people in and outside the villa, receives visitors and friends, is usually looked down by them. This humiliating situation might be that of any guard, but mine was more humiliating. The general was cruel and rude thinking of other people as his servants. He was so selfish that he loved none but himself. His love for his pet cat was exceptional in spite of its vagueness. He used to prefer it even to himself. To my surprise this cat was not so happy with this luxurious life in the general's room and used to escape to my room, which lies next to the gate of the villa building. This was annoying the general who was afraid that the bad living circumstances of my room would cause his cat to die! However, what really made me surprised is that an animal though it is mindless like this cat, preferred my room to the general's. It is worth telling you what made me completely astonished. It was the happiness he showed when his cat had given birth to five small blind kittens. He

immediately allocated for them a comfortable bed in a room served by five professional men. At this moment, the mobile I carried shook me, receiving a message. It was the general who was talking very hysterically. He said that his cat had eaten one of its young ones. When I arrived the general was gazing at his cat sitting on her comfortable bed and surrounded by her four small young and the remains of a fifth one. I was still gazing at the cat, which was giving all her kindness and care when the general shouted, "kill it". I could not believe what I heard but the general repeated, "kill it". It was the first time I felt that this cat is not a valueless animal, so I drew my pistol and shot at her head. The cat fell down quietly and quickly. A strange silence was there despite the confusion of the four small kittens. The general broke this silence ordering the servants to throw the course of the dead cat and the remains of her kid outside. He also ordered that every one in the villa must devote all his effort to look after the four small kittens. This self-contradicting situation of the general was not understandable to me, so I decided to forget about it. In the morning strange movements awakened me. I left my bed and turned the light on. I was shocked to see the

four small kittens sleeping on my bed with comfort and safety. At this moment I penetrated everything and shuddered and then rushed into the general's room. When I opened the door, I could not believe my eyes. The general was lying on the floor with a hole in his head, similar to that I made in the big cat's head yesterday. A bitter realization I had when I had notified that my hand was shivering. It was the shivering of a murderer's hand.

By Ali Kaheli

## The Happy Days

Ah the days  
The happy days  
Do not return  
The person who loves us  
We are parting with him  
And the one who forgets us  
He lives by our side  
The one who buys us  
We are deceiving him  
In he happiness we are not lovers  
In the sadness we are not relatives or friends  
Each event is repeating  
Each moment is passing  
Reminding us the happy days  
Will not return

Hayam Omar  
College of Education,  
Mahweet

# Rajeh Bears the Brunt of Repression

**R**ajeh Yahya al-Romaim, 35, is from Mathbah, Bani al-Hareth. Eight years ago he used to work for the Ministry of Agriculture. Rajeh has been exposed to a great series of misery and repression. Since 1993, he was shut in prison without any legal warrant. Some persons backed up by strong connections plotted a well-calculated plan to throw him in prison, exercised pressure on judges to convict him of a charge he knew nothing about and fabricated a verdict sentencing him to death. Rajeh's only mistake is that he is a citizen with no strong "back-up"- meaning connections. His strategically located land was the very reason behind all this. However, he has never given up. He went through a long ordeal asserting his innocence, applying all means to prove it. He wrote letters to many human rights organizations, many newspapers, many top officials, the Justice Minister, the President, drew pictures, and finally he made it. The appeal court passed two verdicts that acquitted him of the fabricated charge and ordered his release.

**"Now my odyssey has not ended. I realized that my incarceration was a well-calculated plan to take away my land and to show that an ordinary citizen like me has no rights to ask for but to bear and accept every thing that such people can do to me."**

Eight years after he was arrested and sent to prison, he came to face the full weight of reality awaiting him and it was a harsh and daunting reality; his family, consisting of four children and his wife, had been destroyed, his children expelled from school due to financial problems, his land confiscated and now, all he had earned in his life was gone.

In May 15, 2000 issue 20, YT wrote about his case and appealed for an investigation into it. He was finally released on 20.11.2000, although this was after losing everything.

Yemen Times in this report attempts to shed light on this flagrant violation of human rights and is pinning high hopes on the humanitarian organizations and those of human rights to extend a helping hand to Mr. Rajeh. Yemen Times also calls upon the

authorities concerned to give Mr. Rajeh his land back so as to prove we are living in a democratic and transparent state where all the people are equal before the law.

Rajeh talked about how the tragedy started and said "I had a plot of land, 30 "Lebna" in the street of Mathbah-Dhola'a, above the roundabout of the university and I sold it to a brigadier in Khawlan called S. A. S. A. I received YR 200,000 although at the time its value would have reached YR5 million. The brigadier assured me that I would receive the rest of the money after he built a wall around the land. However, brigadier H. F. Sh. came to say that he had an order from the President granting him my land. Later it was discovered that the land granted was in Jabal Mathbah and was not my land. However, this claimant found my land to be in such a good location

that he made up his mind to take it. He came along with his son to fight with the S. A. S. A. However, his son T. H. F. was killed in an exchange of fire."

Mr. Rajeh talks about the calamities he underwent and said "On 28.9.1993 and while I was with my family at home, a group of soldiers from the Pending Investigation Office broke into my house in Mathbah. They were not wearing uniforms. They told me that I had to go with them for questioning. On reaching there H. F., the father of the murdered, charged S. A. S. A. of killing his son. However, after some time things started to have a new

**Eight years after he was arrested and sent to prison, he came to face the full weight of reality awaiting him and it was a harsh and daunting reality; his family, consisting of four children and his wife, has been destroyed, his children expelled from school due to financial problems, his land confiscated and all he had collected in life gone.**

complexion and they began to accuse me of killing him.

For a month and a half I was kept in detention in the Pending Investigations Office. I appealed and

asked for reasons, but to no avail. After this period the office made a report acquitting me and confirming that I was not at the crime scene.

**I appeal to the President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the only person who could do something, to liberate me from the suppression that had befallen me and bring my land back**

After the issuing of this report, the strong connections of the accuser made the officer of the Pending Investigations Office, at the time A. W. al. change the report. Consequently, I was transferred to the prosecution on 14.11.1993. Some of my relatives were also imprisoned with me. On 2.1.1994 the prosecution acquitted me of the charge, ordering my immediate release. The prosecution also convicted S. A. S. A. who was out of the reach of the law and M. S. A. who was arrested and tried with me. However, again the accuser's connections interfered, and stopped this order. In an attempt at suppression, the prosecution director at the time, A. M. H. along with M. B. fabricated a report against me with the other two convicted persons.

After that I was presented to court in 1994. Judge H. al-R. was at the time the head of the Preliminary Court of Bani al-Hareth. After holding some sessions the judge found that there was no evidence for convicting me. Therefore, he issued a verdict to release me on bail. However, at the very next session I found that the judge had canceled his verdict. When I pleaded with the judge for his sense of justice and mercy, he told me "I swear son, the court has no hand and no

power in this." I shouted and they arrested my old father and my uncle, put them in custody and didn't release them until they paid YR 20,000. Since then they have been trying me in absence.

Sessions went on and the case was adjourned for the passing of the verdict at the end of 1994. However, the case was shelved until the middle of 1995. Later I found that the accuser supported by his

strong connections was trying to force the judge to sentence me to death. Because he refused to comply to their pressure, he was sacked. Another judge called A. N. al-H. was appointed despite the fact that this was against the judicial laws. I protested but again no-one heeded me. Soon the verdict was passed, sentencing me to death on 19.11.1995.

When my children heard the death sentence, they were dazed and fainted. They were expecting me to go home with them. However, I was sent back to the Central Prison. Out of despair, I began writing on the walls of the Prison a sentence "A nation where right is lost, justice devastated, law broken down, turns into a haven for monsters, a shelter for the corrupt and thieves."

After that, I appealed against the verdict in the appeal court until 27.7.1997 when the appeal court judge Hussain al-Mahdi in the capital secretariat passed a verdict acquitting me of the charge. The case was then transferred to the Supreme Court and it was pending there from 27.7.1997 to 6.6.1999. For two years I was again in prison with no one to set me free after my innocence had been proved and the verdict passed.

The conspiracy was carried out on the telephone, a plot of which I was unaware. However, I was amazed again to hear that the case was to be transferred again to the appeal court under the pretext that one

of the judges did not attend one of the sessions during the trial. By what laws and by what ethical and moral principles was all this going on!

Then sessions were again held in the appeal court whose chief judge at the time was Saeed al-Qata'a. He on 20.2.2000 passed the verdict acquitting me and ordering my immediate release. However, I was not set free until 1.10.2000. So even when the courts asserted that I was innocent and verdicts were passed in the appeal court acquitting me of the charges, the laws of the country were too weak to be implemented. After eight years of imprisonment, they came to tell me it was over. You go!

So as to go on with their attacks against me, they referred my case to the Military Unit in the Supreme Court which in a face saving action noted



that I had been convicted and that 8 years imprisonment was enough and that I was to be released. When I tried to appeal against this, they turned down my petition of appeal.

Now my odyssey has not ended. I realized that my incarceration was a well-calculated plan to take away my land

**He went through a long tragedy asserting his innocence applying all means possible to prove that. He wrote letters to the many human rights organizations, many newspapers, many top officials, Justice Minister, the President, draw pictures, and finally he could make it alone.**

and to show that an ordinary citizen like me has no rights but has to bear and accept every thing high people do to me. Recently, I was told that high ranking mediation is going on to divide my land between the other two parties who were the reason behind my suppression for the simple reason that I am a citizen with no strong people to back me up. The only virtue of the long term imprisonment is that I memorized the Holy Qura'an."

Of the situation of prisoners in the prison, he said "The word "violations" is not the proper word to use. Rather, human rights are trampled inside the prison. Prisoners suffer miserable conditions, are humiliated, and sometimes barbarous acts are committed by the prison officials. This is the ever occurring story in the prison. There is a flagrant disregard and contempt of

human dignity and rights. All this is not only a violation of the universal standards of human rights and human dignity but also makes a mockery of all efforts to struggle for a free and democratic Yemen.

To see your child and touch him and kiss your kid, you have to pay. To see your wife you have to pay around (YR2000-YR3000) and they will provide you a filthy room not at all suitable for human beings.

Food is very bad and is not at all fit for humans. If rich prisoners do not come to help those who are poor, there would be a famine in the prison. Water is polluted.

Many times we have found dead cats in water basins. When some committees come to the prison to check things, the administration conduct cleaning campaigns, provide us with good food. Many a prisoner is sent to prison and is kept there for years during the investigation phase and no one dares to raise his voice. Some others have ended their terms, yet they are still in prison."

At the end of his account Mr. Rajeh said "I appeal to you, the Yemen Times, to convey my message to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the only person who could do something to liberate me from the disasters that have befallen me and give me my land back. I have knocked on all doors and sought justice but could not find it. I also appeal to all human rights organizations to interfere, protect me and extend to me a helping hand."

## As Investigations in the USS Cole Continue

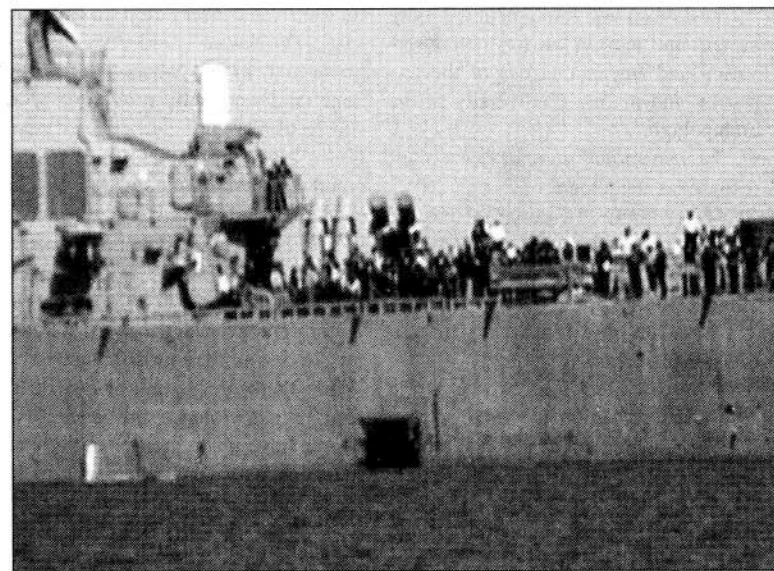
# TOO MUCH MISSING INFORMATION

Yemen Times Staff,  
Aden

**T**he USS Cole bombing along with the explosion incidents that rocked Aden City have caused a lot of concern among the public in that this may signal the start of a battle between certain radical Islamist groups and the security forces. Public interpretation of these actions are identical in that they are aimed at pressuring the government to release the USS Cole suspects, and create chaos and confusion among the security forces and local and international investigation units. This widely accepted interpretation comes at a time when security forces are exerting even more pressure on Islamic movements and intensifying arrest campaigns all over the country. The bombings that were carried out on the eve of the New Year resulted in the quick and unprecedented decision of arresting all who were thought to belong to the Jihad Islamic movement, even if they were not involved in any way with the bombings. Tens of individuals were arrested as part of the arrest campaign that are still continuing today.

This comes at a time when police forces and local investigative bureaus are on their highest alert, and security

is being tightened around Political Security Office (PSO) locations, in which the accused in the USS Cole incident are being interrogated. During last week, a number of high-ranking security officials were dismissed. Among these officials were 4 prominent officials, including the head of the Buraiqa Police Department, the



official responsible for ensuring security in the Buraiqa area, which is where the USS Cole incident took place. Three heads of investigative units in Aden were also dismissed, as well as the Courts' Security Manager.

This comes as a threatening message to the radical Islamists who carried out the different bombings in Aden. This also is seen to be an indication that the government will have no mercy in punishing the ones behind the USS Cole incident, surely with capital punishment.

A number of US security officials

announced, and according to government officials, it will most probably be announced only hours before the actual court hearings start. Only the highest authority in the country i.e., the President of the Republic can decide the date of the court hearings.

According to official sources in Aden, the files of the suspects (from 6 to 8 men) are 80% ready for processing. The General Attorney, whose chairman and deputy participated in the different interrogation procedures with the suspects, have a clear background about all the suspects. They even have received the files of the suspects before reinvestigation, which was demanded by the USA according to the agreement signed between the two countries.

The most important questions that are to be asked regarding this issue are, "Were the US investigators satisfied with the interrogation and investigation procedures carried out so far? Did they get all the information they required to come to a certain conclusion?" If the answer to these questions is "YES", then the court hearings are not expected to take long, as all the remaining steps will be of a judicial nature and will be carried out by the Yemeni judge.

However, the reward announced in many newspapers, including Yemen Times, which offers up to \$5 million



in return for any key information regarding the ones behind the incident, is in itself an obvious indication that the suspects are not necessarily the actual culprits. Hence, it may be too premature to assume that the hearings will end quickly with a final and decisive sentence.

A family member of one of the suspects stated on condition of anonymity that he was not allowed to visit the suspect, who was arrested on the 6th of October. He also mentioned that he was arrested for no reason after going to the police station of his own will, and was since then considered among the main suspects.

Until this very moment, there seems to be no extra security measures taken at the court in which the hearings will take place. However, a Yemeni official stated that the court hearings will be held at the Aden Appeal Court building, which is a white building sur-

rounded by the sea from one side, and by the mountain that surrounds Crater from the other three sides, making it an easy target for terrorist acts. For this reason, several Yemeni security officials expressed their concern about the location of the two-storey building, which was originally built during British colonial rule prior to 1967, and demanded holding the court hearings in another location. However, according to officials in Aden, until this very moment, the decision to hold the hearings in another location has not been made.

Observers say that despite the claim of the concerned security officials, the location will be safe if appropriate security measures are taken, as planned, to protect the building from any potential threat from all four sides, and hence the court hearings could be held with confidence.



## Survival of Communism in Yemen

**W**hen I remember him, I feel miserable. I used to see him cheerful and smiling, but last week, his face was pale, his frame looked older. The man was known as rich, as wealthy, now he is in his late fifties, almost begging to meet his daily expenses.

I couldn't bear what I saw. I failed to control myself and couldn't refrain from inquiring about what he had gone through, which made me look as if I was interfering in his personal life. I asked about what on earth led him to such a miserable condition. To my dismay, I got to know that he had been unemployed for the last seven years and had failed to obtain a job. But why? His answers were even more shocking. He said that he was rejected because he was overqualified or over aged.

I allowed myself to inquire more, and asked about his properties, which had been nationalized and confiscated a long time ago by the communists in Aden. His immediate response to my question was horrible and disastrous! Not a single flat, out of eleven huge buildings that he once owned, was restored to him by the government of the unified Yemen. No rent whatsoever was collected from the supposed renters of my old friend's commercial outlets. Not only that! Once when he started demanding his right on his own properties from the residents and renters, their response was devastating. They called a group of gangsters from the backstreets. Guess what they did to the old poor fellow. With no mercy at all, they beat the hell out of him, tore his old fashioned clothes, and insulted him with the most outrageous words one could imagine. He must have been thankful that he was not killed. They advised him not to come back again if he loved his children and wanted to see them again! His properties might have slipped away from the Communist government in the south, but now it is the hands of a group of people whom he had never seen before. His land was taken from one party and given to another!

Knowing the man well, I expected him to have been given a key position within the new government after unification; A person with his skills and knowledge must be honored and taken good advantage of. For him, it was not important to be offered a position anywhere. All he wanted was that his nationalized properties be returned back to him, the rightful owner. The poor guy had lots of plans in his head. He intended to sell his properties and launch a huge investment project in the united Yemen, a thing that several others refrain from doing because of the state negligence and continued efforts to nationalize the properties of others. He wanted to help the national economy through his investment, but he was not given the chance to even start.

After seeing with my own naked eyes how the state had failed to restore my friend's rights and properties, I started to wonder: Even though we were able to get rid of communism after unification, did the Republic of Yemen use Islamic regulations so as to give us back what has been taken away by communism? Doesn't the current constitution protect private rights? Didn't all political parties, during election campaigns following the unification, promise the owners to struggle towards nationalized properties' restoration? If the answers are no, then let us not dream that we have escaped from communist rule. Let us admit reality. Even though we are not formally so, what we see around us suggests that indeed, we are still living in a communist country.

## Children's Magazine Waits for Ministerial Approval

Karen Dabrowska

**Z**aqzaqat, a magazine produced by children for children, is ready to start publication. All it needs is approval from the Ministry of Information.

Twenty-five children from Sana'a have been working on the magazine during the past few months writing articles, taking photographs and finalizing illustrations.

But when Maha Salah approached the Ministry of Information for permission to start publishing she was met with an indifferent response.

"They did not try to understand what the magazine was about", Salah told The Yemen Times. The idea is new

and anything new takes time to establish. At first people are afraid of it." Her next strategy is to approach the ministry accompanied by the fathers of the children who are producing the magazine. And if that doesn't work they will meet the Minister of Information and the Minister of Culture if necessary.

Salah, an accountancy student in her final year of studies, is being assisted in the project by a number of well-known Yemeni literary figures: architect Yassin Ghaleb, poet Mohammed Hussein Aitam, artist Samira Abud Ali, short story writer Maysaloun Khaladi and short story writer and classical Arabic scholar Haifa Abdu Salam.

Ghaleb attributes the procrastination

of the authorities in granting the magazine a license to fear that the project could be an anti-government activity. "It may be opposed by different people for different reasons but that does not bother us", he says confidently. "We are single-minded in our objectives and we will succeed".

Zaqzaqat refers to the sound of the birds. "Life is like the music of the birds", Salah explains. "The most important thing is that the magazine is produced by the children themselves. They do everything. The magazine will deal with all aspects of life, anything, which is important to the 25 children who are producing it.

Besides working on the magazine Salah and her colleagues organize group outings for the children aimed

at developing research skills. When they first joined the group some of the children had never held a camera. After a tour of Sana'a old city they took many impressive photographs of both people and buildings.

Other activities include impromptu drama workshops and visits to exhibitions such as an exhibition of young Yemeni artists in Sana'a organized by DIA a French non-governmental organization of international development and solidarity founded in 1989.

The children from Salah's group asked the young artists many difficult questions about their work and sources of inspiration while their parents had to wait patiently until the discussions finished before they could take their children home.

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## Press Scanner

Last week's newspapers focused on two main issues. The first is the hijacked Yemeni plane, which was carrying the US Ambassador to Yemen along with members of a high-ranking US delegation, and also included Yemen's Ambassador to the USA. The second topic, which was given a lot of attention, was the issue of local council elections and constitutional amendments. As usual, opposition newspapers openly expressed their dissatisfaction for the current preparations for the election, and called upon the public to say, "NO" to the constitutional elections. On the other hand, governmental officials described contrary information about the preparations for the elections, and covered the president's latest visits to Taiz governorate, the most populous governorate in Yemen. Other than that, there was a number of miscellaneous articles about various incidents and events in the country, most of which are not of an optimistic nature, including murders, thefts, and reports on corruption and other legal problems. Below are articles chosen from some of those published by leading newspapers in Yemen during the last week.

**AL-AYYAM,**  
27 January 2001,  
tri-Weekly,  
Independent

### Plane Hijacker Threatens: "I am Dead, but I will Bomb this Head"

The Djibouti government submitted the hijacker of the Yemenia plane, Mohamed Yahya Ali Satar, 30, to the Yemeni authorities on Thursday. The Yemeni government had officially requested that the hijacker be handed to Yemen on Wednesday. He was submitted to the Yemeni Ambassador to Djibouti at Djibouti Airport and the airplane that carried the hijacker back to Yemen departed from Djibouti airport 15:40 on Thursday. The handing over of the hijacker was based on the request of the Yemeni government and was carried out in accordance to agreements signed between the two countries. The hijacker is expected to receive a capital punishment verdict based current laws regarding similar hijacking situations.

The Ministry of Interior announced earlier that it had taken 6 security officials from their work for interrogation last Tuesday. Two employees working at the Civil State of Affairs Department in the Third Region in the Capital Secretariat, as they were the ones who guaranteed the hijacker when he obtained his ID on January 6th. A source told the AFP that the investigations revealed that the hijacker was not aided by anyone at the airport, but there still remains the question about the points of weakness in the airport's security that resulted in the incident. The source did not deny or confirm the "pen gun" that the hijacker used in the plane, but had indicated that the airport may not be equipped with the machines necessary to identify such advanced weapons.

In Washington, D.C., the Foreign Secretary Office stated that it would revise its protection and security procedures applying to the US ambassador in Yemen. It is worth noting that no escorts professionally trained to deal with these issues accompanied Ms. Barbara Bodine on this particular flight, and that she usually takes regular local flights during her local trips.

### Parliament Refuses Voting on Developmental Loan Agreement

Parliamentary members refused to vote on the developmental loan agreement between the Republic of Yemen and the International Development Authority to support privatization projects in the session of Tuesday 23 January 2001. The session included a lengthy debate between parliamentarians and government ministers. The main reasons behind the refusal of the parliament to vote was that most of the projects that were to be privatized were the most successful ones, they also disapproved of the voting process because the privatization process may lead to taking hundreds of workers out of their jobs. In the very same session, the Development, Oil and Natural Resources Committee and the Commerce and Industry Committee of the parliament presented many recommendations to the government so as to revise such privatization agreements. The main concern of the two committees was the consequences of privatization in these establishments, possible job loss for those working in these establishments, not approving the gen-

eral subscription methodology, and privatization of those companies the loan targeted. The consequences of these actions may lead to monopoly or negative social or economic effects.

**AL-WAHDAH,**  
24 January 2001,  
Weekly,  
Independent

### Dr. Qirbi: The PGC is not intending to control local councils

DR. Abubakr Al-Qirbi, the Head of the Political Circle of the People's General Congress (PGC) and member of the consultative council, emphasized the importance of voting in the constitutional amendments and participating in the upcoming local council elections. In a statement to Al-Wahdah newspaper, he stated that the PGC's main concern is to work in coordination with other political parties and entities in the national interest, and work on finding common grounds and taking strong steps regarding that. He added, "We stress to all parties that the PGC is eager to have all political parties participate, and that the PGC is not intending, as some claim, to control local councils, and that it opens the door to all other parties and entities to participate freely in the upcoming elections without the involvement of any political motives or interests."

**AL-MITHAQ,**  
22 January 2001,  
Weekly, mouthpiece  
of the PGC

### Bajammal: The constitutional amendments are the right beginning in re-comprehending the Yemeni reality

Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdulqadir Bajammal described the parties opposing the constitutional amendments approved by the parliament last November as going through a period of political bankruptcy. In a statement broadcasted by Saba News Agency, he said that the powers that try today to cast doubt on the constitutional amendments have suffered from political bankruptcy, which is strange for parties claiming to be democratic while behaving in a contrary style in reality. He also mentioned that the constitutional amendments are the right beginning in re-comprehending the Yemeni reality, and that stagnant articles should not be maintained.

**AL-WAHDAWI,**  
23 January 2001,  
Weekly,  
mouthpiece of the  
Public Nasserite  
Unionist Movement

### In a scandalous fraud attempt Number of Registered Voters for Local Elections More than Population

The Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) issued yesterday (22 Jan.) schedules including information about the candidates for different regions of the country, the number of voters in each region and their respective populations. The information provided within these schedules has revealed problems in the process of registering voters for local elections in these areas. It was seen that in many provinces, the number of voters registered exceeded by far the population of the province, as in the case of

Mareb City, in which the SEC openly and scandalously declared that the number of voters registered was 3,171 more than the total population in the province. On the other hand, in the province of Al-Abr, the number of voters was 580 more than the population. In the Thamoob province, the difference was 560 names. In Taff Alawamir, the difference was 927 names. Incredibly, in many other provinces the difference between the number of voters registered and people living in the respected area was simply illogical. In the Kamaran province for example, the number of voters was 584, which means it also includes children younger than 18 years old, over-aged, immigrants, and god knows who else, as those make up more than 50% of the population of the area.

**AL-NASS,**  
22 January 2001,  
Weekly,  
Independent

### Viewpoint: A Word of Truth that doesn't lack love

**A Conspiracy Against the President**  
Yesterday, it was proven to me that the public changes, and that there is a change in the mood of the nation. Ten years ago for example, who would ever dare to curse the president - may God bless him. The admirers of the president would roughly beat up whoever would dare - by the time - to do that. Approximately five years ago, a few dared to harm the image of the president. Whoever did that would receive a strong response from others. Just two years ago, stating anything bad about the president would make many defend him vigorously. However, the motive of defending the president weakened further with time until the public became unconvinced of the idea of holding the ones below the president responsible for the deteriorating economic conditions.

Just yesterday, while I was on a minibus 'Dabbab' on the Hayel-Tahrir route, one of the passengers violently started to curse the president, and in no time, all the rest starting cursing with him. They all held the president responsible for the corruption spread all over the country because he keeps silent against all the corrupt. When no one defended the president, I decided to do so myself, but the rest of the passengers stopped me roughly and one of them even swore at me and considered me part of the corruption because I am defending the president. What happened made me upset because the president is not a regular person who could be cursed, because that is like cursing the whole nation, because the president is the symbol of the whole nation. Even normal Yemeni citizens were not exempted from the rain of curses and malediction because this is a country that is cursed by God and its people are cowards.

This event was the reason for writing this editorial at this particular time. This editorial is not for the readers of this paper, but it is aimed at the president only. I do hope that he would read it without taking any prejudgments. It is just a word of truth and is not among the articles used in political plots or parties' affairs. It is just from a citizen who wanted to defend the president but couldn't, no more than that and no less. To the Yemeni citizen who became president, and became responsible of all affairs in the country in front of Allah, history, and people, I say, if the corrupt, Mr. President, in your country, think that the improvement of their conditions and securing of their children's future means the improvement of all Yemenis and securing the generations' futures for all people, then they are wrong and also deceivers because the people are in their worst conditions! The people have been robbed of the food from their mouths and are tortured by the sick economy, failing health, deteriorating education, overall disorganization and chaos, which made power over justice, above constitution, and even above the Holy Book and Sunnet. Whoever says to you that things are going fine, are liars, liars,

# البقاء لله

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

## ((الذين إذا أصابهم مصيبة قالوا إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون))

صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تلقينا نبأ وفاة ابنة الأستاذ/

**هشام باشراحيل** - رئيس تحرير صحيفة الأيام

وبهذا الحادث الجلل نتقدم لأخوين هشام وتمام باشراحيل بتعازينا الحارة وببالغ مواساتنا، سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيدة بواسع رحمته ويسكنها فسيح جناته، وأن يلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان..

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

المعزون:

آل السقاف، وآل طرموم، محمد نجيب، محمد أمين،

وكافة أسرة تحرير يمن تايمز.

liars. There is nothing all right, and if you did not notice this, the country is heading towards a dead end that may lead to a catastrophe. We, the normal simple citizens emphasize that getting closer to you by praising the situation of the country is a conspiracy against you. Maintaining and keeping corruption is threatening your popularity and your place within the Yemeni people. People are fed up, and happiness has become scarce, and a clean morsel has become tough to get. All routes to adequate life have all been blocked. What should they do? As they look at the different qualities of life and the luxury of the few, who are chasing after your convoy with greed and desire, and the total poverty of millions who chant your name and line up to guard your escort.

Mr. President, the influential figures, whose influence ends when reaching you, under the absence of law and justice have robbed the people of their sources of living, and let their and their children's greed break free into the world of business and hard cash, and ruined the businesses of the people, and used their authorities and influence to win bids, make deals, grab authorizations, and seize land piece by piece. They have exhausted the national budget with their messing about, defalcation, and wasting. They have become rich on the expenses of development. To hell with the development that they keep drawing on about, while we are witnessing that society is falling apart, while their welfare is in continuous growth and expansion.

The one who stays silent while seeing wrongdoings is a speechless devil. Oh, how large is the number of devils we have in this country! The reality that we want H.E. the President to see with his own eyes, and not with the eyes of the corrupt, is the fact that our people, who are sinking in the darkness of backwardness, are no longer unaware of what is going on, as it used to be. Hunger and poverty have taught the nation where the problem is, and to a large extent they have now realized whom to hold accountable. The Yemeni citizen still believes in the one ruler and realizes with his political intelligence the falseness of the ruling establishment. He only knows one ruler, who when orders, he has the right to do so in this country, and he is the only decision maker. Corruption is causing decay to everything, and the law of power is imposing itself in the time of absence of law and emergence of chaos. Whoever is able to get himself a piece of the nation's resources, did so, and whoever could oppress the people, did so, and whoever got the chance to defalcate, steal, or rob, did so. Everything is open and legitimate for them.

It seems that the reports of your inspectors try to not to cause you to be concerned. Mr. President, you may have your own personal reasons for ruling this country the way you do, which we don't know. But the looseness in implementing the law, and enabling unfair competition, and demolishing the fairness of chances using the sword of influence, and honoring the corrupt, and afterwards thinking that Yemen is

doing fine, and the nation is doing swell, according to what the corrupt are telling you, all of this threatens your prestige.

Mr. President, your patience in eliminating corruption and the corrupt, who are guiding the country to abyss, has been taking too long. Do help us all to stay good citizens wishing you well.

By Hameed Shuhra,  
Editor-in-Chief

**AL-TARIQ,**  
23 January 2001,  
Weekly,  
Independent

### Cohen holds his administration responsible for the USS Cole Explosion

Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen concluded after three months of investigating that the USS Cole Destroyer explosion incident in Aden Port last October should be blamed on the US Military Forces as a whole. He also stated that the whole Military Forces, starting from himself as Secretary of Defense to the lowest ranking administration members in the USS Cole itself are to be blamed for not being alert enough to such dangers, so as to prevent the USS Cole bombing. He also stated that there was evidence of a threat, but this did not reach the USS Cole at the appropriate time. Hence, the US investigation bureau is not to be held responsible for what happened, but rather the Military Administration should be held accountable. Press sources have indicated that this may be a maneuver to cause a situation in which no single individual or entity could be prosecuted for negligence in the incident.

**AL-THAWRA,**  
28 January 2001,  
Daily, Official

### President Saleh Praises the Wisdom of the Staff in Rescuing Hijacked Plane and Securing the Safety of its Passengers

President Ali Abdullah Saleh along with Vice President, Abdo Rabbo Mansour Hadi, praised the staff members of the IY 727 Yemenia aircraft, which went through a hijack attempt on January 22 while on its way from Sanaa to Taiz with 22 passengers on board. The President presented honorary medals to the team on Saturday January 28 for their sincere efforts to save the plane and secure the safety of the passengers with their skills and wisdom.

### The President Receives a Message of Gratitude from US President Bush: "We look forward to continuing cooperation and friendship links between Yemen and the USA"

President Ali Abdullah Saleh received a cable from US President George W. Bush thanking him for his congratulatory cable on being elected as President of the USA. President Bush also mentioned in his letter that he is honored to be the president of the USA, and that he is determined to carry all the responsibilities of the presidency post, and looks forward to increasing the bilateral relationship between Yemen and the

USA, and continuing cooperation and friendship links between the two countries. He also expressed his confidence that through the spirit of cooperation, respect, and open dialogue, we (Yemen and USA) will be able to successfully handle all the challenges of the future. Finally, he mentioned in his letter that the future will provide us many opportunities, of which we could take advantage in an effort to push the peace, freedom, and prosperity of both our nations.

**AL-RAI AL-A'AM,**  
23 January 2001,  
Weekly,  
Independent

### Jumhuri Hospital and Mudhaffar Company Import Rotten Medicine into the Country

Secret negotiations are currently taking place these days between influential figures in the Jumhuri Hospital in Sanaa and the Mudhaffar Company for Medicine over a deal of rotten and smuggled goods blocked at Hodeidah airport after high orders from the Ministry of Health. A committee has been formed consisting of the General Medicine Authority and the Medicine Supervisory Authority, and Hodeidah Customs Office to reveal what is behind this deal. It was found that almost half of the amount of the drugs was smuggled, and a major part of it decayed because of improper preservation. According to the above committee's recommendation, the shipment has been blocked. However, the owners of Al-Mudhaffar Company turned to influential brokers at Jumhuri Hospital to try to release the decayed drugs from the port.

**AL-IHYAA**  
**AL-ARABI,**  
22 January 2001,  
Weekly, mouthpiece  
of Arab Baath Party

### Kidnappers of Maswari's son claims that the abducted owes him weapons for 40 million rial

President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered the Sheikhs of Khawlan to pressurize the kidnapers of the son of Hussein Al-Maswari, General Secretary of Sanaa City, so as to release him. On the other hand, the Sanaa Sheikhs have met and decided that Sheikh Dammani Nasser Al-Salami will mediate and negotiate with the kidnapers and learn their demands so as to arrive at a satisfactory solution for. Sheikh Dammani went to kidnapping area, but returned empty handed.

The abductors, headed by Mohamed Ali Siraj, claim that the son of Maswari had bought weapons and other material costing around YR 40 million without paying him, hence he decided to kidnap him. Also, Bani Dhabian told Al-Ihya that they intend to file a lawsuit against Mohammed Ali Saleh Al-Salimi, one of the Sheikhs of Bani Dhabian in protest of what it had earlier published against the tribe in particular, and Khawlan in general.

## Kuwaiti Government Resigns: Speaker

KUWAIT CITY—The Kuwaiti government has resigned, Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly (Parliament) Jassem Al-Khorafi said Sunday. Khorafi told reporters in the Parliament that Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al-Sabah will submit his governments resignation Monday to Emir Sheikh Jaber

Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the official Kuwait News Agency reported. But Khorafi said that he did not know the reason leading to the government's resignation, affirming that it is not linked to the request by a parliament member to grill Minister of Justice Saad Jassem Yousef Al-Hashel over cover-ups in murder and corruption cases. **Xinhua**

## Arafat Leaves for Davos to Meet Israel's Peres

GAZA—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left Gaza Sunday morning for Davos, Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum and meet Israeli Regional Cooperation Minister Shimon Peres on its sidelines. According to Palestinian sources here, Arafat and Peres are expected to discuss divisions remaining between the two sides that still obstruct a final-status peace agreement. Negotiators from the two sides ended six days of in-depth talks in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba Saturday night, saying they have "never been closer to a peace agreement. Substantive progress has been made in every issue discussed —refugees, security, Jerusalem and borders," the negotiators said. But they were unable to reach a deal on all issues due to "the

circumstances and time constraints." The two sides had hoped to reach some sort of agreement in the marathon talks before the February 6 prime ministerial election in Israel. Caretaker Prime Minister Ehud Barak is trailing behind his right-wing rival, Likud leader Ariel Sharon in various public opinion polls. It was reported that efforts are being made to arrange a summit between Arafat and Barak in Stockholm, Sweden, but few expect that a deal would be reached at that time. Thousands of world business and political leaders are gathered at Davos, a Swiss ski resort, to attend the annual event, now in its 31st year, to discuss world economic development. **Xinhua**

## Four Killed in Canberra Light Aircraft Crash

CANBERRA—Four people died in a fiery air crash in Canberra, Sunday, capping a black weekend for Australia's light aviation industry during which nine people were killed. A TV personality in Brisbane in north-east Australia was also killed Sunday during an aerobatics display, while Western Australia state's police force was mourning the deaths of four officers in a plane crash last Saturday. Three men and a woman, all from Canberra, died when their single-engine Beechcraft 23 Musketeer plunged to the ground shortly after midday after taking off from Canberra airport's east-west runway. The aircraft exploded on impact in a paddock just 400 meters from the runway end, turning the surrounding paddock and nearby pine trees into an inferno. Staff from the nearby

Australian Defense Force Academy and emergency crews rushed to help those on board, but were beaten back by the intense heat. Crash investigators said engine failure was the most likely cause of the accident. The crash followed the death of four West Australian police officers Saturday as they were returning home from a remote Aboriginal community. Their Cessna 318 apparently lost control and spiraled into the ground, also bursting into flames. And in Brisbane earlier Sunday, the pilot of an aerobatics aircraft died when his Pitts Special biplane crashed into a pine plantation while taking part in an aerial display. Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigators were combing the sites of all three accidents in a bid to determine the causes of the crashes. **Xinhua**

## Syrian, Italian Delegations in Iraq to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

BAGHDAD—Syrian Minister of Construction Muhammad Nihad Mushantat and Minister of Irrigation Taha Al-Atrash arrived in Baghdad Saturday evening for a visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations. During the visit, the Syrian ministers are expected to hold talks with their Iraqi counterparts to enhance cooperation between the two Arab countries, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. Relations between Iraq and Syria, ruled by rival factions of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, have greatly improved after the two countries reopened their common border and started economic cooperation nearly three years ago within the United Nations oil-for-food program. The program allows Iraq to export oil in return for imports of food, medicine and other basic necessities to offset the impact of the sanctions, imposed

on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Besides the Syrian delegation, a plane carrying a 50-member Italian delegation landed at Iraq's Saddam International Airport Saturday evening in defiance of the decade-old air embargo on the country. Fabio Ivajoslitic, head of the delegation, told the INA that the delegation will hold talks with Iraqi officials and National Assembly (parliament) members to discuss means of promoting bilateral cooperation and supplying Iraq with goods under the oil-for-food program. The delegation will also visit some hospitals in Baghdad to witness the negative effects of the sanctions, he said. The sanctions will not be lifted until U.N. arms inspectors certify that Iraq is free of weapons of mass destruction. **Xinhua**

## Kuwait Oil Company Inaugurates Major Oil Gathering Center

KUWAIT CITY—The state-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) inaugurated on Sunday, a major oil extracting center with an output capability of 190,000 barrels per day (bpd). The project, or GC 27, was one of two oil extraction centers to be constructed by China Petroleum Engineering Construction Corp. (CPECC) for KOC in west Kuwait. A KOC press release said that GC 27 is of enormous importance to the company as it will "contribute towards our target in West Kuwait of 500,000 bpd and provide KOC with strategic flexi-

bility and diversity." "As part of our overall plan, GC 27 will help us realize the production capacity target of 3 million bpd," the release said. Kuwait, which sits on about 10 percent of the world's total crude reserves, currently has an output capacity of some 2.5 million bpd. According to KOC, GC27, covering an area of some 60,000 square meters, is the second largest of such facilities to be built in West Kuwait, and is equipped to process both medium and light crude as well as gas and gas condensate. **Xinhua**

## Jordanian Police Arrest 7 for Blacklisting Local Businessmen

AMMAN—Jordanian police have arrested seven members of a committee opposing normalization of ties with Israel, for blacklisting local companies or businessmen who are in touch with Israel, the semi-official Jordan Times newspaper reported on Sunday. Police stormed into the houses of Abu Sukar, president of the committee and the houses of six other members on Saturday, arresting them on charges of forming an illegal group, the report said. The arrests came after the committee published a second blacklist earlier this week which contained 68 names of local companies or individuals that have business contacts with Israel. The government said the move would harm the economy of the kingdom and jeopardize the livelihood of Jordanians if foreign investors were pushed away, adding that the committee was attached to the powerful Jordanian association of professionals

which groups 13 trade unions, and has not been licensed. The committee published its first blacklist last November which included 20 names of local companies or individuals. "These lists are a clear incitement, and they are offering excuses for groups or individuals to attack other members of society for visiting Israel or dealing with it," said a government official on condition of anonymity. Reports in Amman said that at least two local businessmen had received anonymous threats after they were put on the blacklist by the committee. One of the businessmen escaped a gunshot while the other found a bullet at the doorstep of his house. Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, only the second Arab country, after Egypt, to strike a peace deal with the Jewish state. But anti-Israeli sentiments run high in the kingdom where 60 percent of its residents are of Palestinian origin. **Xinhua**

## Australia Pledges Emergency Funds for India Quake Victims

CANBERRA— Australian Prime Minister John Howard Sunday pledged one million Australian dollars (570,000 U.S. dollars) in emergency relief funds for victims of the earthquake in India. The Australian government is also sending an experienced disaster management expert, Joe Barr, to help assess the situation and coordinate international aid. "The Australian government will contribute one million Australian dollars to assist emergency relief programs through the United Nations and international organizations," Howard said in a statement. The funds would provide emergency assistance to the devastated communi-

ties including delivering clothes, blankets, medical supplies and clean water. "On behalf of the government and people of Australia, I extend to Prime Minister Vajpayee and the government and people of India our heartfelt sympathies," Howard said. "The government will continue to monitor the situation in order to determine how best we can provide any further assistance," Howard said. The quake, which struck the Indian state of Gujarat on Friday, killed an estimated 15,000 people, the Australian media reported. The quake is the most powerful to hit India in 50 years, the reports said. **Xinhua**

## Annan Trying to Arrange Israeli-Palestinian Summit Meeting: Barak

JERUSALEM—Israeli caretaker Prime Minister Ehud Barak said on Sunday that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan is trying to arrange a summit between him and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Europe in the coming days, Israel Radio reported. However, Barak said, it is unclear whether the meeting will take place. He was briefing cabinet ministers on the just-concluded peace talks with the Palestinians in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba. Barak said that at the Taba talks, the Palestinians agreed for the first time to allow West Bank settlement blocs to remain under Israeli rule in a permanent settlement. Barak also said that Israel was adamant at the talks on maintaining sovereignty over the Judaic holy site of the Wailing Wall, the archaeological park, the City of David and the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Following the six-day Taba talks which concluded on Saturday with the issuance of a joint statement, efforts were underway on Sunday to arrange a meeting over the next few days between Barak and Arafat designed to deliver a more detailed declaration of what has been achieved so far in the peace process. The Barak-Arafat meeting would have international sponsorship. Sweden's government has offered to host the meeting next Tuesday in Stockholm. Sources here said Barak will not meet

Arafat unless the meeting is well prepared with guaranteed outcome. Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami, Justice Minister Yossi Beilin and Barak's chief of staff Gilad Sher, all members of the Israeli delegation to Taba, are advising Barak to meet Arafat. Sher was reportedly busy Saturday drawing up a joint statement with his Palestinian counterparts which the leaders would deliver if the meeting takes place. Beilin told Israel Radio on Sunday that progress has been made at the Taba talks on the issues of settlements, orders and refugees. Referring to the joint Israeli-Palestinian statement at Taba, right-wing opposition Likud lawmaker Limor Livnat said that if the hawkish party leader Ariel Sharon was elected prime minister on February 6, his government would certainly not be bound "by anything that was not passed by the Knesset (parliament)." She added that the Taba talks created a "very complicated" situation for a new government. The Israeli-Palestinian negotiators started an intensive effort last Sunday to work for a final peace agreement before the February 6 prime ministerial election in order to boost Barak's chances of being re-elected. But both sides failed to secure a comprehensive deal but agreed to continue the negotiations following the elections. **Xinhua**

## Chinese New Year Marked with Colorful Parade in Sydney

CANBERRA—The year of the snake was marked in flamboyant style on Australia's Sydney streets Sunday with a 35-meter long dragon leading a cast of hundreds in the Chinese New Year parade. An estimated 12,000 people lined the city's George Street from the Town Hall to China Town to witness the Sydney Chinese community celebrate the lunar new year. Sydney Deputy Lord Mayor Lucy Turnbull started celebrations by painting eye dots and tying ribbons on the dragon to promote good luck. Among

the 600 dancing participants from cultural, community and sporting groups were men and women sporting traditional face paintings in Cantonese opera costumes being carried on ten three-wheeled rickshaws. As a first-time participant, Turnbull was impressed with the turnout of Sydneysiders. "The vibrancy and the energy of the parade reflects the diversity and the growing role of the Chinese community in the city which I think is a fantastic evolution," she said. **Xinhua**

## Ugandan President Warns Army Against Involvement in Politics

KAMPALA—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has warned officers and men of the Ugandan People's Defense Forces (UPDF) against campaigning for any presidential candidate, the New Vision reported on Sunday. Appearing on Capital Radio's phone-in talk show on Saturday, Museveni said that the army should remain professional and should not take sides. "A professional is someone who subdues his or her own views for public good," he said. "The army must

remain professional enough to work for any government and this is what we are working on and going to consolidate in the next five years," said Museveni, who is now on re-election campaign for another term. "You find some army officers taking sides, and this is not correct," he added. The Ugandan general elections are scheduled for March 6 this year and seven presidential candidates have already started their campaigns for the elections. **Xinhua**

## Over 2,000 Iranians Infected by AIDS Virus: Statistics

TEHRAN—The latest statistics show that 2,271 persons in Iran are infected by AIDS, the official IRNA news agency reported Saturday. Bahram Yeganeh, secretary of Iran's Anti-AIDS Campaign State Committee, told a seminar on the fight against AIDS that among those infected, 309 have developed the fully-fledged disease. Those who suffer from the disease have already been

identified, Yeganeh said. More than 1,000 AIDS cases are expected in Iran, said the official, adding that about 11,000 others will be merely infected by the acquired immune-deficiency syndrome virus, or HIV carriers. Meanwhile, participants of the conference have noted that the disease has not yet become so widespread in Iran thanks to the strong religious beliefs. **Xinhua**

## Indian Central Bank Asked To Be Liberal To Tremor-hit State

NEW DELHI—In a bid to quicken the process of relief measures to earthquake affected people in the western state of Gujarat, the Indian government Sunday asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the central bank, to be liberal with state withdrawals. "A blank cheque has been given to the Gujarat government. We have informed RBI that there should not be any cap on Gujarat for relief work," Agriculture Secretary Bhasker Barua told the press here following a meeting of the Crisis Management Group to review the situation arising out of the earthquake Friday that has claimed thousands of lives. The official said that the state government was being offered financial assistance to provide succor to the vast population affected by the quake, measuring between 6.9 to 7.9 on the Richter scale. Barua informed the press that a large number of people from the three services were engaged in the rescue and relief operations in the worst affected areas of Bhuj and Ahmedabad, about 1,100 and 915 kilometers respectively

southwest of here, and steps had been taken on a war-footing to provide succor to the affected people. Though reports reaching here from Ahmedabad said that over 16,000 people died in the devastating earthquake, officials here quoting information received by the state control room put the toll as 6,072 dead and 14,512 injured. Teams of experts were also rushed to the affected areas to assess the state of buildings damaged by the tremor. The United States, Russia, Switzerland and Turkey have sent their expert teams to the state to join the rescue operations. Barua said that three ships belonging to the Indian Navy had been pressed into service to take on board the injured and transport them to Mumbai for treatment. A total of 750 medical personnel from para military forces and 5,161 rescuers were in the field providing services while 110,000 metric tons of food was available, 36,000 blankets had been distributed and 10,800 tents had been sent to the areas. **Xinhua**

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# "What about me?"



Hasan Al-Zaidi  
Yemen Times

In a time our officials are busy preparing for elections with fancy posters calling upon the public to say "YES" to constitutional amendments, and in a time millions of rials are spent on media campaigns to promote the upcoming local elections that many

people have already lost hope in, a little innocent baby girl, less than one year old in age, sits on the corner of the street, forgotten, ignored, and asking "what about me?"

Once I saw the girl, I decided to take her picture. I asked about her mother and was told that she, as usual, left her daughter in one corner of the street and went to ask for alms from shops and beg car owners at the crossroads. What

can I say!? I am speechless. Is this happening in the once called, Happy Yemen "Al-Yaman Al-Saeed"? What has gone wrong? Before leaving the girl, I decided to buy her a biscuit so that, at least, she would feel happy for a minute or two.

After I left the scene, the baby's picture stayed in my memory. Once I arrived at the Yemen Times building, I could not stop myself writing about this little

girl, and decided that the valuable space of the last page should be dedicated to this heart-breaking photo and story. I may not be an official, I may not be a decision-maker or a powerful businessman, but I am a journalist whose duty is to deliver the truth, which in this case is sad and devastating. I feel some sense of responsibility towards the public. All I have is my pen, and all I could do is try to make this little girl's voice be heard. By publishing this picture, I hope that our leadership, our government, and our officials, and everyone in charge of this country's affairs would remember this little girl, and perhaps regain the humanity they have lost, especially that what she is going through is partially due to their negligence and ignorance. I can't imagine how they would feel when seeing this photo even though I myself still feel some guilt even though I am not in their position. I hope that this photo would help our decision-makers come back to earth, and rescue the situation that is slowly getting out of hand. It may help our officials wake up from their fantasies and get rid of the illusion that "everything is OK!" No sirs, everything is not "OK", in fact, nothing is "OK". It would take little effort and commitment by our decision-makers to know the truth behind this girl and behind many others in thousands and hundreds of thousands suffering children everywhere in the country. All they need to do is get out of their offices and luxurious houses and go to the streets to see the misery for themselves.

**Paul Smith**  
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If the picture moves any of our officials, and makes him a little concerned, then I would feel that I have done something. Otherwise, I will still feel the guilt. No matter what I say, no matter what I write, I could never speak louder than the picture above. Look carefully, and try to understand.

The picture in reality is even worse as you see a number of men, women, old and young, girls and boys all asking for alms. Food security is practically non-existent in our economy and this in turn intensifies the suffering of Yemeni posing a very hazardous future for our children.

Poverty in Yemen has given rise to many negative phenomena and social hazards including widening the gulf between the haves and the have-nots. Only the rich are now able to enjoy everything they desire which may lead to a social conflict and class war in future. Let us wake up and do something before it is too late.

I personally am not asking to stop the officials from what they are doing, either in their preparations for the elections or their regular work. But what I am asking them to do is remember that there is a little girl, sitting on the side of the street as we speak, helpless and still waiting for an answer to be given to her simple and rightful question, "what about me?"

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المركز الرئيسي: هديده  
ت. ٢٤٥٤١٨، فاكس: ٢٤٦٢٤٨  
ص. ب. ٣٨١٦  
صنعاء - شارع القيادة ٢٥٥٦٧٩

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فرع التدريب ت: ٩٦٧-١-٢٠٦٧٣٠ فاكس: ٢٠٩٣٨٥  
شارع الزبير، ص. ب. ٣٤١٩  
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صنعاء - جولة تعز - عمارة البعداني - جوار محلات اسحاق الطابق الثالث، ت: ٢٤٥١٩٠

**الشامي**  
للحجارة والتماثيل

الكهربويات، أدوات منزلية، كماليات.

شعوب، ت: ٢٢٢٥٧٧  
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**وصالة الغيمية**  
لاقامة الاعراس والولائم والندوات والحفلات الخاصة. ت: 260828، فاكس: 267467

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صنعاء: شارع الزبير، تليفون: ٢٠٩١١٧، ٢٠٩١١٦، ٢٠٩١١٥ فاكس: ٢٠٩١١٦  
تعز: شارع جمال، ت: ٢٢٧٧٠٠ - ٢٢٧٧٠١ فاكس: ٢٢١١٨١  
الحديدة: شارع الحي التجاري، تليفون: ٢١٣٥١٦، ٢١٣٥١٧ فاكس: ٢١٣٥١٦ (٤٧٦٥)

**تعلم الشطفة**

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تخفيضات الكبرى

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محلات الشعيبة التجارية للقرطاسية والأدوات المدرسية والمكتبية والهندسية ومستلزمات الكمبيوتر. مزاج حمود عبدالله الشعيبة ت: ٤١٠٩٤٨، شارع التوفيق، ص. ب. ١٦٠٧٥، صنعاء.

مركز تقنية المستقبل  
مبيعات كمبيوتر، وصيانة، ألعاب وبرامج، تدريب انترنت، تصميم مواقع انترنت، خدمات طباعة.  
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**مؤسسة الميتمي للأدوية**

صنعاء شارع ١٢ متفرع من شارع سيف، ص. ب. ١٠٥٥، تليفون: ٢٧٥٥٥٠/٢٧٥٥٥١  
فاكس: ٢٧٥٥٥٠/٢٧٥٥٥١  
تلحق: ٢١٢٢ ص. ب. ٢٢٠٠  
تعز: ٢٥١٤٠٤  
إب: ٤٠٤٤٢١  
عدن: ٢٣٧٧٨٨  
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**مركز الوفاء للتجارة والخدمات العامة**

الكلاء الوحيديون في الجمهورية اليمنية لمصالح الروان والكروان تحف - عصافير - زهور - أصناف زينة - أذوية وعطورات

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**مراكز طبية علاجية**

مركز الأمل لطب الأسنان، أجهزة حديثة، خبرة عالية ت: ٢٠٦٢٢٢، شارع الزبير، أمام مستشفى الجمهوري.

مستوصف بغداد الطبي التخصصي: جراحة عامة - جراحة تجميل - جراحة مسالك بولية - عظام - وفواصل آتق - آتق وحجرية - ساء - ولادة أطفال - طباعة - أسنان - مختبرات وكشف بالموجات الصوتية والسينية - د. ماهر يحيى عيطة استشاري مسالك بولية، المدير العام، العنوان: صنعاء - تعز - أمام وكالة تويوتا. ت: ١١٧٧٥٨، فاكس: ١١٧٧٥٩، بيجين: ٨٨٠٦٠٢، ص. ب. ١٥١٧١

مركز النفس المتخصصة: علاج نفسي - باراسكولوجي - استشارات - دورات صنعاء - شارع الوحدة الدائري - مقر: شمال الجامعة القديمة تليفون: ٤٠٤٧٨

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مركز الأمل لطب الأسنان، أجهزة حديثة، خبرة عالية ت: ٢٠٦٢٢٢، شارع الزبير، أمام مستشفى الجمهوري.

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مركز النفس المتخصصة: علاج نفسي - باراسكولوجي - استشارات - دورات صنعاء - شارع الوحدة الدائري - مقر: شمال الجامعة القديمة تليفون: ٤٠٤٧٨

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تعر - شارع جمال جوار شركة النفط اليمنية، ت: ٢٤٠٢٢٢، ص. ب. ٥٥١٥٥

**محللات تجارية:**  
محلات عبد الله محمد سيف للتجارة: قسم المواد الغذائية للمحل بطاقات تيلمين للاتصالات، وقسم لقطع الغيار والمواظير المختلفة بأسعار مناسبة. وذلك في فرعنا: شارع جمال - مقابل التربية ت: ٢٢٢٨٨٠، عنواننا: شارع التحرير، الاسفل، ت: ٢٢٢٨٤٤

بعلن مركز الوفاء للتجارة والخدمات العامة: عن افتتاح مركزه الجديد. تعز - حوض الأشراف - قبل البنك المركزي السابق

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**مدارس الزهراء التربوية الحديثة**  
تمهيد - أساسي - ثانوي - مبني خاص للطالبات - ماستر معها سر النجاح - مجانية التعبير للأولاد - إدارة تربية متخصصة - حاز جيل متميز بالتميز - ومنسج بالمعلم

العنوان: شارع جمال جوار شركة النفط اليمنية، ت: ٦٠٠٣٠١

**مراكز طبية:**  
جميع الأسنان الطبي التخصصي لطب وتقويم الأسنان: تقويم وتجميل جملة بالأجهزة الثابتة عيادات خاصة بالنساء، والأطفال، تحت إشراف الدكتور ياسين معوضه. تعز - شارع جمال، العتبة ت: ٢٢٨٤٠٠، فاكس: ٢٢٢٤٤٤

E-mail: YMTMDS@Y.NET.YE

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المركز الرئيسي: تعز - ص. ب. ٣٠٢٤٧  
فرع من الصنعاء: ٢٢٢٧٢

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**مراكز طبية علاجية**

مركز الأمل لطب الأسنان، أجهزة حديثة، خبرة عالية ت: ٢٠٦٢٢٢، شارع الزبير، أمام مستشفى الجمهوري.

مستوصف بغداد الطبي التخصصي: جراحة عامة - جراحة تجميل - جراحة مسالك بولية - عظام - وفواصل آتق - آتق وحجرية - ساء - ولادة أطفال - طباعة - أسنان - مختبرات وكشف بالموجات الصوتية والسينية - د. ماهر يحيى عيطة استشاري مسالك بولية، المدير العام، العنوان: صنعاء - تعز - أمام وكالة تويوتا. ت: ١١٧٧٥٨، فاكس: ١١٧٧٥٩، بيجين: ٨٨٠٦٠٢، ص. ب. ١٥١٧١

مركز النفس المتخصصة: علاج نفسي - باراسكولوجي - استشارات - دورات صنعاء - شارع الوحدة الدائري - مقر: شمال الجامعة القديمة تليفون: ٤٠٤٧٨

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صنعاء - جولة تعز - بجانب فرع البنك العربي تليفون: ٢٤٩٢٠٢

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(المركز الإنجابي التخصصي) ت: (٢٤٠٤٧) فاكس: ٢٤٢٦٠٣

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29 January 2001 Issue No. (5)  
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■ Required: Executive secretary who has excellent computer skills and excellent communication skills in English and Arabic. Tel. 414838.  
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ing English and in Arabic typing. Corner of Paris Tel. 501459.  
■ Amer M. Zaidan. BA. in Economy. A nine-month experience as Sec. Gen. at the Water & Environmental Sanitation Group. PO Box: 557, Crater-Aden. Tel. 02-252338.  
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■ Villa for rent in Al-Hsabab Zone. Fully furnished. For more information call: Fadl Ahmed Abbas at 234351.  
■ For rent 2 furnished flats Deluxe, Comfortable features, parking, Zira'a Str. Walid Jaafar. 01-205494, pager: 5814514.

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■ For Rent: 4 rooms, 2 Bathrooms, Big hall. Ketchen, phone line and Big space for 4 cars, good location in Al-Hodaida City. Abdullah Ahmed Abbad. phone: 01 - 275906  
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■ For Sale: Landcruiser 1990 in excellent conditions. Contact: Sheryl McWilliams, ADRA / Yemen. Tel: 260529 - 509906.  
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■ For Sale: Datsun Car - 80, Taxi, 6 Boston, Prise: 150.000 Y.R. Hussain Najj, Pager: 5892364, Code: 13  
■ For Sale or Rent: G.X. Land cruiser Car, Colour whit, Model 94, 39.000 km, Price \$ 30.000, Mohamad Ali. Tel: 420269.  
■ For Sale: BMW, Mercedes and minibuses. Contact: Othman Tel: 01-671076.  
■ For Sale or Rent: Ford 4x4 Mafrek Red, model 96, 56.000 KM, Price: US\$ 12.000, Deseil Turbo, Air condition, Air Bag and tow door. Contact: mobile: 7912780 Pager No.: 5817114  
■ For Sale: TOYOTA corolla Car-85, price: 600.000 YR Tel. 671540 (mobile) 7904230, Mohammad  
■ For Sale: Mercedes C 280 Black, Model 95, Full option at Hodeidah port. Price US\$ 15.000 Without customs or US\$ 19.000 with customs. Call: Tel. 216935 mobile: 7912780 -

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■ For Sale: TOSHIBA laptop Computer (T-1800) cpo 386 DX, 639 K, RAM, effected H.D. C needs replcement Shiekh Najj Tel: 02-343226.  
■ For Sale: Computer Pantum I + Pantume II. Tel: 268815.  
■ For Sale: Computer lap top TOSHIBA (satellite) 320 CDS, CD-Rom drive, 4 GB, RAM 96, Card modem. Price: US\$ 1.000 Call: 5817114  
■ For Sale: New modem Card 33,6 KB, speed, 486 DX4100 Processor 16 MB. RAM. Abdulla Ahmed Abbad, Tel. 275906.  
■ Needed: Computer Makintosh in good condition for not more than \$ 400. Fadl Ahmed Abbas. Al-Mohsen. Sana'a Al-Hasabah Str. Tel.: 234351, P.O. Box: 8596.

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2) Neelam Suman, No. D-103240 Dated 19.5.1996, Valid till 31.07.2001 Issued at Baghdad.  
If found request contact Indian Embassy, 12 Djibouti Street, Sana'a (Telephone No. 01-508084/85/87 and Fax No.

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التهنؤون:  
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Hodaida 22532/3  
Al-Watania Insurance (Y.S.C.)  
Sana'a 272713/874  
Aden 243490-242476  
Taiz 224391  
Hodaida 240588-240662/5  
Marib Insurance Sana'a: 206112/4  
Aden: 255668  
Taiz: 222162  
Hodeidah: 217370/1  
Yemen Insurance company Sana'a 272806/272962  
Hodaida 252392  
Taiz 233632  
Aden 77-727  
Mukalla 304292  
Hodeidah: 217292

**BANKS**  
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Aden: 213662/6  
Commercial Bank Sana'a 217040/3  
Hodeidah 217040/3  
Int'l bank of Yemen 217292/3  
National Bank of Yemen 217373  
YBRD 271623/4  
Watani Bank 206613

**BRANCH OF FOREIGN BANKS:**  
Arab Bank Ltd. 276592/3  
Bank Indosuez 272801/3

**AIRLINES:**  
Emirates 244444

**TRAVELS:**  
Al-Hussn Traveling 264740  
Bon Voyage Travels 262348/266861  
Universal Group of Companies 413501  
Al-Nasim Travel 270750

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Aden 02-245625  
Sana'a 223914/905  
5854158  
Europcar Downtown Station HQ: 270751  
Airport Station: 344495

**COURIERS:**  
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255333  
Aden: 213489  
Hodeidah: 218168  
Mukalla: 303346  
Ibb: 406882/3

**FREIGHTS:**  
ITS Cargo 218142  
Aramex Sana'a: 264819/20/21  
Griffin Logistics Ltd. Sana'a: 248115

**INSTITUTE**  
Germany Language Institute 266204

**SCHOOLS**  
Sanaa International School 370191  
Al-Hussein National Schools 412826/7  
Sana'a British School 203950  
The American School 417119-414640  
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Sana'a Turkish School 412128  
Pakistani School 417288/247830  
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**ACROSS:**  
2- Go before (7)  
3- Abel's brother (4)  
4- Fisherman (6)  
5- Superior in quality (2-6)  
6- Insulting comments (5)  
7- French river. Port (5)  
8- Academic workroom (5)  
13- Timetable (8)  
16- Typical amount (7)  
17- One of Snow White's dwaris (6)  
18- Clergyman (6)  
19- Actor's confidential speech to tine audience (5)  
21- Manmade fibre (5)  
23- Gaelic (4)

**DOWN:**  
1- Breathtaking (11)  
9- Unconering (7)  
10- Get up on (a horse) (5)  
11- Level, balanced (4)  
12- Get pally with (8)  
14- For this reason (5)  
15- Foot lever (5)  
20- Eating disorder (8)  
22- Greek god (4)  
24- Oriental rice dish (5)  
25- American university (7)  
26- Translated (11)

**LUCKY WINNER**  
? Solve the crossword puzzle and send it to Yemen Times who knows you could be the winner of this week's Prize

**IMPORTANT Numbers**

Emergency Police 199  
Accident (Traffic) 194  
Fire Brigade 171  
Water Problems 171  
Electricity problems 177  
Telephone enquires 118  
Red Crescent 203131/3  
Tel-Yemen 7522202  
Y.net 7522227

**HOSPITALS**  
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Yemen German Hospital 418687/8/9  
Al-Eryani S. Hospital for Obst. & Gynecology 204476, 402191/2  
Al-Raboie Hospital 618087  
Al-Rashed Hospital 200830/200730  
Athawra Hospital 246366  
Al-Jelani Hospital 615402-615400  
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**تمتعوا بتخفيضاتنا الرمضانية عند زيارتكم لإحدى معارضنا..**

شركة أرنكم التجارية المحدودة: كروبلين  
صنعاء: المركز الرئيسي - الإدارة العامة، ت: ٤٤٦-٤٠-٤٤٦  
البريد الإلكتروني: ARTEX@y.net.ye  
التجاري: شارع جدة، ت: ٢٠٩٥٥ - مركز صنعاء التجاري - شارع الجزائر، ت: ٢١٢٢١٠