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Words of Wisdom

Opinion makers and intellectuals often cry foul after a decision is taken. In a democratic system they can be part of the decision making process, even if they are not part of the government - they need not be able to influence decisions. But they need to have a strong interest in helping shape the future - by working through the people.

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



Our Opinion

10 Years of Continuous Progress

Tomorrow Yemen Times will be celebrating its 10th anniversary. When looking back, we can see how the newspaper evolved into what it is today. It was surely not an easy task. The challenges and obstacles that faced the newspaper were enormous. Let us go back to the first days after its birth. When Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf founded the newspaper in 1991, he had some objectives in mind. There was a statement of his that I would never forget my whole life, "I founded Yemen Times to be a mouthpiece of the oppressed, the poor, and the unattended for. I founded Yemen Times to say the truth, openly and with no hesitation or fear. I founded Yemen Times to promote freedom of press and human rights. I founded Yemen Times to be the light that other newspapers would follow, I wanted Yemen Times to be a model for others. I founded Yemen Times to be the source of enlightenment for me personally, to feel that I have done something useful for others in a way that would satisfy my conscious."

Indeed, this is why Yemen Times was founded, and this is its spirit that still lives among us today. We know that every admirer of Yemen Times would admire its founder and would be curious to know how he lived and why he decided to build this great enterprise.

Going back in time, we would see that Yemen Times was a newspaper with only two computers and no more than three staff members. Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the founder of the newspaper was also the editor, the advertising manager, the administrative manager, and even the distributor. I remember the days when he used to say, "That's that!" and print the paper on transparent paper to be sent to the printing unit for printing. He used to supervise the whole printing phase and worked with the staff at the printing unit. After the paper was ready for distribution, he would carry the bundles to the car and drive all the way to the -by then- few YT subscribers. There were times when he would use plastic bags to cover the computers from being damaged by the water leaking from the old building's ceiling. After all, there were two computers, one for design, and one for typing. Both were of vital importance, so he used to take good care of them. He suffered a lot, but gained more. He was threatened and blackmailed for his courageous stands, but gained the respect of readers and even of those who used to threaten and oppose him. It was certainly not an easy task, but it surely paid off.

As I look at the situation today, I could see that we have gone a long way. Now we have our own two-storey building, more than 20 computers, with the most advanced pre-press equipment. Our readership is more than 10 times what it was at the beginning, and our distribution reaches areas as far as Denmark in the north, Australia in the south, Japan in the East, and the US in the west, and we are still growing. We have one of the most well organized administrative structures, not only in Yemen, but also in the Middle East. Our online website is the number one site on Yemen on the World Wide Web, and the list of achievements goes on.

Even though we are celebrating our tremendous success through the years, we should always remember our humble start. This reminds us that everything with hard work is possible. As the founder used to say, "hard work never hurts!"

Today, we are at the top, with little competition from others. It is a pity however, to see that who are trying to compete against us are most of the time imitate Yemen Times all the time. This in itself is not what bothers me a lot because all our readers know this fact, and it only harms the 'clone' competitor. But what is truly disappointing is that they still think that the external view is what matters. They are deceived in thinking that artificial things are what make a difference. It is pathetic that they are wasting their time, as they are yet to realize that having a classified advertisement section, a competition, or certain advertisements is not what makes a newspaper readable and admirable. It is the substance, the objectiveness, and the core that matter. To succeed in journalism and to get readership, a newspaper should not be biased in its stand. But it should rather say the truth even if it contradicts with its boss's interests. Only then will a newspaper be credible and gain more readership, otherwise it will stay as a semi-newspaper, with little credibility, and perhaps, a distorting image as an imitator. Even if some supporters, sponsors, or advertisers are deceived in one or two or even ten issues, they would eventually realize that the low readership is for a reason that is straight forward and justifiable, because of credibility.

In any case, the originality of Yemen Times extends from its founder to every single employee working in the paper. Our journalists are never turned away because of an article that is true but may be against the government or a certain powerful figure. Our power lies in our ability to gain the trust of you, our reader. Our strength lies in our commitment of delivering the truth no more no less.

This is why we are moving on into our second decade with confidence and trust in growth and prosperity. We already see it coming: more success, greater readership, and stronger presence in the market and in the houses of Yemenis and foreigners alike.

On this special occasion I would like to say,

"Happy Birthday Yemen Times, and keep on growing!"

Democracy Development Institute: Elections Procedures Are illegal

Mr. Ahmad al-Sufi, Democracy Development Institute secretary, suspects the legitimacy of the local election and constitutional amendments results. In a statement to the YT Mr. al-Sufi said "The voting was nothing but the result of so many violations." He described the whole procedures from the beginning of the elections process until the voting as "illegal" due to the troubled and confused circumstances which dominated the whole election.

He said that the institute reported and noted thousands of minor violations, plus six major ones committed by the SEC during the election process since the first stages. He revealed that it violated the law, as it denied some of legitimate age participation in the elections and referendum. The SEC has also deprived the religious minorities from the candidacy which is a violation of the principle of full equity among citizens ensured by the constitution.

The administrative division upon which the

local elections are based is illegal and is a major violation as it violates the principle of equality among districts restricting rights to choose equal representatives, he added asserting that statistics of the Institute indicate voting had stopped in more than 190 electoral centers due to chaos resulted from the violations committed on the day of voting.

He emphasized that voters were subjected for many pressures, the most outstanding of which is making him stand in confrontations with the authority of the state, besides, violating the secret voting right of citizens. He also noted the low quality of ink used in the elections through a practical experiment made by the institute asserting that it was easily removed making it possible to forge the elections. The monopoly of official media for the very interest of the ruling party enhances the view that these elections are not at all legal and tend to weaken trust on their results, he concluded his statement.

Complimentary Elections in Sana'a Came through

SEC failed to conduct complementary elections in Sana'a due Sunday after being put off due to people's objection to voting cards late arrival and reducing candidates number. Fully armed tribal groups from Hamdan, Sana'a governorate, had stopped the election process in constituency No. 236, as the committees delayed distributing cards until the middle of the day. Moreover, the SEC had decreased the centers from 20 to 18, a step viewed by YCRP, Islah, as a blow to restrict their control as the party expected full support in all these centers. Demonstrators from the tribes, estimated at more than 10,000, carried heavy weapons objecting to the SEC step and to face any military campaign that may be conducted against them.

In a statement to YT, a reliable source in Islah, Hamdan, hold the SEC accountable for all the chaos and delay.

Complementary elections in other centers

witnessed conflicts and disputes between Islah and PGC, especially as the SEC announced varied results on which Islah got few seats not exceeding 50% of what Islah has already declared.

In a report issued 25.2.2001, Islah indicated that till 10:30 voting cards had not reached the following areas: Hamdan district, al-Haymah al-Kharjah district, in al-Jubain center (W) constituency No 247. In Jehanah, electoral committee had got cards on referendum of the constitutional amendments, those for centers representatives. However, the committee did not receive those for districts representatives. This has made the original committees along with voting committees use pieces of paper to vote. Chaos continue to prevail the whole atmosphere in many districts which may breed violence in case security interferes to settle things, especially after orders by President Saleh to face any terrorist acts.

Farewell Mr. Hoshi

The Embassy of Japan organized a farewell party last Saturday in honor of Japanese Ambassador to Yemen Mr. Akira Hoshi on the occasion of expiry of his term of office. The party was attended by a good number of Yemeni, foreign diplomats, journalist and correspondents.

Mr. Hoshi has been able to promote relations between Yemen and Japan to their strongest form. The increase in Japan's aid to Yemen is an example of those good bilateral relations between the two countries.

Mr. Hoshi is leaving Yemen for home tomorrow before he resumes work as an Ambassador of Japan to Syria.



400 Egyptians at Saudi Embassy

More than 400 Egyptians demonstrated yesterday in front of the Saudi Embassy at 11:00 as the Embassy refused to endorse their admission visas for carrying out pilgrimage rituals. The Egyptians came to the capital seeking admission to Saudi Arabia from all governorates of the Republic. Their hopes were dashed after they followed procedures for 20 days. However, all was to no avail.

Mrs. Thuraiah Sunisi, 75 and an Egyptian national, protested this treatment towards them with tears running down her cheeks and considered this an insult to Egyptian expatriates living in Yemen.

An Egyptian diplomat, requesting not to be identified, told YT that the cause may be that the Saudi consul had not shown flexibility when completing Egyptian pilgrim's procedures.

Land Mines Destruction Campaigns Continued

Between 19-22 Feb. 2001, a Workshop on the Design of Materials, Resources and Other Media in Mine Awareness Education Programs was held in Aden. 35 participants, 27 participants from Europe, Latin America, US, Asia, Africa and Australia and 8 Yemenis, took part in this workshop organized by Radda Barnen (Save the Children Sweden) in Aden. It was also attended by Mutaheer al-Sa'adi, Cabinet Affairs Minister and chairman of the National Demining Program Committee. In the workshop, participants reviewed experiences gained and lessons learnt from the use of different mine awareness materials/resources in different contexts as documented in assessments and evaluations, and as recounted through the extensive experiences of participants. Participants also carried out a systematic analysis of lessons, in order to draw conclusions on the effectiveness of different contents, designs and strategies for the use and dissemination of mine awareness materials/resources to different target groups in different contexts and environments. Using the media means to promote awareness was also discussed. The workshop was considered to be the first of a series.

During the winding up ceremony, Mr. Mutaheer al-Sa'adi made a speech in which he thanked all international organizations that had taken part in making the workshop a success, asserting that Yemen would make the best possible use of this workshop and he expressed his high estimation of the Swedish organization for choosing Yemen for holding this workshop. He asserted the importance of extending a helping hand to the victims of mines and the importance of citizens reporting any incidents to the demining program so as to help affected people.

Mrs. Kristina Nelke, Radda Barnen Regional Advisor, gave a few words commending the efforts and activities of the demining program. She noted that Yemen was the first Arab country to sign the International Ottawa agreement and was also among the first countries to endorse it, adding that Yemen was the first country to conduct a comprehensive mines survey.

At the end of the workshop delegations headed towards al-Wahat, Lahj governorate to destroy 4286 mines, with the support of the US government. The first destruction of mines was conducted last year on 14.2.2000.

IN BRIEF

Nordic journalists to visit Yemen

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Yemen is hosting a visit of six Nordic journalists from Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland between 22 February-1 March 2001. The main objective of the visit is to better understand Yemen's development progress and challenges and the role of UNDP/UN in supporting these challenges. Special attention will be given to gender/women's issues in connection with the International Women's Day 8 March.

The visit is arranged in collaboration between UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP's Country Office in Yemen and UNDP's Nordic Office in Copenhagen. Two staff members of UNDP's Nordic Office will accompany the journalists.

Ethiopian Political Refugees Demonstrate

Tens of Ethiopian political refugees demonstrated yesterday morning in front of the UNHCR office in Sana'a holding banners condemning the discriminating treatment the office practices against their cases. "In spite of

our repeated call for sympathetic consideration to our cause," they said, "There has so far been no positive response from the UNHCR branch office."

Charitable Society to Integrate Akhdams in Society

A Charitable Society to look after Akhdams has been recently declared in Taiz with the objectives of improving Akhdams' living standards, organizing training courses, helping them find better jobs and residence and integrating them into society so that they can enjoy full legal rights.

Educational Skills Course Conclude

The Aden University concluded last Wednesday the 9th Course of Educational skills for teaching staff of the university. The course took place at the College of Medicine between 4-21 February 2001.

At the course winding-up ceremony Dr. Saleh Ali Basorrah, Rector of Aden University highlighted importance of such courses. Certificates were also distributed to the participants during the ceremony.

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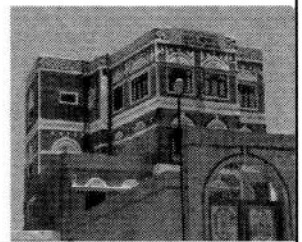
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Prominent Canadian Author Larry Frolick to YT:**“The Cultural History of Yemen is of International Importance!”**

Larry Frolick is a prominent Canadian author specializing in culture and society. He took university degrees in both anthropology and law and he is presently in Yemen researching for his next book “The Search for Sheba’s Gold”.

Being impressed with what Yemen Times staff provide its readers, he decided, on his arrival in Sana’a airport, to visit the Yemen Times Bureau in Taiz.

With two copies of articles with photos taken from Yemen Times and written by its Taiz staff journalists, Larry was able on his arrival in Taiz to recognize Mr. Mohammed Al-Hakimi of Yemen Times who had the privilege of interviewing him. Excerpts from this interview follow.

Q: What brought you to Yemen?

A: I am doing research for my next book, The Search for Sheba’s Gold. I have had the great help of a new Canadian company, Canadian Mountain Minerals (Yemen) Ltd., which is looking for minerals in Yemen. This is a public company and Mr. Fipke is the CEO.

Q: You told the Yemen Times that Yemen is the first Middle East country you have visited. Why is that?

A: It is the most mysterious country in the Arab world for Westerners. Among other things, it is the country where the great French poet Arthor Rimbaud once lived.

Q: Have you always been a writer?

A: I studied and took university degrees in both anthropology and Law from the university of Toronto in Canada. I was editor of the college literary quarterly and I worked as a lawyer, and my family were all writers – brother, mother, uncles, and my father too. So it was natural I would continue this tradition.

Q: What books have you published?

A: I wrote Splitting up Divorce, Culture and the Search for a Real Life, in 1998. This was a serious book about social change in industrial society; next is Ex Human The Shadow Life of Digital Culture, about our relationship to the new machines. I also edited my brother’s book, Fire Into Ice and Charles Fipke and The Great Diamond Hunt by Venon Frolick, about the billion-dollar diamond mine discovered by Mr. Fipke in Canada. This book was a number one bestseller. They will make a film about it next.

Q: How long has your research taken you so far?

A: I began my research 18 months ago, reading every thing in the University of Toronto research library,

and speaking to geologists, archeologists, and historians. Always the same question: was there a queen of Sheba? Was it possible for such rich gold mines, as the Old Testament says, to exist?

Q: And what is your opinion?

A: Last week I visited the National Museum in Sana’a. There are many interesting alabaster statues of either queens or goddesses. The technical level of the Sheba script suggests that a high level of civilization existed in 1000 BC in Yemen. Both the Bible and the Holy Quran say it too.

Q: Why are you so interested in the queen of Sheba that you would write a whole book on this?

A: I was interested because so many people were interested in this subject. Not only the Arab people, but of course the Ethiopians, the Jews, and European Christians too, were fascinated by the story of a great queen of the south who journeyed with 120 tablets of gold to see the wise prophet, Solomon. What was it about this story that has fascinated the world for 3000 years?

Q: And what do you think made this such a popular story?

A: I think it is a story about what is truly valuable between man and woman. A “deep myth” historically true, and true also on a deeper level as all myth is.

Q: Do you have any example of myths that are “true” like this, from your own country?

A: Yes. There are many. For example, we have many stories in our newspapers and contemporary folk culture about aliens; these creatures have big heads, pointy eyes, little bodies. They don’t do any thing bad to us, yet these aliens threaten us because they both exist and do not exist at the same time.

Q: So you are saying that Europeans both believe and do not believe in aliens, at the same time?

A: Yes, the alien represents the very real principle of uncertainty. We, in the West are no longer certain of our own survival as a species. The alien is like the shadow of our death—extinct-human descendants—evolution. The technology of DNA terrifies us, so we tell ourselves stories about it. This is myth.

Q: Very interesting. Why did you come to Taiz? Are you looking for aliens here too?

A: I enjoy your company! Seriously, the Yemen Times strikes me as an intellectual newspaper. I was happy to meet with you and Farouq Al-Kamali who wrote a wonderful article about queen Bilquees just when I arrived in Yemen. I was very lucky!

Q: And where will you be going next?

A: I hope to visit Ethiopia soon and see the home of queen Makida.

Q: And what comparisons have you made between Yemen and Canada?

A: The geology of Yemen is exactly like Nevada in the US. In Canada we have a lot of rocky mountains with fertile valleys, not most people want to live in cities.

Here I think many people want to live in the country. Because of the cold weather, people in the Canadian countryside are more socially isolated from each other. In the cities we huddle together for comfort and eat donuts or other pastries baked by a company that was started by a hockey player. See, more myth!

Q: And what do you think is the future for literature and culture in Yemen?

A: I think it is wonderful, for three



reasons: One, your ancient history is your valuable birthright. Two, your neighbors, India, The Gulf and Egypt, give you interesting perspectives. Three, the obvious democratic impulses of the Yemeni people and their love of classics is a powerful force when combined. In art I believe formal training is everything, and this you have in Yemen.

Q: Thank you for this interview. Any last words?

A: I want to thank the people of Yemen and the Yemen Times for their kindness and generosity. God be with you!

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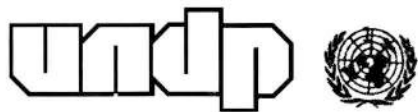
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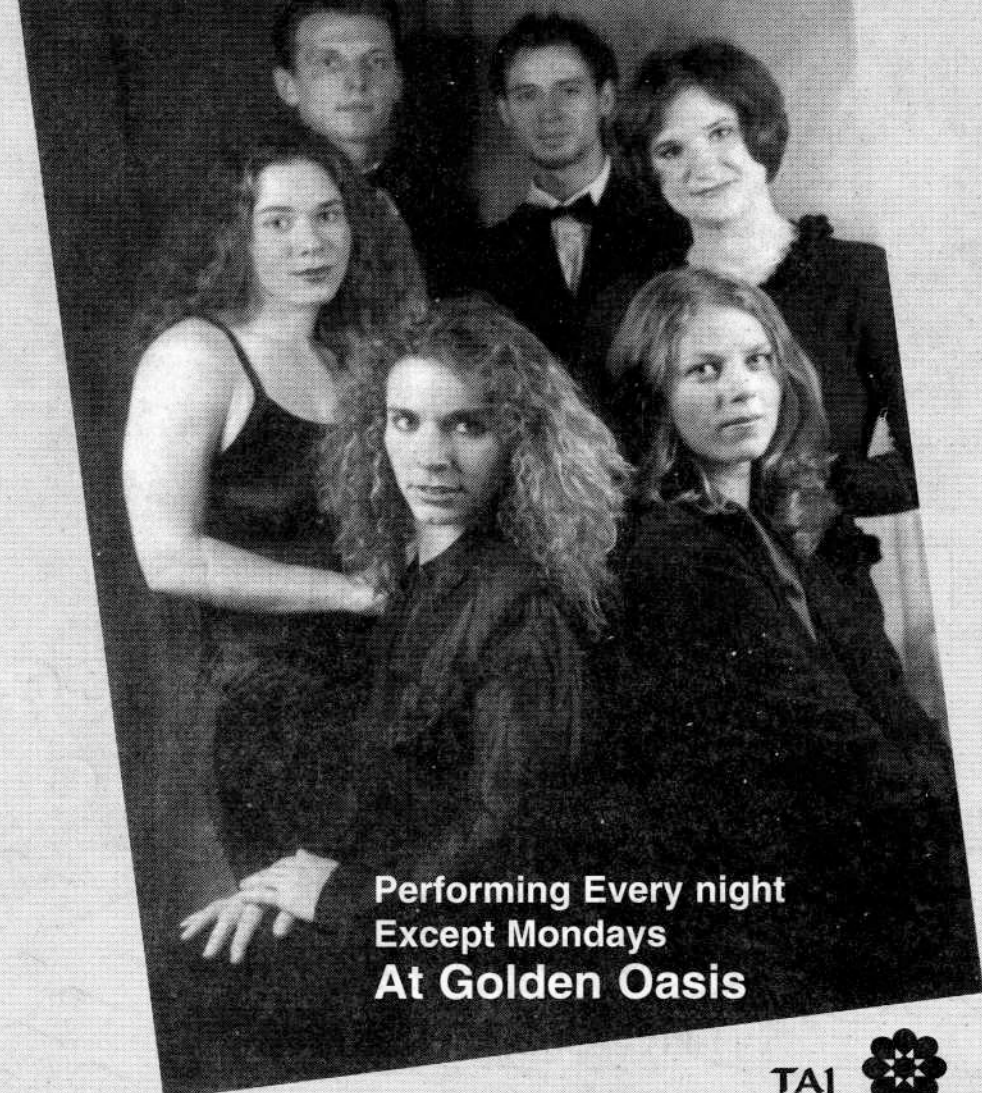
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President Saleh Launches Spacotel GSM Network



President Ali Abdullah Saleh inaugurated the Spacotel Yemen GSM network last Monday and made the first mobile to mobile call through the Spacotel network. On this occasion Spacotel Yemen held a press conference last Monday at the Taj Sheba Hotel attended by a good number of businessmen, politicians, journalists, etc. The attendees were briefed on the plans and strategies of the company and importance of the project to the Yemeni economy.

Mr. BOURDEU, General Manager of Spacotel Yemen, expressed his happiness for the success of the project indicating the company's readiness to provide the best quality services for customers in Yemen.

On behalf of the local shareholders, Mr. Hayel Shaher Abdulhaq announced opening doors for applications as from the same day of the conference. He also expressed thanks to Minister of Transportation and all those who contributed to the success of the project.

Marketing Manager, Mr. Walid Akkaoui highlighted the primary plans of Spacotel Yemen to provide 104 radio stations with the capacity of 65000 subscribers covering 8 main cities.

Spacotel, a pioneering company in the world of telecommunication based on GSM systems since the beginning of the 1980s operates in many countries round the world including, Britain, France, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, KSA, Ghana, Liberia, Monaco, etc. and since September 2000 in Yemen.

Spacotel Yemen launched the experimental period on February 15 while the official inauguration will take place on February 28. The company has already assigned more than 30 sale center ready to serve customers 18 hours a day.



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A Century of Oppression

Yemenis have experienced over a century three different regimes, the most important of which were the Turkish regime, the Imamate which coincided with colonization in the South and finally the republican regime. How can we assess these stages? How can we account for Yemenis submission to forms of suppression during some of these stages? How about the future and how can the new generation look towards it? Can we say that the current political leadership is the most suitable to rule in the future? What about the current democratic process being adopted as a developing political trend? How do politicians and decision makers view the state of affairs of the country and the people in the future?

Mr. Kadri Ahmad Haider answered some of the above questions saying "Some of these questions go back to the historical background and some are related to the present time and the future. As for the first part of the question, the Turks invaded Yemen two times. The second invasion lasted until 1918, preceded by the Ra'aan agreement in 1911 which left the Northern tribal areas under the control of Imam Mohammed al-Mansoor, extending his rule to the al-Shafiah Southern areas.

As a matter of fact, Yemenis did not submit to similar oppression over the last one hundred years. Rather they resisted any such attempt and struggled hard to protect their honor. They were involved in military and political conflicts and wars against the Turkish invaders. Besides, the complex geographical location of the tribally-armed northern areas helped to sup-

port the struggle against the Turks during the two invasions. Many Turks were killed during the Yemenis struggle for freedom, to the extent that Yemen was labeled the graveyard of the Turks. The defeat of the feudal, military Othmani Empire in the First World War forced the Turks to leave Yemen. Whatever remained from the Turkish invasion by way of buildings, palaces, and government administrative units was taken over by the Imamate.

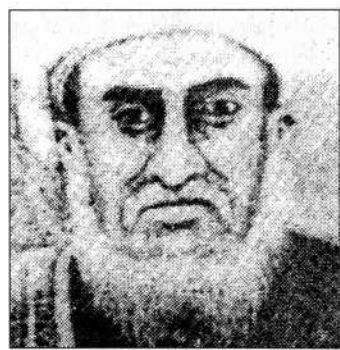
We can safely say that the Othmani Empire attempted to destroy all the progress and development achieved while invading Egypt and the al-Sham countries. It also attempted to impede development in these countries. However, in Yemen there was nothing to destroy since the reign of the Imamate was the worst ever. During the reign of the Imamate, lasting from the end of the third century Hejira to the 1960s, there were no steps taken to help move the country forward. Conflicts either between tribes or among themselves were witnessed throughout this period. Social and political unrest and instability dominated the whole atmosphere during this time. It was indeed a levying authority, an authority that tried to ostracize Yemen from the outside world under the pretext of protecting the sovereignty of the state. It was a country characterized by rampant poverty, ignorance and illiteracy in its worst form, except for a few years of the al-Sulayhin, Rasoliah, Ziadiyah and Tahriah reign.

Due to their oppressive and backward policies, many important areas of Yemen including Ascer, Najran and Jaizan were given away. Besides, the British colonialists invaded the southern part of Yemen. However, the people in the southern part of the country

did their utmost to resist this colonization until the attainment of independence. There were also some political forces fighting against the Imamate in the north and these forces began rendering religious advice and consultation. Finding that this stance had no impact on the tyrant ruler, they tried to overthrow his kingdom through coups in 1948 and 1955. However, these two coups were unsuccessful.

After the 1948 coup failed, many revolutionaries were executed, others imprisoned and still others fled to Aden and other countries. When the republican regime came into being after the 26 September revolution in 1962, some regional forces opposed it, supported by tribal forces, leading to war. Due to these wars the course of development was obstructed and political conflicts over the republican regime diluted the supreme values of the revolution until its social and revolutionary fervor faded away. Then, the movement of November 5 1967 was a major political step, leading to the 23/24 August 1968 uprising, after the reconciliation between the monarchical forces and Saudi Arabia in March 1970. In fact, the revolution suffered from many setbacks throughout all these regimes, especially during the last two decades of military coups.

There is another cause of depression



and despair on the part of the people after the restructuring of the social and political base of the regime. We should never lose sight of the 1994 war which cost the country a lot of blood, as well as enormous financial expenditure, estimated at \$ 11 billion. Today there are thousands of graduates in the streets, due to the government's callous attitude towards providing them with job opportunities. Moreover, there is a marked weakening in the foundation of the country which has not yet been completed.

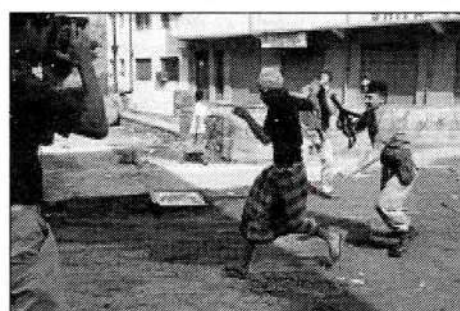
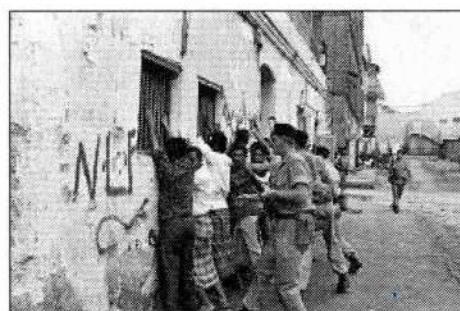
The current political regime is just a reflection of this sad plight. Its continuation is unlikely to lead to any political relief or any change in the current scenario in which corruption has turned out to be an organized, complex vice, impossible to control. The current political regime, in my opinion, is not one that can lead the state through the enormous crises that it faces and is not qualified enough to lead Yemen into the third millennium, as there are growing attempts to restrict the democratic process which, in course of time, will turn out to be mere decor to satisfy some foreign sources and to reflect a rosy picture of a real misery. It is clear that republican regimes can change into something like monarchies. Sons of leaders are now in charge of most of the high posts, holding key administrative and economic positions in the authority. They have

already, of course, paved the way for this situation through controlling economic and commercial affairs, destroying all the traditional merchants and traders in this field.

The current political regime is in need of a critical analysis. Besides, our rulers should be aware of the extent to which the situation in the country has deteriorated and be ready to launch concerted efforts to conduct comprehensive reforms and changes.

All the proposals of the opposition parties or politicians, either in their programs or in their political studies revealed through the press, have no effect. Many of them comment on this by saying that their proposals are not responded to favorably. On the contrary they are misunderstood and are viewed against a regime which has been stripped of its republican content and where nothing remains except the name. We witness nowadays a clear move in the reverse direction, counter to the principles and objectives of the events of 26 September and 14 October.

To conclude, I would like refer to the 'submission' of the Yemenis which, while it was not seen during the period of Turkish occupation, can be seen now. However, I feel that it is the calm before the inevitable storm.



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The Role of Immigrants' Remittances in Yemen's Economy

Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi
Yemen Times
mhaqadhi@hotmail.com

At last, the recommendations of several conferences on Yemeni immigrants and the importance of establishing a bank for them, seem to have materialized since a preparatory committee was established. It is headed by the famous Yemeni businessman Salem Ba-Ala, chairman of the Arab-Kenyan Association, besides including 20 other businessmen. Sources at the Ministry of Immigrants' Affairs said that the ministry is preparing a draft study in collaboration with the Yemeni Central Bank about this project.

The idea of establishing a bank for immigrants has been one of the topics highlighted at several meetings and it's potential role in the development process was discussed at the First Conference of Yemeni Immigrants 1999, Fifth Conference of Businessmen, 2001 and also at the immigration seminar held last January wherein several issues concerning immigrants, their investment and role in building up Yemeni economy etc. were discussed.

Yemen has around 4 million immigrants living in different parts of the world. They play a very significant and pivotal role in improving the economy of their country through

their remittances which are a main provider and contributor to Yemen's development and investment process since the 26th September Revolution. Those immigrants conducted several trade and investment projects all over Yemen let alone the activation of internal and external trade drive. Reports from the Ministry of Immigrant Affairs point out that the total amount of their remittances during the period between 1990-1998 reached \$ 10 billion and 199 million and it has been estimated at \$65 billion during the last three decades, around \$ 30 billion of which flowed to the country from Saudi Arabia alone. Then comes Kuwait, UAE and Qatar. But the Second Gulf War caused by the arrogance of the Iraqi leadership and the Somali civil war reduced the remittances due to the return of around one million immigrants. This put Yemen in a fix and exercised a lot of pressure on the already fragile economy of Yemen. The official statistics indicate that the immigrants' remittances have gone down from \$ 1.5 billion in 1990 to \$227.4 millions in 1992. However, they improved since 1994 for the total amount of remittances registered at the Central Bank of Yemen moved up to \$753 millions. This is because some of the returnees were allowed to go back to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries plus the remittances of those who stayed in Saudi Arabia during the past ten years.

We notice that around 81% of Yemeni immigrants live in Arab countries, mainly in Saudi Arabia which has 700,000 i.e. 81% of the immigrants in Arab countries. There are 500,000 in the United Arab of Emirates. The rest, 19%, are in other foreign countries. It is now very clear that these remittances have a significant role in building up the economy of Yemen. They played a role in relieving the deficiency in the trade account to the tune of 71%. They also played a role in financing imports in 1990 to the extent of 79% and the exports in 1987 amounting 93%. This figure went down to 49% in 1996.

Economic studies also indicate that the remittances have a role in pushing forward the GDP for they added around 2% to it during the period between 1992 and 1997. This important contribution of remittances became visible during the degradation of the gross national product (GNP). The GNP was 20% in 1993 while the GDP reached 26% in the same year. Similarly, in 1994 the GNP picked up to 22% and the GDP was riding high, reaching 30%. The role of these remittances' contribution to the GDP was at its best during 1995, 1996 and 1997. It hit the highest level in 1996, that is 22.2%.

As a matter of fact, these figures make clear how important the role of immigrants is in supplying the Yemeni economy with hard currency. Therefore, establishing a bank for

them has become a must as it will serve these people, include their remittances as well as finance their projects and investments. However, the project of the bank should not remain only in the form of the preparatory committee. That is to say, it should materialize soon and see the light of day. The government can do a lot in this regard if it is taking the idea seriously. We should not leave everything for immigrants to handle. This is one point. The other is that the government should offer the immigrants more facilities and privileges and be always in good contact with them, not only when we think of their investments and remittances. It should provide a good atmosphere for them so as to enable them to invest their money. In fact, it should make Yemen SAFE to attract more investors from abroad, not merely Yemenis but foreigners as well. It should also do something to relieve the plights of the returnees who are now jobless, begging in the streets so that those living abroad would feel that their government takes care of its people in their joys and agonies. However, I can see in the visits of the Minister of Immigrants Affairs, Dr. Ahmad Al-Beshary, a silver lining as regards keeping in touch with immigrants, listening to their agonies and aspirations as well as assuring them that they are adored members of the society and that their role in the development of their country is indispensable.

Challenges Faces Combating Child Labor

Mahyoub al-Kamali

In cooperation with the World Labor Organization, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has produced a program that is being carried out to combat child labor in Yemen. Child labor among 12-15 year olds is a growing phenomenon owing to the high rate of families needing supporting, low income of poor families, deterioration in the purchase-ability of the national currency and the sharp increase in price waves. Sources in the Labor Ministry indicated to YT that the program has the objective of limiting the phenomenon of child labor, preventing children under 15 from working in hazardous and strenuous fields which may render them vulnerable to permanent handicaps and affect their physical and psychological health.

In order to achieve the objectives of the program, the republic is divided into three regions: coastal, agricultural and commercial. In each region a certain kind of child labor is defined. However, what happens in reality reflects the dangers of this phenomenon, posing social, cultural and economic hazards for the whole society.

Volume of Child Labor:

Field surveys reveal that child labor in Yemen is doubling annually due to the increasing number of poor people who, according to statistics of WB, are estimated at 2.6 million.

Mr. Jeer Mershtad, from the ILO, said "Child labor is attributed to certain setbacks and the inefficient education system. The Yemeni economy suffers from the lack of handicraft and technical crafts."

Studies prove that 45% of the labor force is illiterate while internal migration has given rise to family divisions forcing children to take to the labor market.

A study in this regard has estimated

right and access to education, statistics show that there is an unbalance in distributing educational services between the town and countryside. They also indicate a high rate of students dropping out from schools and an equally high rate of failure. There is also disorder in the educational balance between males and females. The rate of female students joining basic education levels is very low in comparison with that of males.



Practical Solutions:

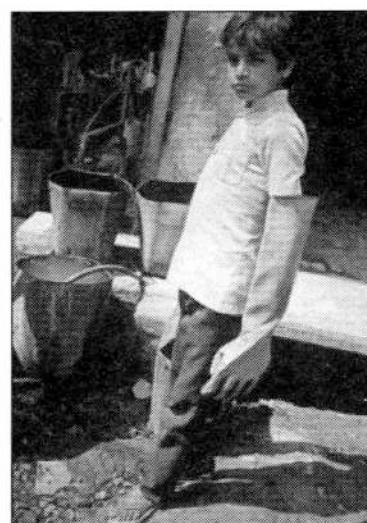
The program prepared to curb child labor in Yemen includes promoting awareness of families among agricultural groups to the dangers of children using chemical substances and insecticide. However, this seems to have a very low advantage. It is nothing more than media activity that doesn't do much to curb or reduce the growing child labor phenomenon.

The problem of child labor requires an agenda of action and pragmatic steps to be taken and implemented to address the phenomenon socially, economically and culturally, especially as this phenomenon is increasing in the course of time.

Legal Protection:

Yemeni Labor Law has made a relatively legal protection for children. However there are still some limitations in the Law requiring amendments to ensure full protection of these vulnerable groups of society. The law has to define the work age in a way that corresponds with the time they finish their study at the basic education levels. It has also to oblige employers to abide by international and national conventions pertaining to upholding children's rights which support taking measures to save children from suppression, abuse and exploitation in the labor market.

All said and done, in order to limit this ever increasing phenomenon in Yemen, economic measures to raise



that children who are less than 15 make up 50.3% of the whole workforce. That is a high rate that demonstrates the high percentage of family dependents, on average, 5 to 7 individuals.

Of all children in Yemen, 21.1% are involved in economic activities. This high rate poses many associated dangers due to their taking up jobs that do not fit their physical or psychological abilities.

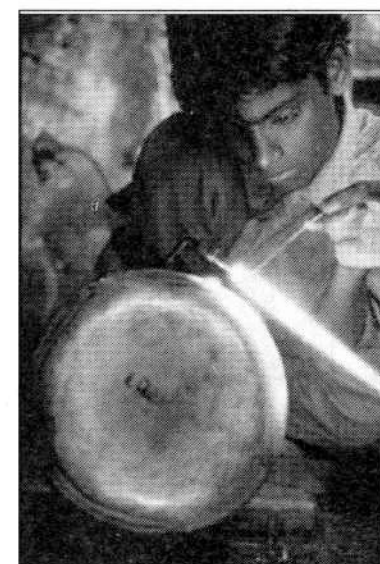
Sordid Exploitation:

A researcher of the Norwegian Fafo Institute for Applied Social Science indicated in a report on child labor in Yemen that employers do not give fair wages to children working in positions similar to those of adults. He mentioned "They are paid less than 2/3 of the actual wages of the post in the market." The study indicated that this was a bad exploitation of child labor and a suppression of their rights which is banned in all legislation and laws relating to children's rights.

Surveys reveal that the average monthly income per child is less than \$ 20 dollars, that is less than \$1 dollar a day, though they are subjected to take up hard activities exceeding 12 hours a day.

Child's Right to Education:

Though the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts every body's



and develop individual incomes are a must and should be given priority over all other issues to achieve overall development for the local communities. Measures should also be taken to relieve the unemployment rate ensuring free education for children especially at the basic education levels. The factors leading to students dropping out should be studied carefully and tackled. Girls should be encouraged to join schools. Divorce and parental separation should be minimized to ensure a conducive atmosphere for a stable childhood in Yemen.

Aden Port: Back to The Future?

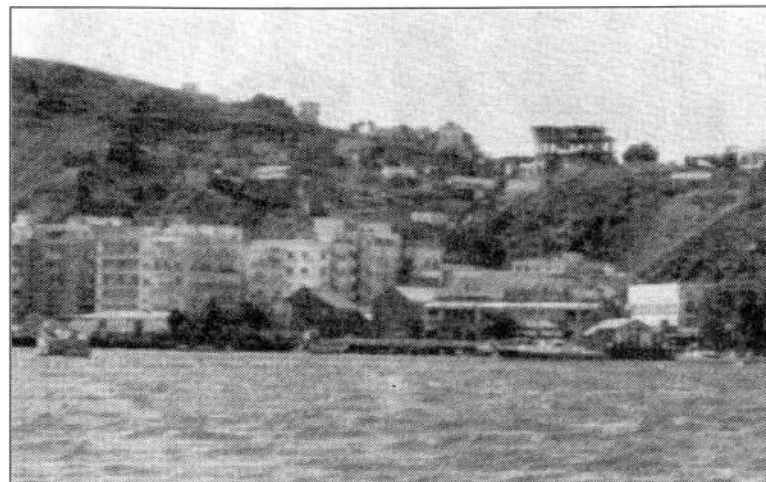
Karen Dabrowska

Aden was once the world's top bunkering port after New York. An important staging post for shipping between Europe, the Mediterranean and Asia, some 6,000 vessels called at Aden each year during the 1950s and 60s. But shifting trade patterns, war, political changes and uncertainties drove the business elsewhere. The port was reduced to a shadow of its former self. But, with the recent growth in container traffic using Aden for transshipment services, the situation is changing back to Aden's favor. Today Aden's position in the 'world traffic league' of around 400 container ports has climbed from No 330 in 1995 to around 130 in 2000. This year it is expected to handle 400,000 TEU's (20 foot containers) and will then become one of the top 100 world container ports.

The Cole incident has not affected container shipping, even though some

passenger ships took Aden off their itineraries in the short term. Optimists like Ahmed Fadhli, a victim of the land confiscation of the socialist era in the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen whose farm was returned to him after unity, believes that the development of the port and free trade zone will ensure Aden flourishes. The positive spinoffs will spread to Abyan, Lahj and Taiz.

"Aden is an obvious stopping point for the huge ships, which now carry 7000 or more containers each, travelling from Europe", Fadhli says confidently. Cargo can be unloaded at Aden and taken to South Africa, Cape Town, the whole of East Africa, the Gulf, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and India". His views are echoed by the Yemeni government which bills the Aden Free Zone as an international gateway to business opportunities in three continents: Asia, Europe and Africa. According to EU Consultant J. Pearce, the FZ could be a motor for economic growth spurring new regional trade and business opportu-



nities. But many of the locals are not convinced. An estimated 50,000 people are living in the streets of Aden, many of them northerners who have come to the south in search of work. Around eighty thousand civil servants, mostly from the south, have been made redundant.

"Dreams of a bright future are only dreams and there is no future", said Ali, a civil servant who took early retirement. When people have worked for 35 years they are 'entitled' to retire, and now are encouraged or made to do so. Many people in their 50s who started work at 17 are in this position and are very unhappy about it.

The statistics suggest that the optimists are more realistic than the pessimists. Aden's annual growth since 1992 (9,632 TEU's) has been 2,600% and new services and expansion of existing services continue to feed traffic growth. The New World Consortium started calling at Aden every Wednesday from mid-January this year, using the port for regional transshipment to the Red Sea, East Africa, the Gulf and the West coast of India. Other lines providing similar services are considering Aden in preference to other ports in the region. Total container throughput in Aden in 2000 was almost 248,000 TEU's, more than double the 1999 figure of 121,700.

But competition between regional ports is severe and collaboration is unlikely. Aden's container handling tariff is therefore very competitive, although its marine tariff is certainly higher than many of the regions competitors. The minimal deviation required for a ship trading on the

main world east-west route via the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden to call at Aden gives it advantages over other ports in the region.

Growth at Aden is also reflected in the numbers of vessels calling each year. Excluding fishing vessels and yachts, this reached 1,668 ships in 2000, rising from under 900 in 1995. By 2005 it is estimated that some 2,330 large vessels will call at the port as it continues to expand its services to international shipping. Around 20 passenger vessels and 170 yachts visit Aden each year and there is a little continuing show building activity.

But serious deterrents to the development of the free zone are the frequent complaints from potential investors about the difficulty in getting information and licenses because of excessive bureaucracy.

Perhaps in reaction to such complaints, the EU has agreed to grant Yemen \$759,000 for institutional training at Yemen's Free Zones Public Authority. Ahmed Fadhli was looking forward to an influx of business people and investors from Hong Kong last year. "They did not come due to our stupidity", he said sadly. "A small clerk can stop an investment directive from the president".

But confidence in Aden's potential has prompted the Germans to invest DM 80m in restoring the sewage system. New buildings such as the Ma'alla Plaza and the Thabet Brothers Building along the 'Ma'alla Mile' have been built, and are seeing increasing occupancy. Hotels are being revamped and foreign business visitors can look forward to staying at places such as the new Red Sea Hotel, currently under construction.

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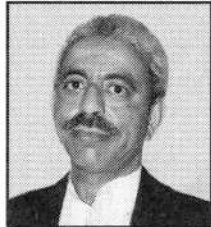
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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi



Local Elections and Constitutional Referendum: A Mixture of Bullets and Ballots

It seems as if when something good ever appears to be in the making in this country, there are elements in society that insist that for the Yemeni people, even the best things in life can be turned into a mockery by mischievous elements that distort all the aspirations of the majority of the people in this country, who seek nothing more than to be dealt with honestly and equitably and to be given a break from all the folly we have made out of everything from religion to politics to wedding celebrations and even to funerals, let alone the democratic process.

While the recently held local council elections and referendum for the unneeded amendments to the Constitution were somewhat hesitatingly welcomed by the majority of sincere citizens, it was clear that the evil monsters that loom over everything that involves national sentiment and the public will have again proven that

no matter how much lip service we give to democracy and the pluralistic approach to dictating the public will, there are still many well entrenched people that either fail to understand the sincere intentions of those who have put the hopes of the nation on this approach to deciding the political future of the country. On the contrary, it seems that these elements insist that only they shall dictate the future of the country and it is they who ostensibly and clandestinely control the fate of their people. It amazes any observer that despite the more than 10 years' experience with democracy and political pluralism, it goes without saying that we have not gotten any closer to really allowing the Yemeni people to decide freely and objectively what is right for the future of the country and who shall be given the mandate for directing the course of the country towards achieving the aspirations of all simple and sincere citizens of the

country. On the other hand, it seems clear that the common practices of democracy have become nothing more for all those who have turned every facet of our society into a mercenary enterprise, than another opportunity to fill their pockets and bleed the state coffers to satisfy their own selfish drives and manipulate the public will to suit their own whims.

Notwithstanding all the above, it is just incomprehensible that in a simple, democratic process that supposedly determines political will in a peaceful manner, the country turned into a battle ground for power brokers and thugs who care the least about their people's desire for manifesting democratic practice in a peaceful manner that reflects the cultural and civilized nature of our people. On the contrary, these evil elements have preferred to show that we still have a long way to go before we can turn the political

process into a peaceful win or loose contest that is freely decided by the ballot box, rather than the bullet box. What ensued over the last two weeks defies explanation as tens lost their lives for no logical reason except to affirm that the way is still open for the enemies of the Yemeni people to disrupt any activity or function that on the surface seems to be for their benefit, but in the end turns out to be another of those terrible games some people play to suit their own selfish drives and to make a mockery of what might appear a real qualitative leap in the political process, that should eventually drive these monsters out of the political arena and send them to hell for all the mischief they have carried on for so many years, without giving the people any break from their evil deeds.

Why should there be so many lives lost and why were there so many infractions in what should have been a peaceful endeavor? Obviously, the idea of fair play has yet to enter the minds of those that have had a free hand in determining the political course of the country and failed to do so successfully and honorably. It goes without saying that even political processes are bound to be guided by sound behavior and practices, where the last thing one can envision is to have the guns come out to ensure that the voting process is no more than a

cliché like all the other clichés we have been fed by the regime, as it tightens its hold over the will of the people more and more, by forcefully implanting its elements at every level of authority, leaving the people with less to hope for as the future becomes at the mercy of these elements and the society undergoes systematic fragmentation and decay in all spheres of life.

If that is not enough, it seems clear that even the ruling parties themselves find it difficult to engage in peaceful political endeavors as they turn to their guns to ensure that whatever piece of

the pie they have is not eaten away by their allies and "strategic partners", which underscores the fact that the constituents of the regime fail to understand that there just has to be some room for what the people view as the logical approach to take: let the ballots decide and put away the bullets forever, before you finish each other off and drive the nation into needless uncontrollable civil strife, which is the last thing the country needs now, considering all the mess they have put the country in for no logical reason whatsoever and by distancing themselves from public sentiment and national interest altogether.

Yemen Is Leading The Way..

By Dr. Ali Hassan Alyami
Berkeley, California - USA

I am writing as a mindful reader of Yemen Times and an admirer of its staff for their courageous resolve, under less than convenient circumstances, to challenge and expose questionable practices by political, religious and tribal groups in Yemen and beyond. In addition, I am a native of the Arabian Peninsula who has a keen interest in the democratic evolution of Yemen and its implications for the surrounding, ultra conservative neighbor-

ing states. Yemen Times' existence and ability to stay open in a region where political expression is not allowed to bear fruit is indicative of the Yemeni people and government's confidence in themselves and in their heritage.

I have read many excellent articles in Yemen Times, but none seemed to have moved me into writing more than the one that was written about a Yemeni non-Muslim citizen, Azar Al-Nahri, issue six.

Mr. Al-Nahri is a Yemeni Jew, who was unable to run for an office, in Amran, because "the election laws"

do not permit non-Yemeni Muslims to participate in their nation's political process. As a Muslim who is a citizen of a non-Muslim country, I couldn't help but reflect on the differences between nations that treat religions as personal and those that don't. Nations and peoples who respect and tolerate the individual's right to choose have always prospered and coexisted in a much more peaceful environment than those who make it their business to impose their religious and political will on others.

Mr. Al-Nahri's story is a vivid testimony as to the use of Islam as a deadly weapon to discriminate against and deny non-Muslim citizens their right to contribute to their societies in Arab and Muslim countries. Such pretentious practice is also used against women, children and other minorities in Arab and Muslim countries. This is odd, because Muslims are always complaining unceasingly and profusely about non-Muslim criticism of such religious intolerance.

When Mr. Al-Nahri was asked about what he was going to do if the election laws were not changed in time for him to run for an office: He replied, "...If I am not allowed to be a candidate, we will still be voting for the best person of our brother Muslim Arabs." He went on to say, "After all, religion is for Allah, but the country is for all Yemenis." Amen. One can only hope that the Yemenis will change their election laws to pave the way for all

Yemenis to participate fully in the political process, regardless of their religion, gender or status.

Having said the above, one can't deny the fact that Yemen, with its meager income, centuries of isolation, high degree of illiteracy and impenetrable tribal traditions, has come a long way since its 1962 revolution. Yemen is more advanced politically than all of its wealthy neighbors. This reality makes Yemen and the Yemenis the envy of the citizens of their neighboring countries. That's why the ultra conservative and autocratic regimes of the rich Gulf States feel threatened, therefore, will do what ever they can to torpedo the Yemeni precarious democratic process. This is because the populations of the rest of the Arabian Peninsula are yearning for freedom of expression and for full political, economic and social participation in decisions that affect their daily lives.

Democratization is a global movement that can't be stopped even by the harsh application of swords. There is no going back on this trend because people, world wide, are discovering that their human and Divine rights will not be respected without their full participation in choosing the form of governments that will abide by the same laws and conducts that are being applied to the governed.

Yemen is going in the right direction, consequently, the long term benefits will outweigh all of the short term sacrifices the Yemenis are making to secure the continuation of their democratic process.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am a Yemeni student in India and I would like to send you my best regards and thanks for the all the effort you're doing to provide the latest, though most of it not happy, news about our beloved Yemen. And I want to thank all the Yemen Times' employees including writers, publishers, editors and the web designers for providing the latest news in the WWW. I just want to suggest that it would be useful of you to provide some news about the education sector in Yemen so that we, students outside Yemen, can keep track of the latest news about education in Yemen.

Ammar Ali Al-Harazi,
a_al_harazi@yahoo.co

Dear Ammar,

We will indeed be concentrating on education related articles starting next week. Please keep on following news through Yemen Times. —Editor

When will we feel secure in Yemen?
Last time I visited Yemen was January 2001 when I came to Sanaa to collect

some compensation money. On my way out of the country at Sana'a airport, I was surprised to see a security officer checking my pockets. I had never experienced this weird act anywhere else in the world. At the time I thought that was the worst it could get, but the security man found cash money on me (around USD 10,000) and told me that no more than \$3000 was allowed to be carried by any individual out of the country. I realized that I had to pay him an amount of money (bribe) so as to let me go. Since I had no time and because I had to be in the office the next day, I bargained with him and his boss and eventually paid them \$100 and finished the deal.

I am asking, "when will we feel safe and secure in our own country?" This was the last check point before boarding, and whoever wants more details about what happened, is welcome to contact me via email.

Omar Mohamed - Kuwait
omarmana2001@yahoo.com

More letter on page 22

SILVER LINING

Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com



Understanding the Voting Value

Voting is the main factor of a democracy. It implies peoples' actual and practical participation in the political life of their society. As a matter of fact, it is a genuine and substantial tool of change. In a democratic society, people should feel aware of their vote's value in leading the drive for change in their countries. But, are people in Yemen aware of this value? I do not think so, do you? There are several reasons behind it among which are illiteracy and lack of awareness. I along with some friends visited several balloting centers in Sana'a last Tuesday to report the voting process and peoples' participation in it. I asked some voters why they voted. Their casual reply was that because the government wanted them to do so. I asked again whether they cast "yes" or "no" vote to the constitutional amendments, though it is not my right to ask such a question but it is the inquisitiveness of a press man. They gave the okay to the amendments because the government wanted this too. I asked some villagers the same questions. They told me they did as directed by their sheikhs. These sheikhs still hold a firm grip on the people of their regions and direct them with remote control. In addition, in some areas where people are poor, candidates pay money to voters. In this way, we could say that most people in Yemen are motivated by their tribal and partisan affiliations rather than their incentive to change their situation and improve their country. This is related to the high standard of illiteracy among people (70%) which means lack of

awareness of their vote's value. That is, they should be educated about the power they have to change their bad conditions. They should be made aware that they can be more powerful and influential than their sheikhs if they exercise their right of voting appropriately. However, this needs implementation of a law that does not discriminate between sheikhs and citizens as we still find that some sheikhs have their own jails. It is only in this situation that voting could be of great influence and value to the public. Otherwise, voting loses its importance. Rather, it adds power to sheikhs and other influential social dignitaries who then exercise more oppression on their people in a rather "civilized and democratic way." Another point I would like to discuss briefly is the relationship between PGC and Islah in the light of the current crisis and conflict between them over the election. The two parties have accused each other of violations and violence that took place in some places. Islah appealed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh to interfere and stop such practices. I wondered if he would interfere as he does usually to calm down the high riding conflict between the two parties, though he himself denied such a crisis. Anyhow, Islah has become the real competitor that PGC has to consider, not the opposition, particularly after this election. This is because the winning candidates of Islah will be a headache for the PGC. In short, if the relationship between the two parties gets worse, Islah might join the opposition in the coordination council. This step would be the real challenge to the PGC. We shall wait and see!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

By Sharif Akram

The Struggle Between Democracy and Fundamentalism

Throughout the modern history of the Middle East there are two sovereign states: Turkey and Iran. These two countries have played a decisive role in the future of the Middle Easterners. Today, these two are again resuming their inescapable roles as the major powers of the region. The regimes in both, in their present form, were founded by revolution - the secular Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Both are inspired by revolutionary ideologies, which might be named after their founders as Kemalism and Khomeinism. And both ideologies, albeit in very different ways, are under attack at home. Most of the Middle Eastern countries alienated from their present rulers, are turning their thoughts or loyalties to one or other of these two ideologies - liberal democracy and Islamic fundamentalism. Each offers a reasoned diagnosis of the ills of the region, and a prescription for its cure.

Fundamentalism disposes of several advantages. It uses language that is familiar and intelligible, appealing to the vast mass of the population in a Muslim country. Fundamentalists also have an immense advantage over other opposition groups in that the mosques and their personnel provide them with a network for meeting and communication, which even the most tyrannical of governments cannot suppress or entirely control. Indeed, tyrannical regimes help their fundamentalist opponents by eliminating competing oppositions. The exponents of democracy in contrast offer a program and a language that are unfamiliar and for many unintelligible. They have the further disadvantage that the name democracy and those of the parties and the parliaments through which it operates have been tarnished in the eyes of many Muslims by the corrupt and inept regimes that used these names in the recent past.

All in all, Muslims are learning to distinguish between Islam as an ethical religion and way of life, and fundamentalism as a ruthless political ideology. In countries where the fundamentalists oppose the regime, such as Egypt and Algeria, fundamentalist terrorists have shown a callous brutality that shocks and repels ordinary, decent believers. In countries where they rule, such as Iran and Sudan, they are, perhaps inevitably, disappointing the hopes that they evoked. It is no surprise that the most serious challenges to the regime in Iran comes from its own ranks and not from outside.

It is also becoming increasingly clear that, whatever political and propaganda successes they may achieve, fundamentalist movements and governments have no real understanding of, and therefore no real solutions for the pressing problems of modern society. Their diagnosis is moral. The importance of morality and law is immense and obvious, but it does not suffice in confronting the pressing economic and social problems of the modern world. The future of these regimes will become more critical if these

problems persist until the time when oil revenues are no longer available. In the struggle between democracy and fundamentalism for power in Muslim lands, the democrats suffer from a very serious disadvantage. As democrats, they are obliged to allow the fundamentalist equal opportunity to conduct propaganda and to contend for power. If they fail this duty, they are violating the very essence of their own democratic creed. The fundamentalists are under no such disability. For them, winning an election is one of several possible roads to power - and it is a one way road on which there is no turning back. Once in power it would be their solemn duty to eradicate elements and ideas contrary to the law of God, and to enforce that law against all transgressors. The strength of the democrats, and the corresponding weakness of the fundamentalists, is that the former have a program of development and betterment, while the latter offer only a return mythologized past. The problem is that the weakness of the democrats are immediate and obvious; their strengths are long-term and, for many obscure.

Some speak about possible compromise between the rival extremes - a type of representation democracy not formally secular, with a moderate, but not fundamentalist Islam. There is a little sign of any such compromise as yet, and at the present time it seems unlikely that any will emerge. But the idea of a combination of freedom and faith in which neither excludes the other has achieved some results among the Christians and may yet provide a workable solution for the problems of political Islam.

The struggle between democracy and militant fundamentalism is not limited to the Arab and Islamic world. It is becoming increasingly important in Israel. Religion as such has always played an important part in Israeli life. It is, after all, the core of the Jewish identity and therefore also of Israeli statehood. In the past, political life in Israel was more or less along European lines - between socialist left, a conservative right and a liberal centre. There are signs that this is changing (eg. Sharon and Likud Party) and that the fault line in Israeli politics in the coming years will be less European and more Middle Eastern. This means the major confrontation will not be between right and left in the conventional Western sense of these terms, but between secular democracy and religious ideology.

In Israel as in the Muslim lands, the threat to democracy comes not from religion as such, but from a religiously expressed ideology imbuing old terms with new meanings and using - or misusing - the faith and hope of the devout in order to gain and retain power. Faith and piety are perfectly compatible with an open democratic society.

*This article is an adapted summary of the book titled "The Future of Middle East" by Bernard Lewis published by Phoenix Publishing in 1997.

Time to Combat Environmental Pollution!

Who is going to take responsibility for environmental protection? And how to tackle with pollution risks, specify diseases and effects affecting humans, animals and agriculture in Yemen due to the accelerating environmental disasters seemed to raise out of various causes? And more important, who is to compensate those affected by pollution? Such inquiries arise as a consequence of the legal sued file sued by Sheikhs of Mareb governorate against the Ministry of Oil and companies working in the fields of oil exploration, production and storing; these, said to be, are causes of many vital diseases spread and damaging agricultural land



and animal wealth as well. According to the file sued, works done by companies working in this fields in Yemen, are resulting in negative impact on man and animals in the governorate. While the file included proofs to show how death cases were recorded among the governorate citizens, appearances of cancer diseases of more previous observation before oil exploration here, the sued file is considered as the first exposed to judgment. It may disclose how pollution level is high, and how much is Yemen needing the UN Environment Program to deal against pollution risks in Yemen.

Yemen Environmental Problems Sources

While official plans remain unsatisfactory to assign level of the environmental problem in Yemen, primary figures indicate that causes are various. A report issued by The Environment Protection Council, informs how solid wastes are increasing leading to negative results and damaging renewal and none-renewal natural resources; and also affecting indirectly man's health and life. According to the report: 20% wastes of organic materials, 2% wastes of destruction and building, 4% wastes of plastic materials and textiles, 3% wastes of glass and 14% wastes of other materials.

In another report by the council on the

Specialists report other added factors causing pollution as follows:

1- Water crises and the pollution of surface and under-ground water resources that is represented by scarcity of water and the low leveled of water in the underground basins due to arbitrary digging of wells; in addition to the insufficient modes of irrigation, water supply and sewerage nets.

2. Determination of land resource and planetary layer due to the deterioration of land good for agriculture, extension of desertification resulting from the wrongly fructification of woods resources, wrongly postulation, bad investment of agricultural lands and pollution dangerous materials' increment.

3. Deterioration and pollution of urban, marine and coastal environment; wrong sewerage of irreclaimable wastes, humane arbitrary activities, oily pollution caused by huge liners and arbitrary fishing of fisheries.

4. Air pollution, represented mainly in the increase of exhausts of cars in main cities, air-spreading materials caused by industrial works one of which is dust exist in air sources from cement factories.

Thus Yemeni cities remain observing accelerating volumes of pollution. Certainly garbage and their accumulated piles near their barrels in streets, wrongly using methods of insects' killers and fertilizers, all affect man's health in both agricultural regions and on products' purchasers.

Environment Protection Responsibility

International environment structure has become protected by laws agreements and accords. In Yemen there is a law protecting environment that can be referred to solve pollution problems as well as assigning areas responsible to compensate those who deserve compensation. No doubt treating environmental problems, will help Yemen to achieve positive results leading to presence of factors improving human and natural development.

environmental situation of Yemen, amounts of harmful wastes are of multi-kind and volumes. It's estimated that annually there are more than 25 thousand tons of general oil wastes, 7 thousands tons of drugs and hospitals, 3500 tons of refining workshop's wastes, 200 tons of photographing workshops and 150 tons of insects' annihilating materials. Such wastes combined to defects caused by the works of the oil and exploration companies, enlarge the pollution volume; in a country that lacks sufficient circulated date assisting to clarify the environmental problems for public opinion via mass media.

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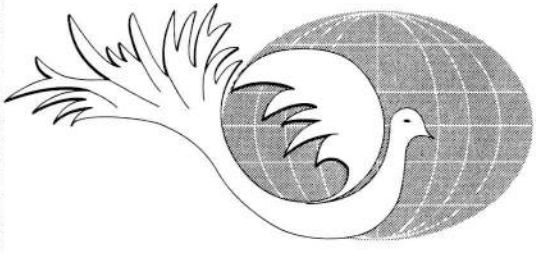
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Many Happy Returns...

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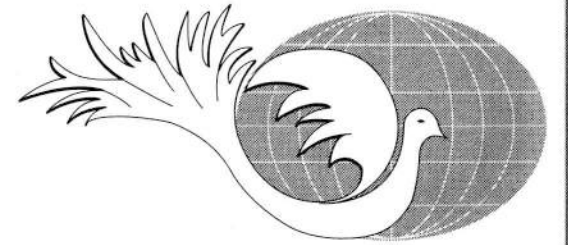
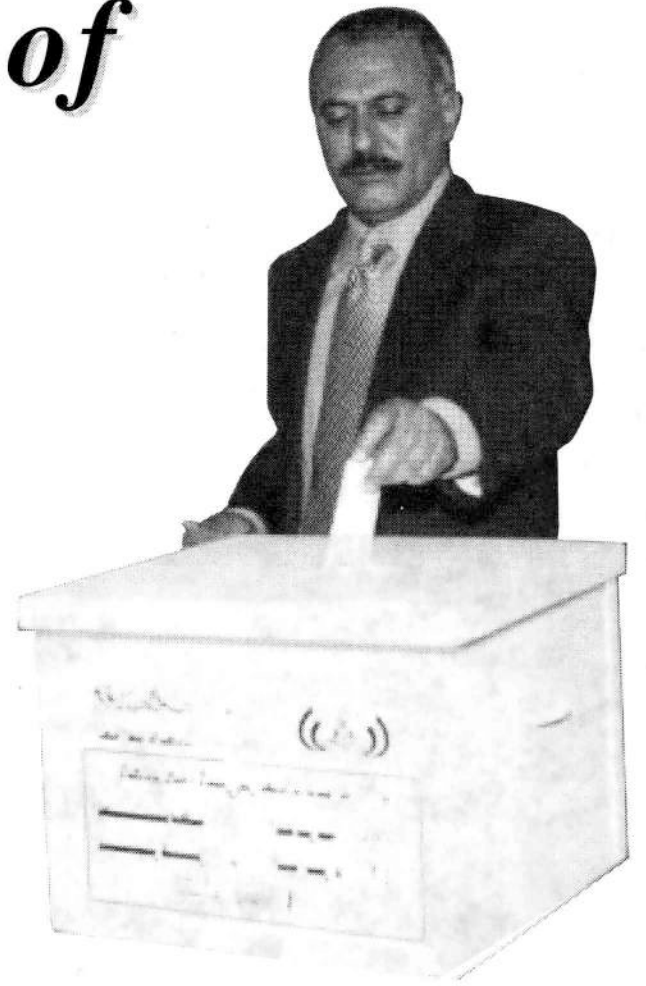
علي عبدالله صالح

ولشعبنا اليمني الأبي

أسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات بمناسبة العرس الديمقراطي الذي يحتفل به جميع أبناء الوطن والمتمثل بنجاح انتخابات السلطة المحلية، والاستفتاء على التعديلات الدستورية. والذي يتزامن مع استقبالنا لعيد الاضحى المبارك، أعاده الله على الجميع باليمن والخيرات والمسرات..

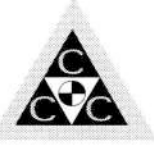
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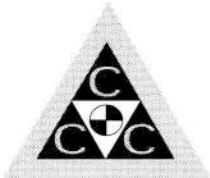
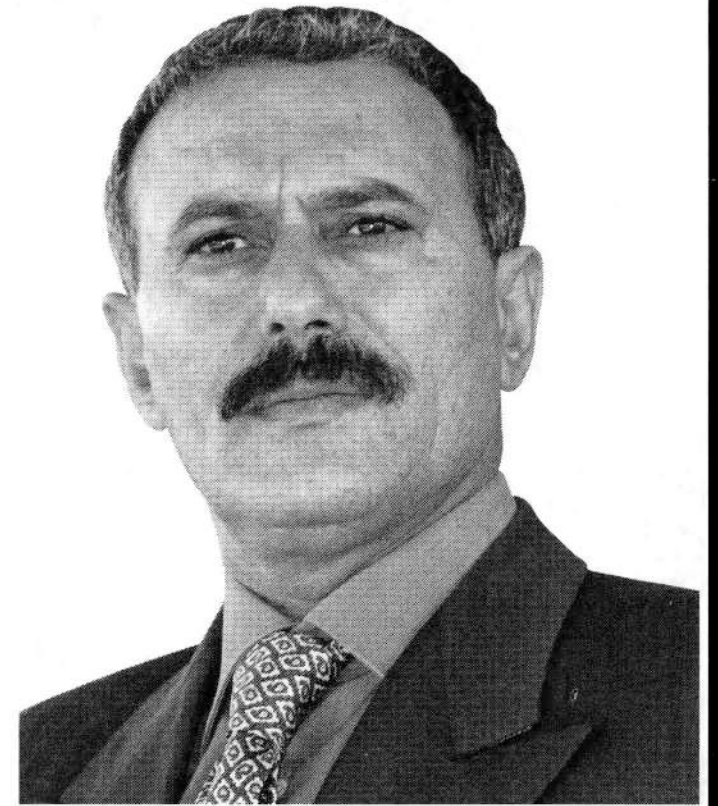
and all its staff Congratulate

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen,
and the Yemeni people

on the advent of the Greater Bairam (Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak)
and on the resounding success of the local councils elections and
the referendum on the constitutional amendments.

Many Happy Returns...



(سي سي سي)

شركة اتحاد المقاولين العالمية

تقدم

وكافة موظفيها

رئيس الجمهورية

علي عبدالله صالح

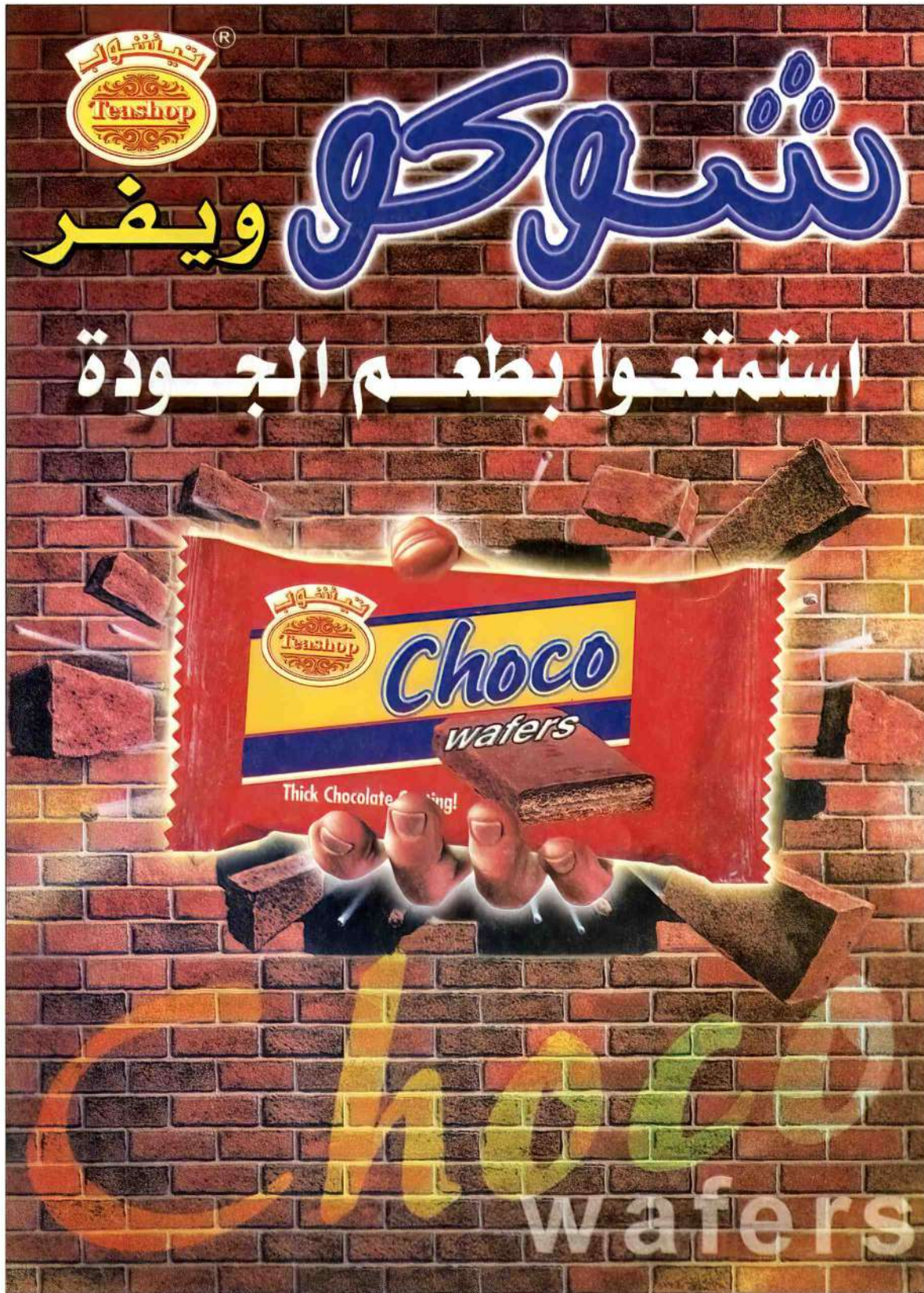
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والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

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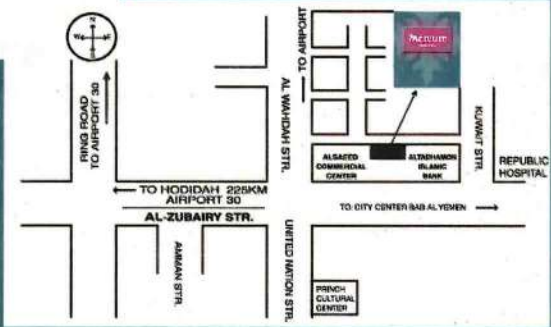
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Many Happy Returns...

نرفع لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ /

علي عبد الله صالح

ولشعبنا اليمني الأبي

أسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات بمناسبة العرس الديمقراطي الذي يحتفل به جميع أبناء الوطن
والمتمثل بنجاح انتخابات السلطة المحلية، والاستفتاء على التعديلات الدستورية. والذي يتزامن
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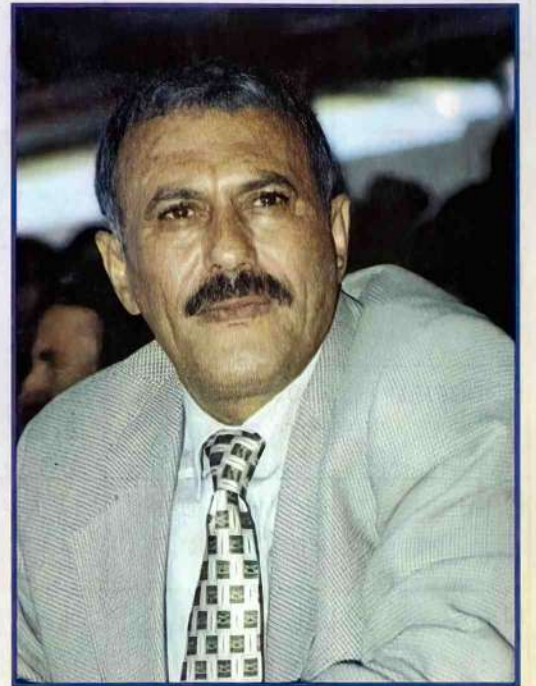
presents its heartfelt wishes and congratulations to:

PRESIDENT ALI ABDULLAH SALEH,

and all Yemeni People

On the occasion of the conspicuous success of the Local Councils
Elections and the referendum on the constitutional amendments which
coincided with the advent of Greater Bairam.

Many Happy Returns to All ...



ممثلة برئيسها الأستاذ الدكتور / عبدالله حسن الشيبه

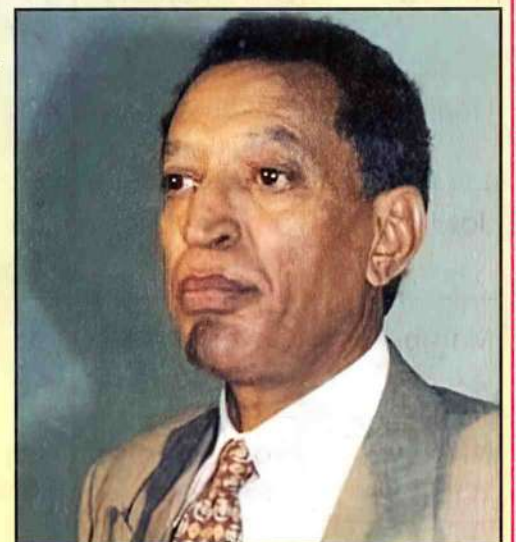
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يتقدمون بأحر التهاني وأزكى التبريكات إلى فخامة رئيس الجمهورية

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وإلى أبناء شعبنا اليمني العظيم

بمناسبة العرس الديمقراطي الذي يحتفل به جميع أبناء الوطن والمتمثل بنجاح
انتخابات السلطة المحلية، والاستفتاء على التعديلات الدستورية. والذي يتزامن
مع استقبالنا لعيد الاضحى المبارك، أعاده الله على الجميع باليمن والخيرات
والمسرات.. وكل عام والجميع بخير



SCANDALOUS ELECTIONS & DISPUTABLE RESULTS

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE SEC REVEAL: GPC Far Ahead of Islah, and 25 Women Candidates Win 75% Say "YES" & "20% Say "NO" to Amendments

The preliminary partial results of the local council elections revealed on Sunday February 25 by the Supreme Elections Committee in a press conference, are as follows:

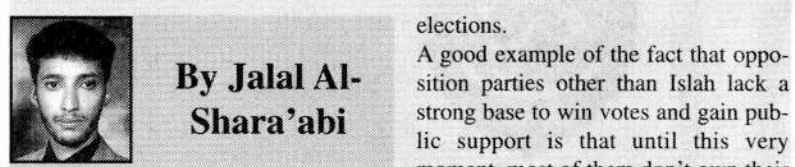
Number of voters who actually voted: 2,023,157 (27.3% of the eligible voters)
‘YES’ to amendments: 1,520,989 (75.18% of counted, and 27% of total votes)
‘NO’ to amendments: 413,418 (20.43% of counted votes, and 7% of total votes)
Cancelled votes: 88,750 (4.39% of counted votes, and 1.75% of total votes)

Constitutional Amendments Referendum:
Total eligible number of voters was around 5,600,000

Governorates	Councils for	GPC	ISLAH	YSP	Nasserite	Popular Forces	Al-Haq	Al-Baath	Independent	TOTAL
Capital Secretariat	Governorates Provinces	18 47	2 39						1 87	20 87
Sanaa	Governorates Provinces	4 90	2 21						1 19	7 130
Aden	Governorates Provinces	9 76	4 47	1 9					2 22	16 154
Taiz	Governorates Provinces	7 159	1 82		2 8				2 22	10 273
Lahj	Governorates Provinces	3 36	3 18	5 53	1				3 42	14 151
Ibb	Governorates Provinces	10 16	6 7							16 26
Abyan	Governorates Provinces	12 50	3 14	2 20					1 15	18 79
Al-Beidha	Governorates Provinces	11 149	2 57	2					1 26	14 234
Shabwa	Governorates Provinces	11 134	3 63	6					1 41	15 244
Al-Mahara	Governorates Provinces	12 106	1 3	2 8					3 23	18 140
Hadhramout	Governorates Provinces	19 273	8 79	21					2 125	29 498
Hodeidah	Governorates Provinces	23 318	2 54						2 24	25 396
Dhamar	Governorates Provinces	? 30	? 1	? 1					? 4	? 35
Hajja	Governorates Provinces	19 169	5 52			1			20 20	24 242
Al-Mahweet	Governorates Provinces	12 85	4 43							16 140
Sa'ada	Governorates Provinces	8 141	6				1		2 35	10 183
Amran	Governorates Provinces	7 70	3 50						1 10	11 130
Dhale	Governorates Provinces	3 24	1 22	2 4	1				2 5	8 56
Jowf	Governorates Provinces	9 34	1 6		1				2 11	12 52
Mareb	Governorates Provinces	? ?	? ?	? ?					? ?	? ?
NATION-WIDE	Governorates Provinces	195 2,052	61 664	12 126					23 460	281 3,324

?: Count not yet conducted or approved by the SEC.

Islah & the Glory of Victory



By Jalal Al-Shara'abi

Despite what is being said about Islamists and fundamentalists in Yemen before 1990 and their relationship with the investigative bureau of the Police Security Office (PSO), and regardless of their viewpoints regarding social and political issues, Islah has proved itself worthy of respect for its role in the local council elections.

If we remember the trio-coalitions of the GPC, YSP and Islah we will see how Islah surprised everyone by evolving as a strong party to form a coalition that could run the government from 1993 to 1997. However, after disappointment in the 1997 elections, Islah was left marginalized, and weakening many analysts think that the GPC strategy of marginalization and weakening would be effective to weaken Islah further. But Islah surprised us all once again by rising to the occasion in the country's first local council elections.

The only point of weakness that was raised by opposition parties is that Islah was no more than the other side of the coin, and its strong alliance with the GPC during the presidential elections was their supporting theory. But the alliance with the GPC, as Islah members rightfully say, was a key to their success in the local elections. Islah made sure that its strategic partnership with GPC would turn eyes away from its activities on the streets. Islah was not idle during these years of partnership. It was active on the public level through its community sessions and social activities.

Having Islah challenge the GPC, which controls the media, the army, and the public funds is not an easy task, and its role should be respected as it is the only party that was willing to compete against the ruling party with all its might. All observers expected less of a competition between the GPC and Islah, and the results astonished many political analysts, who realized that Islah was implementing a long-term plan to get a good share of the local council seats.

Islah is distinguished among all the opposition parties in that it worked day and night to prepare communities and societies for the elections on different levels. The other opposition parties failed to do the same, and hence it resulted in their failure to get the number of seats for any possible competition in the future.

Even though the opposition parties other than Islah were right when they said that the local council elections became a mockery and a drawback in democracy because of the extreme violations and armed confrontations, which were too high a price to pay. But it is also true that even without these violations, the opposition were not to find a good share in the elections due to their incomplete readiness for the

elections. A good example of the fact that opposition parties other than Islah lack a strong base to win votes and gain public support is that until this very moment, most of them don't own their headquarters and their newspaper's offices are still based on monthly rent. Hence, the opposition was not able to confront the media campaign or fight against the fraud or legal violations of the electoral process. All it was able to do was complain and blame the ruling party for all the mess, and that is it! Here once again, rises the Islah Party with the ability to confront the ruling party and put a full stop to its total domination and with a spirit of resistance, openly challenged the GPC during the electoral process. Most important of all, Islah had reminded us that there is a way to break the domination of a certain party in power. With hard work, long-term planning, resistance, and with a spirit of challenge, everything is possible. Even though the GPC was not able to accept the shock of failure in many electoral centers, and even if the GPC holds elections again and wins these centers, the fact is that Islah has risen to the occasion and shaken the GPC.

I personally believe that any success for Islah is a success for democracy at this particular time, not because it is Islah, but because it is the party that broke the GPC domination, and once again established a reasonable balance of political power.

Islah seemed to have faced all sorts of fraud and violations in support of the GPC in many electoral areas as many eyewitnesses confirmed. Yet, it did not give up, and continued its fight for its right, and for all the hard work it exerted for so long.

Several Islamic parties in the Arab world presented sad experiences that led to the violent diminishing of their parties. Their Islamic movements that were once successful and popular among the public were later crushed by the governments of their respected countries, mostly by orders of the west, which cannot accept an Islamic government taking over power.

Islah presented an example different from many other Islamic parties. It used strategy, vision, and long-term planning to reach its goals. It did not openly state its views in a way that could give an excuse to the government to shut it down or crush it, as many other parties did in the past. Its tactics and strategies were the main reason for its success in the latest elections.

The heated armed confrontations, which were taking place as I was writing this article, lead to something of a drawback in the democratic process, especially concerning the constitutional amendments. But if there is only one positive reflection of the elections, then it would be the reminder that there is always a possibility to maintain a balance of political power, in a peaceful manner. That is what Islah demonstrated, and that is what other opposition parties should learn from.

Continued from Page 1:
Tanks Take Over

"The situation is tense, and we cannot predict what will happen next" an influential Political Security Officer (PSO) told YT. "The PSO is in its highest alertness in getting things under control" he added.

As the official results keep coming piece by piece, Yemen Times publishes today preliminary official results, which were announced for most governorates except for Mareb, which is thought to have been won by Islah after a very tense and close competition.

Even though the official results were rejected by all parties, except the GPC, discussions and meetings are expected to be held to end the dispute and have at least the main two parties agree on the results.

Violence during and after the elections has claimed more than 30 lives so far, and confrontations are still evident in many areas, including Mareb, Hama, Sanaa and Ibb. The final results are not to be released until the election process is complete in the 126 disputed electoral centers all over the country. Islah does not intend to step down and accept the results of the SEC, which could ignite a political crisis. According to observers, the situation is tense and could explode at any moment.

Local Elections: ANTIDEMOCRATIC VIOLATIONS & INCIDENTS

The outcome of the local council elections and the referendum on the constitutional amendments seems to have a negative impact on politics and democracy. The elections were marked by clear interference from the security systems and GPC MPs to determine results in many constituencies in favor of the ruling party.

Observers say that the elections have proved the GPC's upper hand, which enables it to determine the result of elections in its favor by exploiting the media, public property and the army.

The elections also marked a retreat in women's participation in political life. There were only 108 women candidates as against 220,665 men. The opposition parties are still doubtful about the results, indicating that violations took place all over Yemen.

Yemeni Political Parties Unanimous on Violation

Yemeni opposition parties, as well as the ruling party, have been unanimous in claiming that many violations permeated the electoral process from its beginning and also during the days that proceeded the elections.

The parties have issued many statements in which they exchanged accusations regarding the rigging of the elections. The ruling party (GPC) has issued several statements accusing the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) of sedition and creating crises.

An official source at the General Secretariat of the GPC, condemned attacks on ballot boxes and acts of violence committed by extremist elements of Islah against a number of main and security committees at a number of constituencies in different governorate aiming, basically, at disrupting the democratic process and the success that was achieved through our people's enthusiasm for exercising their legal rights in the referendum.

For its part, the Islah party considered violations to have been committed by the GPC, expressing regret for such occurrences. An Islah statement has said that the GPC has used authority and the official media for its party purposes.

A statement by Opposition Coordination Council, which groups five parties led by the Yemeni Socialist Party and Nasserite organization, considered the elections to be neither democratic nor legitimate, considering the conduct of the ruling party which it attributed to its desire to return to a one-party system.

Opposition parties expressed their determination to lodge a lawsuit against the Supreme Committee of Elections, challenging the legitimacy of the elections.

56-D&E-Taiz - 2 boxes arrived at 10 am and voters were allowed in at midnight. However, it was the supervising committee which ticked the horse (representing the GPC candidate), instead of people, resulting in the withdrawal of representatives of Islah and the opposition parties.

30-A-Taiz - Boxes were brought to male voters at 12:30 while the female committee forced women to vote for the GPC, although some foreign observers were available.

54-C-Taiz - Representatives of the candidates, except the representative of the GPC, were not allowed in.

31-A-Taiz - Voting boxes were water cisterns and different kinds of bags.

36-B-Taiz - Boxes did not arrive until midnight.

52-A-Taiz - Boxes were late, and voting was put off until 3:00 pm. Owing to lack of voting cards, they were changed to ordinary cards photocopied in a nearby studio.

65-F-Taiz - Boxes arrived at 4:30 pm. The candidate of the Nasserite party was listed as independent and his symbol was missing.

52-Taiz - Candidate of the GPC broke in firing place during the referendum.

61-A-Taiz - A Sheikh fired in front of the electorate and dismissed representatives of the opposition parties.

51-Taiz - Firing took place to frighten the voters. Members of the female committee voted for the GPC instead of the listed voters.

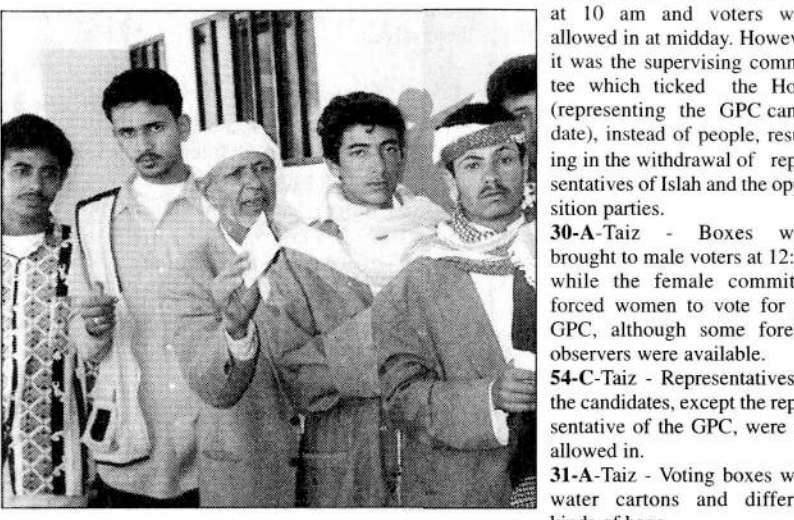
117-C-Ibb - Confrontations, accompanied by firing, took place among members of the GPC and Islah parties. Candidates of the opposition parties withdrew after members of the GPC tore the voting cards and forced people to vote in the outdoors.

92-C-Ibb - Symbols of the candidates were not printed on the cards except for the GPC's. The director of the district of Badon forced people to vote for the GPC as a result of which the constituency was surrounded by people and the voting process was stopped.

95-B-Ibb - The director of Al-Makhader district attacked one of the candidates.

106-A-Ibb - Voting cards brought to female voters were of constituency No. 88.

93-G-Ibb - GPC member of the Parliament,



people to vote for the GPC.

H Al-Dhalea - Female member of the supervising committee, GPC members, voted instead of illiterate electorate.

Al-Madinah district. Some independent candidates were dropped.

232-D Al-Beidha - Symbol of the Nasserite candidate, Abdullah Ahmad Al-Shaddah was changed.

231-A Al-Beidha - A symbol of the independent candidate, Ahmad Bajghi, was changed.

263 Al-Beidha - Symbol of the independent candidate, Abdul Wadoud Thabet Al-Humaidi, was changed.

169-A & 168 Hodeidah - Voting process continued until the evening.

A, B, D & G Al Khokha - Voting process was stopped because the symbols of the candidates were changed.

167-A, 168-A & 169-A Hodeidah - Navy, Army as well as Air-force elements were brought to vote instead of the registered voters.

167-Hodeidah - Deputy Governor of Hodeidah, General Ahmad Hassan visited constituencies and forced people to vote for him. Those who tried to reject his orders from the committees were arrested.

265-A & C Hajjah - Symbols of some of the opposition candidates were changed.

273-D Al-Shahal - District, Hajjah Chairman of the main committee was arrested because he refused to obey orders to cheat the voters and was replaced by Mohammed Ahmad Abbas, a GPC member.

268 & 269 Hajjah - Voting took place at 5 pm.

256-A Hajjah - Some voters voted for more than once, and two people were sometimes allowed together into the cabin.

201-H Dhamar - Symbols of independent candidates were missing. Supervising committees directed the affected candidates to photocopy new forms at their own expense (candidates).

212-C Dhamar - A Sheikh took 2 ballot boxes home.

201-C Dhamar - Commander of the Republican Guard, General S'ad Abu Horyah, took the boxes to the camp and arrested independent candidates and representatives of Al-Baath party.

219-Dhamar - Symbols of the Islah candidates were changed into the GPC's 'Horse'.

206&207-Dhamar - Boxes have not been released yet.

205-Dhamar - Owing to problems among the GPC and Islah supporters, boxes were moved to a different place as suggested by Sheikh Hamoud Ziad.

204-E Dhamar - President Saleh gave orders to shift the location to constituency No. 200. Voters did not move there.

219&220-Dhamar - Women's ballot boxes were moved to a number of houses in the village without the knowledge of the candidates' representatives. In the same constituencies, Minister Mohammed Khadem Al-Wajeeh addressed the gathering telling them to vote for the GPC candidates if they want to get water and electricity projects.

211-Dhamar - Voting process start at 5 pm.

210-Dhamar-Voting process start at 5 pm.

Al-Anisi of Islah to YT:

"After the GPC sensed its failure, it created a lot of problems through its associates."

The Assistant General Manager, Abdulwahhab Al-Anisi, of the Islah Party stated that what had happened in the local council elections from fraud, postponements and counting suspensions were not expected and are not based on the constitution or democracy.

In an statement to Yemen Times he said, "The developments are based on a arranged plan prepared before the elections. The plan targeted all the areas where parties other than the ruling party could gain some ground. However, after the GPC sensed its failure, it created a lot of problems through its associates."

He added, "The violations that occurred on the 20th of February are intentional. Right now, it has become clear that GPC supporters who had already voted in some centers, were being ordered to vote in centers in which the electoral process was suspended. This is so as to win whatever is left of more than 30 electoral centers, in which the GPC stopped the electoral process until it could secure a sure win."

Mr. Al-Anisi also explained that what the GPC condemns as 'terrorism' is actually done by the side that has the media, assets, and the army on its side. As for Islah, it is a peaceful, well-known party, which has a clear stand regarding terrorism that all are aware of.

"The mockery that we witnessed in these elections reached a level in which ballots have been photocopied on the orders of the Supreme Elections Committee in many governorates. Until this very moment, the SEC has not agreed on which centers to have the elections resumed or redone in, and it doesn't know the voting weight to be given to the different electoral centers. So if it sees that if the GPC's presence in some centers is significant, it would give it great voting weight, but if it does not have influence there, it would give it little weight. This is what has been done so far, and is still being done until today" he concluded.

Islah Defeats GPC in Mareb

According to unofficial results, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform won 86 seats against 23 for the General People's Congress in the District Local Councils in Mareb held on February 20. The GPC also suffered a great defeat in the Governorate Council election where it scored only 5 seats against 12 for its rival, Islah.

A source in the Islah party revealed that the voting process was interrupted in many constituencies as the GPC realized its certain loss. Seventy vehicles carrying armed tribesmen belonging to the Islah Party were deployed along the Safer-Mareb road blocking the way of gas and oil tankers and threatening the piercing of oil pipelines in the city if the counting of the remaining votes did not take place inside the city.

Commander of Brigade-25 Mechanized in Sirwah was confronted by tribesmen when he tried to transfer ballot boxes to a military camp. "This has happened despite the fact that tens of soldiers were sent to our area to vote for the GPC, but we received them with our weapons and bazookas. They can never decide our destiny. We chose Islah, and Islah it shall be," said a tribesman in Mareb commenting no the results of the elections

SEC Mismanagement Crippled the Election

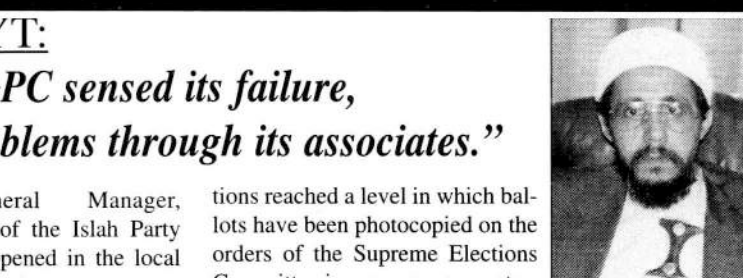
Mohamed Al-Qadhi Yemen Times

The idea of local elections is of great importance and aimed at decentralizing authority and expanding public participation. But, running it in a such a farcical way turns it into the reverse as the way the local elections have been conducted has been accompanied by a lot of violations and infringements. First of all, the election process was not run in more than 200 voting centers. This was due to technical problems along with parliamentary elections. This was before the constitutional amendments that extended the parliamentarians' term in office to 6 years. The NDI said in its report that running both elections simultaneously would put the SEC in a fix. This is what happened causing several problems in the election process.

Another point is this. The heated competition between the political parties in Yemen, particularly between the GPC and Islah, resulted in a lot of problems out of which deaths and injuries occurred. The controversy between the two parties accelerated in the last few days, as it became clear that the two parties were competing with each other very strongly. They exchanged a media barrage in a ruthless way. They accused each other of having terrorist militias and of violating and falsifying the election. Islah accused the GPC of using the public treasury and media to serve its interests as well as carrying out oppression and terrorist acts against Islah and the opposition. It was also accused of murdering independent candidates to make sure of their success, mainly one in Ibb and two others in Al-Baidah. The GPC, however, held Islah responsible for violence and bloodshed in Al-Haimah and other places which claimed the lives of tens of people, most of them security men. This development between the two parties puts their old-aged relationship in jeopardy.

The opposition parties however, claimed the election was "unfair" and "illegitimate" owing to violations that took place during both the voting as well as the screening processes. In a press conference, they even called for re-voting, threatening that they would file a case in court in protest against the infringements which they accused the ruling party of committing. However, they openly said they could not decide whether to withdraw or not. They claimed they needed time to take such a decision. This clearly shows how fragile their coordination is. This call by the opposition to vote again was made fun of by the GPC. It was explained as a precaution to justify their failure in the election.

From this we can conclude that the election process was accompanied by several shortcomings which could have been minimized to some extent if due preparations had been made.



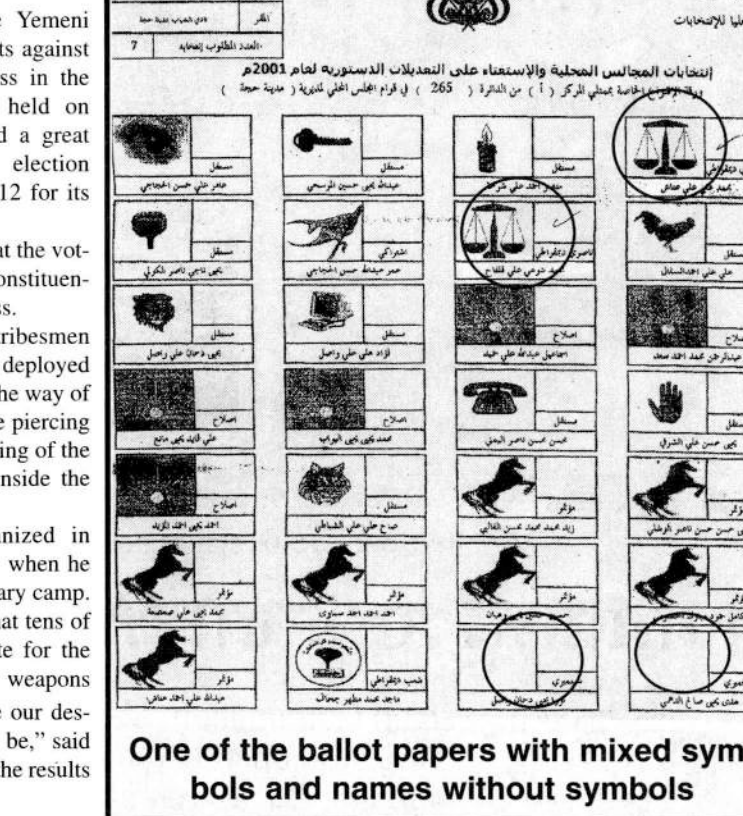
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One of the ballot papers with mixed symbols and names without symbols



One of the ballot papers with mixed symbols and names without symbols

Saber, Peaks Cuddling Clouds

Abdul Hakim Hashem
Taiz

The car goes up on an unpaved zigzag road, leading us away from the marvelous city of "al-Halemah," Taiz. Houses shrink as we go up the mountain and appear like packets of matches. The white clouds shroud the way in front of us like a white tropical carpet.

The passengers in the car seem to have become used to the uneven and bumpy street and to the irritating movements the car makes. Rather, they feel more inclined to chat about many things. In a moment of silence, the driver extends his hand to the cassette recorder, pressing the play button and the eloquent sound of great singer Ayoub Taresh is heard. The passengers are held spellbound, listening in total silence as if they are under a spell. All could not help but express their satisfaction at the good taste of the driver. Their approval was clearly seen on their facial expressions. While listening, one is certain to identify himself with the songs and start looking to the natural scenery and marvelous view of the whole mountain which appears, because of the terrace, to be a flight of stairs. The greenness of the

mountain is another picture certain to take you to another world of beauty and peace. Women with their traditional costume working on these terraces or going home is another lovely picture making anyone take notice and survey intently. This is Saber Mountain with all its beauty and wonder. It spreads its arms, embracing the city of Taiz in the most astounding matter. It bestows a holy beauty and quietness on the whole atmosphere. It has a great deal to offer, leading many people to call Taiz "al-Halemah," meaning the dreaming Saber Mountain, that extends across the southern part of Taiz in a mountain chain.

Since time immemorial, Yemenis have lived on top of mountains, mainly because of their feelings of insecurity and also to enable them to defend themselves from any invasion that might target them. The way they used to build their houses very close to each other is a clear signal of this. Saber mountain is affiliated to the districts of Taiz city. It's surrounded by al-Hujariah and Jabal Habashi from the other sides. More than 160 thousand residents are living in Saber and are distributed over three districts:

1) Saber al-Mawadem District:
The closest district to Taiz city consisting



of 15 villages. It extends from the north east to the north west.

2) Mashra'ah & Hadnan District:
In the middle of the mountain and considered the smallest district in the Republic. It is 8 Km in size.

3) al-Mesrakh District:
Situated in the south west of the mountain. The highest peak of the mountain is more than 3200m above sea level. It is called al-

Arooss peak.

** Man and his Environment:

Yemenis have traditionally adapted themselves to the hardships of mountain life. They could utilize available natural resources in the mountains to survive and obtain their basic needs. There are many features which distinguish this region including terraces, water basins, houses, traditional costumes, social customs and conventions, weather, agricultural crops, women, etc.

1) Terraces:

In order to harness the potential offered by nature for the benefit of man, the people in Saber made terraces from the bottom of the mountain to the top. They used to bring good soil from other areas to cultivate these terraces. The mountain appears like a flight of stairs, green with many crops.

2) Water Basins:

In the past, water used to be available in large quantities. However, there is a clear decrease in the quantities of water available. Water basins were the only alternative for the people. They were built to store water, to be used in irrigation and in the home. These water basins were about 8-10m deep and 10-20m high and they were well-built to last for a very long time. Water is collected during the whole summer and is stored to be made use of in winter. These water basins are an integral feature of the Saber people.

3) Houses in Saber:

Houses are built from stone and mud. The first floor is used for storing fodder, firewood and for keeping animals. Inside the house the people also dig a hole in the ground called "Madfan" for keeping cereals. Other floors are used for eating, sitting, chewing and sleeping.

4) Costumes of Saber:

Saber is distinguished by the preservation of traditional costumes. Women's costumes in Saber are very beautiful, consisting of long dresses with loose sleeves and lots of attractive decorations on the front part of the dress. They also wear long trousers with different colors and pretty decorations at the bottom. On their heads they wear long head-covers which are beautified with some roses and tied together. These are called "Mashkur" and

are placed near to their ears.

5) Social customs:

Marriage customs in Saber are unique. Festivals last for eight days starting from the day the bride is brought to her husband's house in the company of lots of people. On the second day all the people of the village come to chew Qat in the bridegroom's house. They also bring some money as a traditional practice to support the bridegroom. This practice is called "Mujabarah" meaning lending support to him in this situation. On the third day, uncles of the bridegroom come to congratulate him. The fourth day is for the family of the bride. Each family comes on a specific day and in front of each procession are drum beaters and dancers. The remaining days are for women from the village of the bridegroom or from the village of the bride. The celebration is ended by a long ceremony from the morning to the middle of the night for the mother of the bride on the eighth day.

6) Weather in Saber:

Saber mountain enjoys moderate weather throughout the whole year with a remarkable decrease in temperature in winter. The mountain can be divided into three parts:
1) mountain peaks
2) middle region
3) valleys and the mountain bottom.
This biological diversity has created a variety in climate and helped in the growing of many agricultural crops.

Agriculture & Agricultural Crops:

On the peaks of the mountain, root vegetables such as garlic, beans, lentil and fenugreek are grown. In the middle terraces, Qat plants are very much widespread. There are other plants such as corn, maize and vegetables such as pomegranate and oranges, etc. In valleys and at the bottom of the mountain, maize, corn, coffee and Qat are grown. Fruits are also planted including mango and papaya.

Now people complain about a spreading weed that harms other plants. The people say that the seeds of this weed were found in American corn sacks. The people are trying their best to fight it but, so far, to no avail.

Women in Saber:

Woman's position in Saber is worth noting. Unlike many other women in other areas of Yemen, the woman in Saber appears more open-minded and liberal. The difficult and challenging life of the mountain has made women shoulder a lot of responsibilities. They take care of their houses, help in the cultivation of lands and sometimes they themselves go down to the city of Taiz to sell Qat, fruits, vegetables, etc. It can be safely said that women in Saber are the main bread-winners for their families. 23-24% of the men in Saber are migrants, either locally or abroad. Another thing to note is that the difficulties of life in the mountain have not restrained people from pursuing education for their children. To conclude, Saber mountain constitutes a marvelous beauty and wonder that is difficult to describe. It has to be seen and experienced with one's own eyes and senses.

Crystals



by Mohamed
Kadri

Quit being Civilized

I gave up buying books! I sold exactly 454 books last year and intend to sell more of the 1000 plus books that compose my private library at home!

Excited and bored enough, I advise everyone residing in a rented residence in Sana'a to do the same. They will avoid exposing their books to crushing, tearing and loss. And after all, the books, which are usually a heavy weight to carry, require a special budget added to other expenses needed for shifting and transferring them to another place!

Instability and humiliation are our destiny, we, who reside the capital Sana'a. Though the residences we rent, which cost every one of us nearly 50-60% of our monthly salaries, house-owners behave as if there is a total absence of security and law. To them, tenants, especially employees wearing neck-ties, are weak, unsupported by tribals. It is easy to knock on their doors to shout at them or ask violently for a rent increase and threaten to throw their furniture into the streets!

Some of these landlords go beyond unreasonable behavior. They lock doors from the outside in the absence of tenants and force them to leave the house immediately! To my knowledge, many of these poor tenants are forced to carry their furniture to their relatives' places, or are compelled to distribute their furniture among their friends' until finding suitable shelters for themselves!

Is Sana'a a wild place? Are the departments concerned aware of this ugly and horrible situation? Is the development and progress of Sana'a only measured by attractively built houses, luxurious cars in the streets and costly elections? Most urgent and important is the creation of the citizen's trust, security, identity, respect and safety!



Shumaila Hari

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مسابقة



شوق للمشاريع الوكلاء الوحيدون

للتفاصيل: صفحة التكنولوجيا في صحيفة الناس

Mr. Tim Thomas, President & General
Manager of

**Canadian Nexen
Perroleum Yemen**

and all its staff Congratulate

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen,

and the Yemeni people

on the advent of the Greater Bairam (Eid Al-
Adha Al-Mubarak) and on the resounding
success of the local councils elections and the
referendum on the constitutional amendments.

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بأحر التهاني واطيب التبريكات إلى فخامة الرئيس /

علي عبد الله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

وذلك بمناسبة قدوم عيد الاضحى المبارك أعاده الله على الجميع
باليمن والخيرات والمسرات..

وبمناسبة العرس الديمقراطي الذي يحتفل به جميع أبناء الوطن
والمتمثل في انتخابات السلطة المحلية
والاستفتاء على التعديلات الدستورية.

وكل عام والجميع بخير



"We Were 'Captive' on Yemen's Golden Sand"

Indeed, Abdullah Al-Hammami 'kidnapped' a group of tourists (21 tourists) for one night on Friday and took them to Mareb. But it was rather a delightful sort of kidnapping in an atmosphere of joy and happiness.

In a trip sponsored by Yemen Times, the group was willingly 'kidnapped' and taken by Abdullah and his gangs in a convoy of TOYOTA vehicles to the desert area in Mareb. Yemen Times was able to capture the moments of joy of the lucky tourists minute by minute and get their impressions about the wonderful kidnapping, which turned out to be a delightful tourist 'desert' trip.

"Wonderful", "spectacular", "magical", "fantastic", "unique", etc. were among the words that the tourists used to describe the desert trip that they would never forget all their lives. Abdullah Al-Hammami, the organizer of the trip and the owner of "Yellow Sand" tourism agency, thanked Yemen Times for its sponsorship of the event and said, "Yellow Sand is the first agency of its kind in Yemen in the field of desert tourism. This particular type of tourism involves eating, hunting, and living as a Bedouin in all aspects. Desert tourism has been promoted in many Gulf states, and it is about time we have it in Yemen. After all, Yemen enjoys what many Gulf countries don't. It has marvelous, vast deserts and friendly Bedouins in many places still living

the same way they did for centuries. It has fabulous tourist attractions, such as the Temple of Queen Sheba, which also lies in a deserted area. Desert tourism also involves skating on sand, training in shooting, driving 4-WD vehicles, barbecuing 'tribal' style, gathering around a fire, and a lot of joyful activities."

From the satisfaction and smiles on the faces of the tourists that witnessed a delightful night on the golden sand in Mareb we can see how successful this tourism could be.

"Not only are such activities enjoyable and interesting for western tourists and tourists from all over the world, but they are also secure and safe as we have the widest communication network that ensures that tourists would not only enjoy a safe and secure trip, but that shows them the true life of tribes and Bedouins and takes them to many fascinating places," Al-Hammami said.

He added, "Yemeni tribes are known to be friendly, generous, and polite. It is unfair to think about them as violent and unfriendly. We should not show them that we are afraid of or hesitant to meet them. We should get closer to them and learn their ways of life, their environments, and make friendships with them. I can tell you that desert tourism has a great potential to grow and prosper in Yemen."

On the security issue, Yemen Times interviewed Brigadier General Ahmed Barab'ima, the Security Manager of oil companies in Shabwa and Mareb governorates who said, "I

believe that this is the best time for desert tourism. We have the best conditions to make sure everything goes smoothly so as all tourists could enjoy a secure and safe trip and stay in the desert. Such projects, such as what "Yellow Sand" is doing is going to mark a tremendous success for tourism in Yemen. We are no doubt able to see how well organized and efficient the agency's team is. They already have good coordination with our units, and they are trying to show the great benefits in meeting, talking to, and living the life of Bedouins in the splendid deserts of Yemen. All the events that happened in the past regarding kidnappings were only because of the needs of the tribes etc., and things have become quite stable lately.

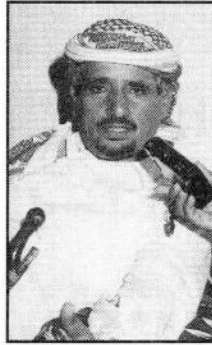
I have a feeling that tourism in these particular areas will be a major source of revenue for the tribes in these areas that always welcome tourists from all over the world to live their life and enjoy the beauty of the desert. The Mareb region in particular is more stable now as many tribesmen have been employed in different sectors in the area, and this new development in tourism could build confidence between tourists, tourism agencies and tribesmen, and could potentially minimize if not diminish kidnappings in the future."

On the other hand, Sheikh Abdulhakeem bin Ajjaj Al-Nahdi, a prominent sheikh in the Mareb area openly said, "Desert tourism is an excellent idea, particularly for Yemen. I per-

sonally could feel this from the number of requests that we receive for sand skating, desert picnicking, etc. Many workers in the foreign oil companies here and their relatives and friends enjoy such activities, and I believe it has a prosperous future ahead of it."

At the end of the night, the group of tourists who enjoyed their time in Mareb, were safely taken back to their hotel after they had expressed their delight and appreciation to Yemen Times and Yellow Sand Agency, which promised to attract and 'kidnap' more tourists to enjoy such a unique experience that they will never forget. It is refreshing to see how Bedouins could reverse the views on tribes with such a noble effort that could indeed, diminish 'true' kidnapping incidents all together. Could this be the start of revolutionizing tourism in Yemen on a different scale and in a different dimension? Could Al-Hammami indeed be able to attract 5,000 tourists annually to enjoy such a fine tourist experience. Let's wait and see!

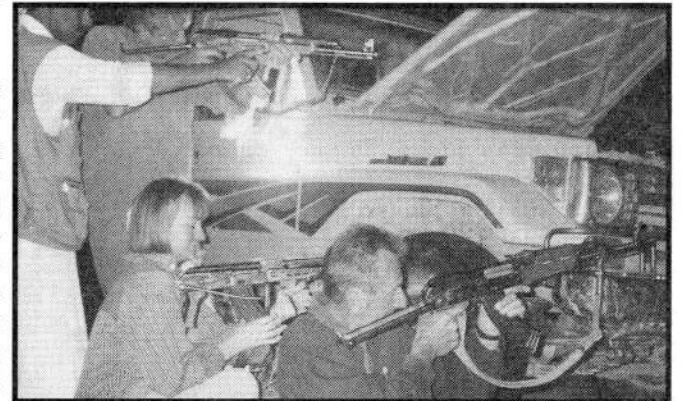
By Yasser Mohamed
Yemen Times



Mr. Ahmed Barab'ima



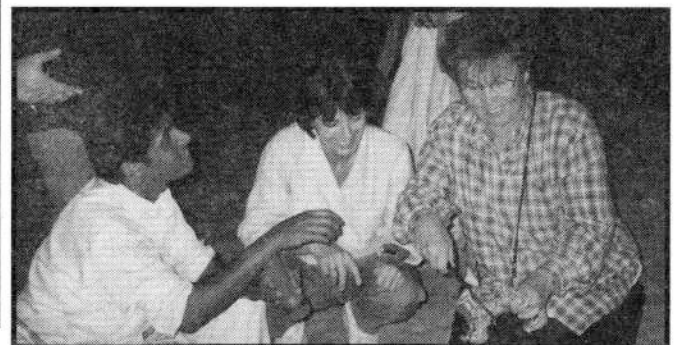
Fresh goat meat is for dinner



They were curious to know how it feels to use kalashnikov rifles. It was their chance of a life time



Enjoying a romantic night at the golden sands



Learning 'tribal' customs in preparing a good dense meat meal



Learning how to make and serve the good old 'tribal' coffee the right way!

Apology

Mr. Faisal Saeed Farea, one of the candidates running for the local council elections mentioned in our survey last week on this very page participated as an independent candidate, and not belonging to the Supreme Coordination Council of the Opposition. Our apology!

WATCH OUT!

You could be the next to be taken hostage by a generously polite tribe and experience a night you will never forget.

It will be a time when you forget your lavish western life, and live for a few hours or nights in the deserts of Yemen, as a true Yemeni bedouin

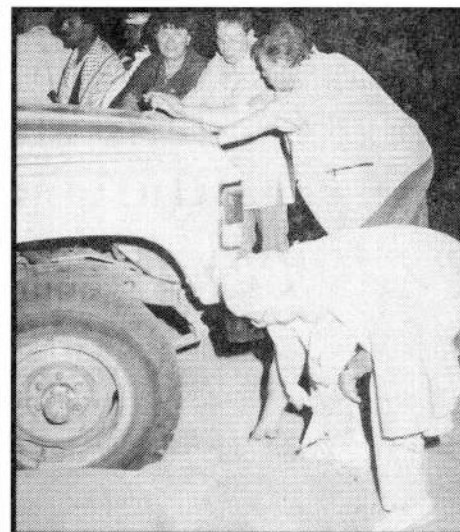
A Tourism Company Revives Tourism in Yemen on another level!

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TB: An Eminently Curable Enemy



Dr. Omar Shek Al-Amoudi
Specialist in
Ftiziatria
Th. Surgeons
Ministry of Health
Department of Medical Services

Tuberculosis never went away, and all doctors, particularly those working with at-risk populations, should have a high index of suspicion. TB was once the curse of the Victorian child and young adults, many of whom were cut off in their prime by "consumption." People from all social classes were sent to Sanatoria for long periods for treatment but many still died. Thoracic surgeons performed a variety of operations, most of which had uncertain value.

However, the incidence of TB in the Yemen had begun to fall – before the use of anti TB drugs, and the improvement was partially due to improving living conditions and nutrition. By the time both BCG vaccination and effective TB drug therapy were in place (1950) the decline was accelerating rapidly. NTP Yemen Reported between the mid 1990 and 1994s notification rates for TB in the Yemen: ARI is 0.9% but I suspected it must be more, and we must check the Yemeni people to confirm the degree of TB-killer of the poor, homeless and immunocompromised.

In Yemen, and particularly in the developing countries, TB has remained an enormous problem. It is still the largest cause of death in adults from an infectious disease. NTP confirmed as death rate in Yemen 15 per 100,000 of population smear + 45 cases per 100,000 population. TB is eminently curable if adequately managed. Patients often improve quickly and are very grateful for their return to health. TB is not therefore, a historical curiosity, it is a real threat to our patients and a challenge to our clinical skill.

When should the doctor be suspicious about TB?

Classic symptoms of pulmonary TB are cough, malaise, weight loss, haemoptysis and night sweat. However, a patient may only have a few of these, or even none. Other clues may be found in the history, particularly the social review. Even common, everyday complaints, such as chest infections, backache or dysuria, should ring alarm bells in a GP's mind. The GP should be particularly concerned if such complaints are chronic and associated with systemic symp-

toms, such as fever or weight loss or if they occur in high risk individuals (for example, TB contacts and ethnic group with a high incidence). Remember that sputum, urine, pus any tissue sent for analysis does not automatically get tested for TB-this needs to be specifically requested.

X-ray request forms should also indicate a suspicion of infection, including those for skeletal films, such as spinal X-ray. When in doubt, refer earlier rather than later for specialist advice. Tragedies can occur when this does not happen.

The Department of health recommends that treatment of TB, regardless of the organ involved, should be supervised by a hospital physician with a special interest in the disease. This is normally a respiratory or infectious disease. Where organs other than the lungs are involved, shared specialist care- for instance, with neuro-surgeons, gastroenterologist and urologist- is appropriate.

Despite this need for specialist input, the GP still has an important role. A complex drug regime needs to be initiated and maintained for at least six months, and close communication and team-work between the GP, patient, TB specialist and TB nurse/health visitor is therefore vital. Once the diagnosis is established, the GP should consider the following questions:

1. Is my patient getting the right specialist advice?

Drug therapy supervised by a non TB specialist has been shown to increase morbidity, mortality, relapse rates and the emergence of drug resistance MDR (multi-drug resistance).

2. Is my patient getting the drugs?

Ensure that prescribing responsibilities are clearly defined between you and the specialist if you are prescribing often enough. If not, warn the specialist.

In some cases, three-time a week directly-observed therapy (DOT) can be given, either at home, in the clinic or in the ward. Occasionally, it will be necessary to admit persistently poor compilers for hospital for some or all of their treatment.

3. Am I watching for side-effects?

Drug-induced hepatitis can be caused by most kinds of antituberculous medication. So regular liver function test must be performed in the TB clinic, particularly in the first six weeks of treatment.

Despite this, serious reactions still develop-vigilance by the GP is very important.

Ocular neuritis can occur with ethambutol, so a baseline ophthalmological review should be organized by the specialist at the beginning of treatment. Patients will be told to report any changes in their vision, and the GP should remind them to do this. Rashes can develop with most drugs, and arthralgia is particularly common with pirazinamide. Most reactions are transient, but in the event of a severe reaction, all the drugs should be stopped and specialist advice sought immediately. Stopping one or two drugs, particularly for long period, can lead to drug-resistance.

4. Other important issues:

Isolation of patients – with 'open' or smear-positive disease- that is, TB bacilli seen on microscopy of sputum smears- should probably be isolated in hospital for the first two weeks of treatment, particularly if there are young children at home. However, most patients can start their tablets as out patients, as long as their liver function is monitored.

5. Notification and contact tracing:

It is an important requirement that all cases of TB are reported to the local consultant in communicable disease

control. While this is normally carried out by the hospital, a check by the GP to confirm that this has occurred is a valuable 'safety net.' Notification automatically leads to contact tracing. Contacts at significant risk are largely confined to family and other household members, although worried acquaintances may often visit their GP for advice and reassurance. Unless they are in close daily association with the patient, the latter group are unlikely to be at risk. Some individuals may still require referral to a special list clinic for CXR and further children under 16 years with reassurance. T. Test CXR-should be considered for preventive therapy H (Isoniazid) for six months or HR (Isoniazid + Rifampicin) for 4 months, tuberculin test maybe seen again at 3 and 19 months. Perhaps the most publicized problem relating to TB in recent years is that of multi-drug resistant organisms, this is more commonly seen in immunocompromised individuals, but is also found in patients who have been inadequately treated with only mono-or double-therapy, or have failed to comply with their treatment regime. Resistance to isoniazid alone is not always a major problem, but therapy should include an additional drug, such as ethambutol. However, multi-drug resistance, that is, resistance to both isoniazid and rifampicin, can lead to the need for complex and expensive drug regimes.

The discovery of a multi-drug-resistant strain is often established many weeks after the original diagnosis has been made, since acid-fast bacilli are slow to grow in culture and it therefore takes time to clarify their sensitivities. Such patients need to be under the care of TB specialists experienced in treating multi-resistant strains, and they must be closely monitored.

Specialist investigations:

The important investigations are sequential sputum samples (sent for microscopy for AAFB (Alcol Acid Fast Bacyl) and culture and CXR.

CXR-will often show a characteristic pattern. If cavitation is present in addition to upper lobe infiltrates, TB is likely and may show with a wide variety of radiographic shadows. Appropriate sputum specimens should be sent for analysis if there is any suspicion of disease. If no sputum is expectorated, further efforts should be made to obtain specimens by such methods as:

1. Induced sputum (using nebulized twice normal saline)
2. Transtracheal Saline injection
3. Bronchoscopy with trans-bronchial biopsy, and segmental large.
4. Open lung biopsy in obscure or atypical disease
5. Pulmonoscopy
6. Pleural puncture (analysis of exudate or transudate)

NB: The Zechl-Neelsen Stain has specificity of over 99% and an overall sensitivity of 55% in Pulmonary TB.

New serological diagnosis – methods used for antigen detection include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, competitive inhibition of the binding of monoclonal antibodies.

Specificities of most serological test are high (90-99%) but sensitivities are generally much lower, though sensitivities of up to 90% have been reported in some studies. Antibodies have been detected in pleural fluid and bronchial washing in, CSF. Antibodies or semi-purified extracts of M. Tuberculosis are found in 24-54% of patients.

Tuberculosis epidemiology survey
1. Mantoux testing must be performed in a sample survey in all provinces of Yemen. TB is considered to be a common health problem, but in the absence of any comprehensive epidemiological study the extent of the problem remains unknown. Previous tuberculin test survey in some selected

populations have shown tuberculin test rates ranging from as low as 1.9% to as high as 70%, and must be considered by a WHO and JAICA expert committee on tuberculosis to measure the tuberculosis problem in the community, specially in Yemen. Tuberculin skin test- the test involves on intradermal of (PPD) purified protein derivative – either by a needle injection (mantoux test) – and observing the scale of the indurated skin response. PPD in the following dilution is available:

1 in 10,000-10 TU/ml 1 in 1000-1— TU/ml 1 in 100-1000 TU/ml mantoux test – in this test 0.1 ml of a chosen dilution (1-1000-10 TU) injected intradermally (a bleb must be raised). The diameter of induration in transverse plane of the arm is measured after 48-72 hours and recovered in mm. The area of erythema around the induration of 10mm or more is regarded as positive. If BCG has not been given before, an induration of 15 mm is regarded as positive. If BCG has been given, individuals who are HIV positive- the tuberculin test may be negative (Hypersensitivity response), and does not exclude TB.

Prevention – control programs depend on 3 principles:

- A: Identification and treatment of those with disease AAFB
B: Screening of those at risk
C: Protection of the rest of the community by BCG
D: Researches in the community by tuberculin tests:
a) mantoux test b) heaf test + fluorographia or CXR as hyperdiagnostic.
E: Admission of the patient with BK + and to resolve the socio-economic problems in Yemen.

This is my suggestion for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of tuberculosis in Yemen.



OPHTHALMIC EDUCATION (26)

TRACHOMA – Part 2

Dr. Tawfik K. AL-Khatib
Ass. Prof. of ophthalmology
Faculty of Medicine
Sana'a University

The diagnosis of trachoma:

The characteristic signs of active trachoma are conjunctival follicles and papillae especially on the upper tarsal conjunctiva. Inactive trachoma can be diagnosed by: -

1. Lid changes;
2. Scarring of the upper tarsal conjunctiva;
3. Blood vessels on the upper part of the cornea;
4. Herbert's pits at the limbos.

The treatment of Trachoma:

The trachoma organism is sensitive to certain antibiotics in particular Tetracycline, the Sulfonamide and Erythromycin.

Changes of the upper lids, namely trichiasis (extra eye lashes) and entropion (misdirection of the lids) are by far the most common and important complications of trachoma and can be treated surgically.

The prevention of trachoma:

To prevent blinding trachoma the following factors should be followed:

- 1- Improving personal and public hygiene is obviously the best way to eradicate blinding trachoma. This can be ensured by:
 - a- Supplying pipe water, to encourage personal hygiene and the cleaning of clothes.
 - b- Removing rubbish to control the fly population.
 - c- Teaching personal hygiene to primary school children and young mothers.
- 2- Antibiotics can be effective in three different ways: -
 - a- By destroying the organism in individual patients.
 - b- Most of the seasonal conjunctivitis which aggravates trachoma responds to antibiotic treatment.
 - c- If the whole community is treated, there are fewer active carriers to spread trachoma.
- 3- The surgical correction of lid problems(trichiasis and Entropion) is a valuable way to prevent blindness in the community.
- 4- Vaccination has been tried, but has not yet been successful.

Reference:

Eye diseases in hot climates by John Sondford Smith, 2nd Edition.

VACANCY

**Yemeni-German project
establishing a liaison
office in Sana'a**

**requires a local
consultant**

Qualification: Graduate
in Law or Political
Science with knowledge
in Economics

Male or female of good
family background,
bilingual English/Arabic,
German language skills
will be an advantage.

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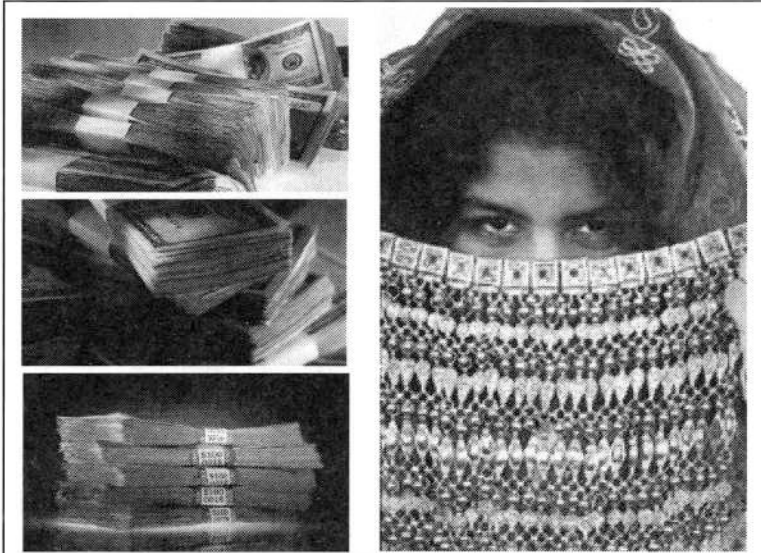
Who's taking care of you ?

When Expensive Dowry Blocks Marriage

Naser Ali Al-Taweeli

It is one of the biggest problems facing the Yemeni youths. It is a very bad social phenomenon which has given rise to many negative consequences. Many a youth has taken up to illegal ways as they find it impossible to lead a decent life with the girls they want to marry due to the high dowry asked by the many families of the girls. In this article, we shed the light on this social problem and reflect some views of some youths.

Sonia Abdullah Shuja'a al-Din said "God has created both man and woman to be complementary for each other. They can not live separately. Therefore, Islam has recommended marriage and pushed Muslims to marry to each other. Our prophet, our good and ideal example, married his daughter for an iron ring. He has also married another Muslim for some verses from the Holy Qura'an. However, in the present time our society suffer from the high dowry families ask. The greed of some parents has gone beyond all words can describe. They ask for high amounts of money that most of the youth can never afford. These parents look at their daughters as a commodity. The strict attitudes of parents in this regard has lead to perversion and the spread of immoral practices among many youths. Consequently, girls are not married but to a well to do person or to an aged man whose number is up. Youths find themselves helpless in such a situation. Therefore they prefer to travel abroad and look for job opportunities. Most of them stay there and marry foreigners. I don't think that there can be solutions for this phe-



Today, marriage and wealth have become so associated to the extent that could threaten the social harmony and stability in Yemen

nomenon which has become a part of our culture and conventions." Ahmad Moqbil al-Asri "The expensive dowry and other requirements of the girl's family are not at all affordable. I am an example of those youths who could not marry because of these never ending requirements imposed by artificial conventions including parties, clothes, lunch party, Qat, money for the mother, etc. Due to all these requirements I had to leave the girl I loved and I travelled to be away. These requirements do put obstacles on the face of youths to marry and lead a stable life. Due to these obstacles many youths may be lead a stray and lead a perverted life.

Abduldaem Muqbil Nouman says that solutions for this problem are represented in that the society is divided into three main segments: the well-to-do segment, the middle class and the lower segment. Through this division the economic level of living is

defined.. the main problems in this respect are of economic factor. The duty of the Islamic law in the question of marriage is to follow dictations and teachings of the prophet, and improving living conditions would not represent a problem with regard to high dowry.

He also maintains that activation of the law of dowry by the government is one of the main factors herein addition to the role of the citizen. The roles are common concerning the spread of awareness, and providing services such as appropriate housing.

The national committee for women is supposed to discuss such matters and propose suitable solutions for them through holding meetings, effecting programs and drawing up future plans such as awareness symposiums especially by allocating regular programs to be broadcast on mass media especially television and radio.

The Poet of the Nation: Ali Bin Zaeid

Mohamed Al-Hakimi,
Yemen Times
Taiz

Proverbs and sayings of the poet Ali Bin Zaeid represent part of Yemeni culture. Yemenis have learned them and kept them in their minds and followed them in their life. Zaeid has become a symbol of the people's daily practices and wisdom. Zaeid's poems and wisdom are repeated by farmers and peasants alike especially at agricultural times and when the need arises to face daily problems. Zaeid's greatest popularity appears in the middle-region of Yemen, Dhamar, Ibb and Taiz. However, most of his poems are memorized by the majority of peasants in various areas of Yemen. Who is Ali Bin Zaeid? What is his full name? And in which period did he live? And where was his residential place? And how have his poems reached us?

Zaeid is one of the brightest Yemeni folk poets, who wrote about agriculture and harvest seasons. He combined agricultural themes and people's sayings and wisdom. His full name or specific residential details, or even the definite period during which he lived, are still unknown. His genealogy is also unknown. According to some, he might have lived in Russaba village and among the Dhamar's tribes. Most likely, he had been living in an agricultural, rural environment; for his work mostly focuses on agriculture, land, harvest, cooperation and labor. His works' social philosophy pivots around the Yemeni peasantry and the relationship between land and man, as

well as between men and their daily living conditions.

As far as his poetic faculty is concerned, Zaeid succeeded in reflecting daily public behavior - a theme which all enjoy reciting. His works include military, agricultural and social orientations.

But, is Zaeid a single person?

Probably there are tens like him from successive generations.

Is Zaeid, then, a historical character? Or he is no more than a legend?

The famous Yemeni poet, Abdulla Albaradoni contemplated this and said: "He might be real and imaginary at the same time. Real in name, imaginary in terms of his wisdom and pronouncements. For a single man can't deliver sayings of different regional dialects and practices of all agricultural generations." Thus, the poet Albaradoni sees the whole Yemeni nation, his practices, culture and inherited norms and traditions, in Zaeid!

Though Zaeid's works are known to the majority of Yemenis, his works are not given due recognition by the Ministry of Culture; which makes current generations ignorant of such work. Thus, regarding the Ministry's callous attitude towards Zaeid's works, only individual efforts can kindle the hope for the preservation of our folk culture and literature.

It's worth mentioning that the late poet Abdulla Albaradoni, in his book titled "The Arts of Folk-Literature in Yemen", has presented good and useful information about the poet. And in his "Wisdom of Ali Bin Zaeid", the Russian Orientalist Anatoli Agharchiv, had collected most of Zaeid's poems and wisdom. Needless

to say, unless such efforts existed, Zaeid's works could have been lost.

Some of Zaeid's sayings:

*He, who does not reply,
Calls, but no one listens
And he who, at the need of the hour,
Is absent,
Goes, but no one, is back to bring.*

The above lines indicate how an ignorant persons desires and needs leave him alone, unsupported by his society.

*If, for you, there exists,
A harmful neighbor
Do nothing except love,
As there is God, to avenge you.*

The above lines are meant to advise people to be patient about a non-friendly neighbor and leave the question of penalty to God.

While Zaeid seemed to believe that the idle and those who do not work in agriculture and harvest would not obtain fortune, he excludes traders and scholars from his view:

*For seat occupying,
No fortune is there,
Except for shop-keepers,
And scholars*

And on worries of man and his permanent longing for happiness, he says:

*I wish a happy heart,
I own,
And, responsibility of,
Neither mine nor others,
I care.*

Celebrations of World Women's Day

Queen Arwa University is planning a one-day workshop on March 18, 2001 on the impact of social and economic changes on the development of Yemeni Women, which coincides with the Celebration of the World Women's Day on the 14th of March 2001. A large number of prominent individuals representing Women's sectors and Educational Centers specialized for women, and the teaching members of Queen Arwa and Sana'a Universities are expected to participate. This Symposium is supposed to discuss a number of working papers about women by:

Prof. Dr. Waheeba Fare'e, Rector of Queen Arwa University.
Dr. Fatheyia Bahrani, Manager of the General Establishment of Insurance.
Dr. Kadega Al-Haisami - Sana'a University.
Ms. Rashia Al-Hamdani, Manager of National Women's Committee.
Dr. Nooria Hamd - Sana'a University.
Mrs. Claire Goethals - Dutch Embassy Local Representative.
The papers will assess the impact of social and economic changes on the development of Yemeni women.

It is assumed that this workshop will also highlight opinions and strategic decisions about ways to elevate the position of Yemeni women and come up with conclusions and recommendations.

The invitation is open for all researchers in the field.

It is worth mentioning that this workshop will be attended by representatives from the World Women's Committee and the Embassies accredited to the Republic of Yemen and concerned with the issues of women and society.



Group photo of prominent Travel Agents of Sana'a is taken on the occasion of Sana'a Travel Agents Workshop which was organized by Continental Airlines and its GSA in Yemen United Travel & Tourism.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(This position is open for Yemeni Nationals only)

A. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is inviting applications from qualified and experienced candidates to serve as national Consultants in cooperation with International Consultants, to conduct mid-term evaluation for "Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation programme - YEM/97/300".

B. Duties and Responsibilities

The Consultants shall review and evaluate:

- Relevance of Programme Support Objectives (PSOs) to UNDP's effort in assisting Yemen to alleviate poverty
- Realism and complement of components and sub-programmes to each other in responding to the overall objectives of the Poverty Programme and the strategic aim of the Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) and the National Agenda
- Examination of the impact of the Poverty alleviation programme and its inter-relationship with the components and programmes.

Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) should be collected from Team III, UNDP for further information on the objectives, scope and expected outcome of the evaluation.

C. Posts: Qualifications and Requirements

1. **Sociologist:** University Degree M.Sc (minimum) in Sociology or Public Administration. Rich and professional experience in social development with at least 10 years of practical experience with UN or any international organization. Very good communication skills and sound knowledge of written and spoken Arabic and English languages.
2. **Statistician:** University Degree M.Sc (minimum) in Statistics with emphasis on Economics. Rich and professional experience in Statistics with at least 10 years of practical experience with UN or any international organization. Very good communication skills and sound knowledge of written and spoken Arabic and English languages.
3. **Community-Based Development Expert:** University Degree M.Sc (minimum) in Community-Based Development or equivalent, with extensive practical experience in Administration, Management of Community Programmes, Productive Families and Livelihood Approaches. At least 10 years of practical experience with UN or any international organization. Very good communication skills and sound knowledge of written and spoken Arabic and English languages.

D. Timing and Duration:

Three weeks starting mid March 2001.

E. Reporting

Upon completion of review and evaluation, an evaluation report will have to be prepared and used for one-day workshop.

Interested candidates are requested to send their C.Vs to Mr. Abdo Seif, Team Leader, UNDP, P. O. Box 551, Sana'a **no later than 3 March 2001**. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgement will only be sent to shortlisted candidates meeting the requirements of the posts.

أطيب التهاني والتبريكات نتقدم بها
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وذلك بمناسبة ارتزاقهما المولدة البكر التي أسمياها
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Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet

I. What to say

Some personality types

- Ameen:** Hi, Bakil
Bakil: Hi, Ameen
Ameen: The exam is over. We have all the time in the world. Time to rejoice. Lets go out.
Bakil: Give me a minute to dress up
(They come to the street)
Ameen: I enjoy losing myself in the crowd, to be part of the multitude. I love people, I hate being alone.
Bakil: Have you ever tried to look at them closely and study them? If you ever do, you'll find each is a type. The world is a garden and people are like flowers of different colors.
Ameen: That's right. Even in a family different members are of different tastes and temperaments. Each has his or her own likes and dislikes.
Bakil: Like you I too enjoy being in the midst of a mass of human beings. But I don't stop there, I go one step forward. I try to analyze them, through very small or minor incidents, and try to figure out the trait of their personality.
Ameen: You're talking like a social scientist. Sounds interesting, though. Let me share with you some of your findings. Let's start with some people in our close circle. What do you think about Prof. Abdullah?
Bakil: Well, in my opinion, he is a man of substance. He is so learned, but doesn't like to show off. He has a certain air of dignity about him.
Ameen: I agree with you there. He is very warm and cordial as well. You can, without any fear, approach him at any time for academic or other kinds of help.
Bakil: He is a kind of person who can be called a humanist or a philanthrope. He is kind and compassionate to one and all. It's small wonder that he is liked by all for his generosity and the milk of human kindness.
Ameen: What is your estimation of Mr. Nabil?
Bakil: My mind turns sour to think of the type he represents. What a contrast! He is so rough and gruff in his dealings. He seems to be proud and egoistic. Thinks too much of himself.
Ameen: Yeah. Very few of us like to interact with him because of his condescending attitude. I'm the last person to go anywhere near him. Have you thought about our classmates? They are such a variety. Who do you consider the best among them?
Bakil: To my mind Rizq has a lovable personality. He is soft spoken, balanced in his judgments and hardly ever uncharitable in his remarks.
Ameen: I think Abdul Majeed is of a similar type. He is tolerant and submissive. He always wears a flicker of a smile on his face.
Bakil: Well, there are as many traits of personality as there are persons. Each individual has something worthy of appreciation which we

can emulate and enrich our own personality.
Ameen: Very much so. One's attitude should be to appreciate the best part of an individual and ignore the rest.

II. How to say it correctly?

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

1. I am taking exercise everyday.
2. I have read this news yesterday.
3. He has seen you in the party last night.
4. I am learning English grammar for many days.
5. We shall not go out if it will rain.

Answers to last week's questions

1. He is such a person as no one can hate him.
2. The little boy was lazy and careless **too**.
3. Mohsen worked **hard but** failed.
4. You are old **but** not weak.
5. **As soon** as the minister finished his speech, I started reciting my poem.

III. How to express it in one word:

1. Building or part of a building in which an audience sits.
2. Story of a man's life which is written by himself.
3. Government by a ruler who has unlimited power.
4. Gathering of persons for the purpose of hearing a speaker or singer: **audience**
5. An institution which is self-governing.

Answers to last week's questions.

1. Loud enough to be heard: **audible**
2. Clear enough to be seen: **visible**
3. Handwriting that can be read easily: **legible**
4. Gathering of persons for the purpose of hearing a speaker or singer: **audience**
5. Official examination of accounts: **audit**

IV. Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given in brackets.

1. Columbus discovered America in 1492. (Rewrite the sentence to emphasize the italicized part)
2. His sister makes morning tea for him. (Rewrite the sentence using the pattern 'to get someone to do something')
3. As soon as the chief guest arrived, the show began. (Begin the sentence with 'no sooner...')
4. We invited him personally. He didn't come. (combine the two sentences)
5. She finished the home task. Then she watched TV (Rewrite the sentence using 'having + past participle form')

Answers to last week's questions:

1. The government has **set up** a number of new schools.
2. Health is a **blessing** that money cannot buy.
3. He **can't** lift the box.
4. The teacher told the students to behave **themselves**.
5. He is **too** honest to do such a thing.

V. Words of wisdom

"Health and cheerfulness mutually beget each other."
 —Joseph Addison

William Shakespeare: The Unmatched Plot-pitcher



Dr. Murari Prasad
Faculty of
Education,
Sa'adah

Few writers have survived rapid shifts in readers' taste from generation to generation as well as fashionable and controversial critical theories so remarkably and triumphantly as William Shakespeare (1564-1616) has done, while still retaining the cult status of a crowd pleaser following ceaseless cinematic solicitation. The Stratford screenwriter, whose birthday falls on 23 April (also the date of his death), has proved to be perennially relevant. His fascinating appeal outreaches the bounds of time and context. During the 400-odd years, varied interpretations and re-interpretations of Shakespearean texts have revealed their rich significance beyond a set of serene certainties. Perceptive readers have tried to unpack the complex imaginal synthesis in his plays and fathom sub-textual depths; great actors and directors have variously negotiated with the signifying transactions in the characters' speeches. Yet the final word on his art is still awaited—perhaps its inestimable value defies definitive evaluation. In the recent years the Bard's plays have yielded equally to both the panache of the pastiche and scholarly exegesis. While Hollywood's take on Shakespeare in the mid 1990s have come up in modish remakes of the earlier versions, Harold Bloom's 745-page interpretation of Shakespeare's plays, *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human*, was on the best-seller list in 1999. Not only was he the hottest writer of treatments in Hollywood for the new crop of films—Franco Zeffirelli's "Hamlet" with Mel Gibson; Leonard Di Caprio and Clare Danes in Baz Luhrmann's 1996 gangland "Romeo+ Juliet"; a modern version of *Hamlet*, featuring Ethan Hawke; takeoffs on *Macbeth*, *Titus Andronicus*, *A Midsummer night's Dream*, and of course *Love's Labour's Lost* — all palpably pop creations—but also certain well-known facts about his life (that he was married and that his theatrical rival was Christopher Marlowe) and fantasies were put together in a clever and charming screenplay, "Shakespeare in Love" by Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman. The romantic comedy about the young Shakespeare (played by Joseph Fiennes), which has allegedly strong similarities to the plot of *No Bed for Bacon* (a 1941 novel by Caryl Brahms and S.J. Simon) is the first movie about the Bard himself, but certainly far from fulfilling the needs of a literary biography. Not even of sorts,

though it does capture *Romeo and Juliet* admirably, according to Harold Bloom (*Newsweek*, February 22, 1999).

Although many hagiographic accounts of Shakespeare's professional career and achievements, his art and vision are available, we have only a slim sheaf of well-established facts of his life—scanty for an authentic literary biography. The absence of a firm sequence of biographical accuracies has given ground to the nagging question that Shakespeare didn't write Shakespeare's plays. The Hollywood screenplay, *Shakespeare in Love*, too, has been used by a group of revisionist Elizabethan historians to resplash the theory that the semiliterate son of a Warwickshire glover was incapable of these skilful creations. The contention is not altogether new. The Baconian theory in the mid-19th century developed the notion that Bacon was the author of the plays attributed to Shakespeare. However, the claim didn't gather steam. In the 1990s, an elaborate thesis, which surfaced in 1920 (*Time*, April 5, 1999), has been worked out to establish that Edward De Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford and the hereditary Lord Great Chamberlain (1550-1604) wrote Shakespeare.

Certain clues do form a modicum of evidence in support of the Earl's supposed authorship but there are overwhelming discrepancies in the contention of the Oxfordians. Besides drawing on the recurrence of some words in De Vere's copy of the Geneva Bible and in Shakespeare's texts, the Oxford camp sets great store by the circumstantial evidence which links up the episodes in plays such as *Hamlet*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Measure for Measure*, *Othello*, *Cymbeline*, *Winter's Tale*, *King Lear* and the Sonnets with events during the Earl's life time. But his death in 1604 weakens the Oxfordians' plea in that several of Shakespeare's plays, for example, *The Tempest*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Henry VIII*, *Timon of Athens*, *Coriolanus*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Cymbeline*, *Pericles*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth* were written after 1604. Although the revisionist faction defends De Vere's authorship with the contention that the plays are misdated, his existing poetry gives him away—it is clunky and dull, unlike the highly evocative and suggestive lines of Shakespeare with conspicuous innovations and ingenuity in the use of language.

As regards Shakespeare's education, it is generally agreed that he was educated at the local grammar school, the Stratford Free School, where good education in Latin including training in rhetoric was imparted. "Stratford came to be known as a town remarkable for the birth of famous William Shakespeare as early as the seven-

teenth century," said Dr Robert Smallwood, deputy director of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in a conversation with me during my visit to Stratford-upon-Avon. A road or *straet* across Avon's ford, a major tributary of the Severn in the south-western corner of Warwickshire, gave the place the name of Stratford in Roman times. During the middle ages, its growth was fuelled by tradesmen who crossed the Avon by a wooden bridge alongside the ford on their way from Coventry to Bristol. During Shakespeare's time, it became the center of a flourishing glove-making industry. His father, John Shakespeare, was a glover and wool dealer. Stratford is still basically a market town with a population of less than 50 thousand but it is now known Shakespeare's town with the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Swan Theatre, the Shakespeare Centre, adjacent to Shakespeare's Birthplace, New Place (the most expensive house in the town bought by Shakespeare in 1597 where he lived in retirement and died), Anne Hathaway's Cottage (named after Shakespeare's wife), Mary Arden's House (named after Shakespeare's mother) and Hall's Croft (the home of Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna, and her husband, Dr John Hall—it contains rare furniture and an Elizabethan doctor's dispensary). In other words, Stratford and Shakespeare have become synonymous with each other. So the Stratfordians have dismissed the evidence surrounding Edward De Vere as downright apocryphal based on fabulous contortions although Joseph Sobran, the author of *Alias Shakespeare* (1997) and some Elizabethan scholars such as Peter Dickson seem to veer round the De Vere line. More to the point of the mainstream Shakespearean camp, we can't brush aside the printed allusion to the Stratford screenwriter from R. Greene's 1592 pamphlet (or possibly by Chettle?): "an upstart Crow" who "is in his own conceit the only shake-scene in a country" and Ben Jonson's encomium in the 1623 First Folio: "the sweet swan of Avon". De Vere's advocates haven't convincingly refuted the telling references which indicate Shakespeare's enviable standing on the London literary scene as an unmatched plot-pitcher. Nevertheless the notion that Shakespeare didn't write Shakespeare's plays continues to engage the attention of scholars. It seems to be the major theme of current Shakespearean studies as many literary critics, linguists, and historians are busy writing books on the Bard and De Vere. As to mainstream Shakespeare readers, they are unlikely to believe that given the gift for skilful creations the Earl of Oxford would have preferred to remain an unknown quantity.

Private Schools are Modern Domains for Investment

Abdulrageeb M. Alomeisi

More than one hundred thirty private schools are there in Sana'a. These schools claim that they were opened for providing an ideal atmosphere for learning. In fact, there are few private schools in which we can find a congenial learning environment. This situation drastically differs from the educational environment obtaining in the public schools. Most of these private schools are deficient in achieving any real progress by

applying efficient systems of pedagogy contrary to what they claim. They promise the students an opportunity to study in a very comfortable room ecology, class that nor more than 2 students, making available all the essential educational aids. In addition they promise to provide instruction in English language, music, French language and computer from the preliminary stages. Many of the teachers who are teaching in such school say that they don't find any noticeable academic progress. On the contrary, they have to bear the brunt of the directors of these schools who insist that the

teacher should endure the outrageous behaviors of some students as much as possible. Ultimately these students would be given excellent marks at the end of the year irrespective of their actual performance. It is true that the private schools relieve or decrease the tremendous pressure of enrollment in the public schools, but they don't offer quality education as much as they should. The fees for studying in such schools has become so exorbitant that it has reached more than one thousand dollars for each student. Who is the responsible of such pandemonium in the educational field?!!



YOUTH FORUM



Where will you escape?
 Where will you escape?
 Where will you escape from force of exasperation
 Where will you escape from force of exasperation
 In the whole peoples' ribs exasperation is burning
 Where will you escape?
 Where will you escape?
 Among our prisoners
 Where will you escape?
 From the damnation of heart
 Where will you escape?
 It is the game of life
 No — No
 The escape will not be feasible
 No — No
 The escape will not be feasible
 The escape will not be workable
 Those who you have built your safety by their blood
 Where will you escape?
 No — No
 You cannot wash this shameful stain
 Palestine will not surrender
 Palestine will not surrender
 There is nothing for you on this earth
 Except death

Except death

E - sh
Second level
College of Education, Mahweet

Cool Temperance

One is intrigued when one finds some people treating him unfairly. There are some who immediately retaliate by severing the ties of kinship with them. The first point to mention here is that Prophet Mohammed (peace and prayers be upon him) has spoken very emphatically about being kind to one's kinsfolk. He encourages us not to return unkindness. On the contrary, he encourages us to return what is unkind with an act of kindness. This is the best way to win over the hearts of ill mannered folks. However at times this may not work because the other party might take a hostile attitude. In such cases Allah doesn't want us to do more than we can. Of course we have to look after our own interests. If others do not want to have anything to do with us, then the situation is different. God

(Allah) requires us to make a genuine attempt to nurture a proper understanding among people. The best policy is to be ready for reconciliation. There are people who practice good deeds. They pray, fast and go on pilgrimage but they indulge in evil practices such as backbiting, and acts of cruelty. On the Judgment Day the person who has committed sins against others will be brought face to face. The offended person will be asked by Allah, if he is willing to forgive the offender. If he refuses, then, he will be given a portion of the good deeds of the offender to add to his own good deeds. If the offender doesn't have enough good deeds to repay the claimant's right, he will be given some of the claimant's bad deed and then he will be taken to hell. However, if the offender has repentance before his death, Allah will be satisfied and forgive him. So all of us should learn how to practice temperance.

Hassan M. Jaasham
College of Education,

CONDOLENCE

Mr. Danny Manansala, Power Plant Manager

and employees of

WARTSILA POWER PLANTS - ADEN FREEZONE

Condole Mr. Mr. Surendran, K. P. Supervisor of the Plants, and his family

on the loss of his mother

Lakshmi K.P.

May God rest her soul in peace

Sheikhdoms in Yemen (Part I)

Taiz Bureau Staff
Yemen Times

“Sheikhdom” and “sheik”—the two words used to describe patriarchs of tribes, are considered the most prestigious traditional titles in Yemen. Sheikhs are the leaders of sheikhdoms. They are opinion makers with a significant role in the political, economic, cultural and even military affairs of the country. Most of the time, they are a major cause of instability or chaos in Yemen. They are an authority close to the center, and are of great political and military power and influence. They are simply, a state within a state.

The emergence of Sheikhdoms in Yemen

Sheikhdoms first emerged in Yemen before the revolution in the former North Yemen. The Imam was quite aware of the power and influence of sheikhdoms so he was able to limit their power by taking one of the sons or close relatives of every Yemeni sheik as hostage. After the revolution, sheikhdoms in Yemen maintained their influence which was further borne out by the fact that law enforcement was non-existent in many regions. Sheikhs became a source of inspiration for tribesmen and villagers in vast areas in the north and east of the country. No doubt, the weakness of state authority reflected itself in the strength of sheikhdoms in Yemen.

Levels and types of Sheikhdoms

There are mainly two levels of sheikhdoms. The first is the more influential and powerful of the two, and is normally called the ‘sheikhdoms of above’ having strong links with the leadership and controlling vast areas of villages and well-armed tribesmen. The lower level is the weaker and is called the ‘sheikhdoms of below’. It has less military strength and is away from the authorities, but still has significant influence in their respective areas.

There are also two types of sheikhdoms within the two levels. These are village sheikhdoms and tribal sheikhdoms. The village sheikhdoms usually have little power and limited influence and modest authority over their villages and have more extensive knowledge about various issues related to religion and culture. Tribal sheikhdoms are the ones that control a number of tribesmen. They have a strong influence on tribal issues and weak influence on the political level and have more knowledge in tribal issues. In most cases, the tribal sheikhdoms belong to the ‘sheikhdoms of above’ while the village sheikhdoms are the ones belonging to the ‘sheikhdoms of below’ even though this is not a rule of thumb.

Role of Sheikhdoms in Society

Sheikhs are usually the mouthpiece of their people, either tribesmen or villagers. They play the role of a leader who safeguards their rights and who demands that the authorities provide them with the best of services. Sheikhdoms have their own rules and regulations. They have their own territories, traditions, and values. Within their own communities, sheikhdoms try to establish a balance among their people and maintain peace. However, according to their interests, they also have objectives of playing a role in the region by either working on establishing peace and harmony in the political picture, or the opposite.

Their Relations with the Political System

Throughout the years before the revolution, sheikhdoms played a great role in combating injustice and dictatorship. They have struggled on many fronts and in many regions, in the south and in the north, against all sorts of oppression. However, just as the revolution took place in the north, they started to deviate from their main goal and took different paths. Some supported the regime, some came up against it. Some were involved in political life, some were not. However, it is well known that sheikhdoms of many areas, including

Sanhan, have strong and vital relationships with the leadership.

Relationships among Sheikhdoms

The cooperation and coordination of Sheikhdoms with each other either on the village or the tribal levels has always been an example of harmony and peace over the years. Sheikhdoms tend to solve the problems arising out of conflicts due to radicalism and ignorance. There are even times when they formed coalitions and alliances among themselves so as to eliminate any future conflicts and problems. Apart from that, there are some sheikhdoms that hold regular conferences and sessions. Despite the fact that most of these conferences take place in open areas, they are still a symbol of organization.

Authority, internal disputes, and properties

Usually, sheikhdom in Yemen is based on inheritance. Transfer of power of sheikhdoms usually takes place peacefully from father to son. Due to the tribal nature of sheikhdoms in Yemen, the sheik is the person whom groups in dispute go to for a final and decisive ruling. The two parties usually pay tremendous amounts of money and goods to the sheik to express their trust in and allegiance to him. Eventually, the sheik gives his ruling in conformity with the principles on justice and both sides accept the final verdict. As for the goods and assets given to the sheik, they are kept as his personal property. This is why sheikhs usually are the richest among all members of the sheikhdoms and have become a symbol of wealth.

How to become a Sheik

In all cases where there is a mature and grown up son of the sheik, the transfer of power takes place from the father to the son. However, the fact that not every sheik has children made sheikhdoms develop new rules to cope with such situations. In these situations the sheikhs delegates power to someone he thinks fit for the position from among his relatives or other members of the tribe.



However, after unification of the North and South Yemen in 1990, more conditions had to be met by any candidate to become a sheik, such as the approval and admittance of the state. It is thought that the objective of the government in this regard is to have the sheikhs on its side. In any case, the admittance to the state is likely to give the sheik more influence and power.

Sheikhdoms and the state

Without doubt, the current regime is in favor of sheikhdoms. There has been a vicious conflict of ideas and principles between sheikhdoms and the former leftists, namely the nationalists and socialists, as they see sheikhdoms as symbols of ignorance and backwardness. This symbolizes an intellectual and cultural point of view. Yemen has witnessed great confrontations between Sheikhdoms and these leftist powers. In the 60s and early 70s there were massacres and wars waged against sheikhdoms in the former North and South Yemen. However, all these ended after the regime changed from nationalist to capitalist in the north and after unification in the south.

Colonial Rule in the Former South and Sheikhdoms

Sheikhdoms were feared most by the colonial authorities of the former south Yemen. The colonial rulers realized how

influential and hardlined sheikhdoms were, regarding national and tribal values. They understood that the loyalty of villagers and the public to sheikhdoms was a major threat to them. Sheikhdoms were able to gather the people to be involved in any confrontation, no matter how risky, and were able to control their action in all aspects. The colonialists tried to arrest a number of sheikhs but most of their efforts were in vain. It was only in 1963 that sheikhdoms witnessed the start of the independence struggle in the south, when Sheik Labbuddha called for confrontation from the mountains of Radfan against the colonial forces.

Imamate in the Former North and Sheikhdoms

In Former North Yemen some sheikhdoms started a conflict with the Imam who ruled the country years before the revolution in 1962. Among those sheikhs that died in fighting for independence were Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar and his son Hameed. The war between the Imam and sheikhdoms intensified further and eventually helped in sparking the first flame of the revolution in 1962. They also played a major role in fighting for independence in the former north as well as in the former south.

Sheikhdoms and the Interior Front

When the sheikhdoms power and oppression reached levels higher than bearable in some areas, the interior front was established to combat the sheikhdoms by spreading negative ideas about them in their own communities.

Sheikhdoms and the State of Law and Order

One of the main obstacles in front of forming the true modern state in Yemen has always been the presence of sheikhdoms. The main reason for that is that sheikhdoms see themselves as far from being controlled by the state or its laws and regulations, especially in their own territories. The tribal values posed a major challenge for the modern state. The tribal

traditions and armed members of sheikhdoms also limited the government's presence in these areas. As a result education and general civil services were neglected in these areas.

Partisanship and Sheikhdoms

When partisanship started to flourish after unification, many political parties started approaching sheikhdoms for their support. The ruling party, PGC was able to gain the support of most of the sheikhdoms in Yemen. Only recently has the Islah Party been able to gain more publicity and support within the sheikhdom community. However, recent reports state that sheikhdoms have started deviating from the political alliances due to the deteriorating security and economic conditions within their regions.

Efforts for Diminishing dominance of Sheikhdoms

All efforts to diminish dominance of sheikhdoms since the revolution until now have failed due to the fact that sheikhdoms have popular support of the tribesmen and villagers, because of their already established influence in the state and the military forces they usually possess. Their presence has somewhat been helpful in maintaining stability and peace within tribal communities because—as explained before—they serve as mediators in setting conflicts and tribal disputes and wars.

Future of Sheikhdoms

The relationship between tribalism, sheikhdoms, and weapons has always been strong. If one of them is to disappear, the rest will certainly be affected. However, we can only see weapons increasing due to the lawlessness in certain rural areas. We can see that tribal values are still existing. Hence, it is not difficult to assume that sheikhdoms will continue. As a tribesman once said, “we cannot but continue to live as long as the state is not strong enough to protect us and enforce laws and regulations on all citizens. So to ensure our peace and harmony, we need to be a state within the state.” And that says it all. In other words, sheikhdoms will continue and will have much influence on the political, cultural, military, and social life in Yemen for years to come.

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Press Scanner

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Almost all Yemeni newspapers this week have published special issues dealing in detail with the event of the hour in Yemeni political life, represented by local council elections and the referendum on the constitutional amendments. News, news reports and writings, all have focused on the elections and the referendum process that took place on the 20th of this month, reporting and

analyzing both activities. Special emphasis has been put on the heated competition between the PGC party on the one hand and Islah and other opposition parties on the other. In this week's edition of press scanner we will be focusing on reviewing the various points of view and impressions expressed by writers and analysts, representing the political spectrum in Yemen as published in Yemeni newspapers this week.

Excerpts from articles and editorials published by the Yemeni press this week, all of which have focused on the local council elections and the referendum on the constitutional amendments.

As-Sahwa weekly of February 22, 2001.

The political editor at the paper wrote an article saying that the extremist information campaign of the PGC ruling party, which began even before the election campaign, was the first factor that enkindled the demagogic fomentation against the national parties, particularly the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah).

That stance has constituted a justification for terrorist elements from the PGC to start settling old accounts against Islah and the rest of the opposition parties. It has also increased tension in the political situation and converted the elections into an arena for bloody conflict among the sons of the same homeland. Some constituencies in a number of governorates have seen acts of violence and instigation of riot committed by extremist elements from the PGC resulting in the death of many people including candidates, ordinary citizens and soldiers. That conduct can be attributed to the PGC's feeling of imminent failure. They therefore resorted to the policy of "kindling fires" in the constituencies where Islah had scored unmatched success. After that the PGC began fabricating lies and accusations against the Islah to present it before public opinion as responsible for their own crimes and violations and to appear as being the victims.

The policy of "kindling fires and fomenting sedition", and involving the army and security forces in partisan differences will not serve the democratic experiment. The results of this policy will not benefit any political party, including the ruling party itself. The country would then remain governed by fabricated crises that harm

the homeland and its stability and security.

26 September weekly, organ of the Yemeni Armed Forces, Feb. 22, 2001.

The weekly has this week devoted its editorial to the local council elections and referendum on constitutional amendments that took place on February 20 this month. The weekly says that the people have chosen to support democracy and express their free will through ballot boxes, away from any guardianship and with full transparency. All have acknowledged this fact except for a small group of those who feel incapable and lack the confidence of the people because of their wrong behavior and stagnant orientation and affiliation to the old school.

There is no doubt about the importance of the referendum on the constitutional amendments and elections of the local councils. The event constitutes a qualitative renewable transfer of the democratic experiment and political democratic life in general. It has become an undeniable fact that February 20, 2001 will always represent a luminous spot on the road of national gains. On that day the people's will has been embodied and stabilized. It is an expression of a better future with better prosperity.

RAY weekly, organ of Sons of Yemen League party, Feb. 20, 2001.

Ali Al-Kathiri wrote an article on the local elections and referendum on the constitutional amendments saying undoubtedly that the advocates of comprehensive national reform are requested to be at the head of those going to constituencies and ballot boxes to choose their representatives in the local councils and express their opinion on the constitutional amendments. To tarry in exercising this constitutional right would lead only to

confirm the tense reality and miss an opportunity that could be a step towards the realization of national change and reform.

Despite all the criticisms against the constitutional amendments and the local authority law, as well as procedures and controls of the election process, this should not reduce people's keenness for participating in the referendum and elections in a manner pushing towards national aspirations. It is the duty of all eligible citizens having the right to vote to go to constituencies with a sense of responsibility and seriousness, to those in whom they have confidence in their efficiency and loyalty to issues of their homeland and the nation. The voters should keep away from material temptations and flamboyant slogans and promises.

Ath-Thawra daily of Feb. 25, 2001.

Publishing the partial results of the local elections and referendum on the constitutional amendments, Ath-Thawra daily said in its editorial that elections were the basis of democracy as they are based on honest competition and seeking decision from the masses, who have the right to place their confidence in those whom they believe express their hopes and aspirations.

Democracy in Yemen has managed to pass through certain important radical changes on the way to establishing its contents in practice. The first was the parliamentary elections in 1993, the second was the parliamentary elections in 1997, and before the end of the 20th century the people exercised for the first time in their history presidential elections by free and direct ballot. That has constituted a qualitative addition to their democratic march by which the state can complete its institutional construction on the basis of democracy, political pluralism, peaceful transfer of power, respect of human rights, freedom of press and expansion of the people's participation in decision-making and active share in accelerating rates of development at all levels.

The people of Yemen have embodied that new change on the 20th of February 2001 through their interaction and enthusiasm to practice their political and legal rights in the process of the referendum on the constitutional amendments and elections of the local councils, in a manner completely contrary to what some were thinking.

Al-Isboua weekly of Feb. 22, 2001.

Hassan al-Udaini has published an article on the elections and referendum saying that though the article was written before the appearance of the results, preliminary infor-

مسابقة «يمن تايمز» الأسبوعية

20,000

ريال

18,000

لك و

2,000

لمكتبك

أجب عن السؤالين في الأسفل وبعي بيانك الشخصية كاملة مع بيانات المكتب أو الجهة التي اشترت منها النسخة. أن كان لديك اشتراكاً مباشراً بالصحيفة، فيمكنك الاكتفاء بتعبئة بيانك الشخصية وستأكد الصحيفة من صحة اشتراكك قبل أن يتم السحب. وإذا لم تكن مشتركاً فيمكنك الاتصال بقسم الاشتراكات لدينا. إذا لم تكن مشتركاً، وفزت في المسابقة فسيحصل صاحب (المكتبة، البقالة...) التي اشترت منه النسخة على ١٠٪ من الجائزة (٢٠٠٠ ريال)، وستحصل أنت على ٩٠٪ (١٨٠٠٠ ريال). لن تقبل أي استمارات لا تعبأ فيها معلومات المتسابق بخط واضح وجليك أن تقص الكوبون وترسله إلى عنوان الصحيفة الرئيسي: صنعاء (ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩)، أو أحد فرعي الصحيفة في عدن أو تعز. ويمكنك إرسال الكوبون بنفسك إلى الصندوق البريدي عند بوابة الصحيفة في الفرع الرئيسي. ملاحظة: الإجابات التي نصلها بالفاكس غير مقبولة، وكذلك التي نصلها بدون كوبون المسابقة. سيتم اختيار الفائز بواسطة القرعة. وحتى يتسنى للقراء من المحافظات النائية والقرى إرسال الإجابات، فإن باب المشاركة سيظل مفتوحاً لمدة أسبوعين من يوم الإصدار (أي بعد ١٣ يوماً من الإصدار). بإمكان الشخص إرسال أكثر من كوبون بإسمه للعدد الواحد ليزيد من احتمال فوزه بالمسابقة. سيُنشر اسم الفائز واسم المكتبة (أو الجهة البائعة) في العدد بعد القادم لاستلام جوائزهما النقدية. نرجوا كتابة رقم عدد الصحيفة على مظروف الرسالة. من كان مشتركاً في مكتبة لا يعتبر مشتركاً في الصحيفة.

المسابقة رقم (٣) - العدد (٩) فبراير ٢٠٠١ م

سؤال ١: ماهي المحافظة التي تفوق فيها التجمع اليمني للإصلاح على المؤتمر الشعبي العام ولم ترد في كشف اللجنة العليا للانتخابات المنشور في هذا العدد؟

الإجابة:

سؤال ٢: شركة رائدة في مجال العطور نشرت ترحيباً بمقدم الوفد السعودي لرجال الأعمال إلى اليمن؟

الإجابة:

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رقم البطاقة: _____

المدينة/العزلة/المحافظة: _____

التاريخ: _____

هل أنت مشترك بالصحيفة؟ (نعم / لا) : _____

وإذا كان الاشتراك للمؤسسة أو وزارة يرجى توضيح ذلك.

بيانات إضافية وضرورية لغير المشتركين في الصحيفة

اسم المكتبة أو الجهة التي اشترت منها النسخة

اسم وتوقيع مسؤول المكتبة:

المدينة/العزلة/المحافظة:



بعد فرز الكوبونات الصحيحة تم إجراء القرعة التي كانت من نصيب الأخ:

عبد الرحمن ناجي محمد المراني
والمكتبة الفائزة: مكتبة دار الآثار - صنعاء

فألف مبروك للأخ عبد الرحمن
وخطاً أوفد لبقية المتسابقين..

Letters to the Editor

A Plea from an American to Find a Yemeni Father

American born Nathaniel Amir Wheeler was fathered by a Yemen-born citizen known to be Bassam Mosleh Algazali, after a short relationship with my sister Rosemarie Wheeler, 28 years old, who lives in the Bronx, New York City. Bassam Algazali abandoned this woman when she revealed that she had become pregnant with his child. Bassam Algazali disappeared without rendering any support, or even recognizing his child. Bassam Algazali, speculated to be born on 4/5/75, worked in a family owned Grocery Store in New York City. The Olympic Grocery on 615 East Tremont Avenue 176st Bronx New York, is known to be Algazali's father's business. According to Rosemarie Wheeler, the mother of Nathaniel Amir Wheeler, after Bassam's sudden disappearance she tried to contact Bassam Mosleh Algazali by speaking to his family members who own Olympic Grocery in the Bronx. Algazali's father known to be Mosleh Algazali told Rosemarie who mothered Bassam's child that Bassam had left the United States to settle family problems in

Yemen. Rosemarie Wheeler, believing the Algazali Family, waited for Bassam hoping he would come to finally recognize his American born child. After waiting almost a year for Bassam Algazali Rosemarie desperately reached to Bassam's brother Nadam Algazali for financial help. Nathaniel Amir Wheeler is more than a year old, a beautiful boy who has a father in hiding, reluctant to claim his child. A relative of Wheeler, while shopping at a mall in the City of Yonkers, spotted Bassam Algazali shopping at a store called Sterns, an expensive Dept Store. Rosemarie's relative followed Bassam, expressing to Rosemarie on a mobile phone that she had Spotted Bassam. It was indeed Bassam Mosleh Algazali. Bassam's face turned pale, and white, tumbling through words, and unspeakably shocked, not knowing what to say. Rosemarie's relative conveyed the shocking news to the rest of Rosemarie's family. According to Rosemarie, soon after, Bassam appeared at her doorstep, he told her he had come from Yemen to the USA for a family emergency. According to a confidential source with close ties to the Algazali Family, Bassam Algazali never left the United States. He was in

fact in hiding. The question, I guess, that has raised much speculation in the Bronx neighborhood, is why would Algazali be hiding from his child? Nathaniel Amir Wheeler is currently living in New York with his American mother. I decided to reach out to the American Government to find out new laws, and to reach out to local state agencies to launch an all out search for Bassam Mosleh Algazali. I personally believe Algazali is in New York, possibly in the Brooklyn area. Federal agencies already have been contacted and child support enforcement officials have been informed of the problem. Nathaniel Amir needs to be recognized and deserves to have a father. It was a cruel and inhuman thing to do by Algazali, not to recognize his child, and to continue to be in hiding avoiding his child. I guess this is a problem not new to many of us, but as humans we should try to come together to help these children that are left out alone with their mothers, with no guidance or support. This is a crime in America. In America many laws have evolved over the years because we have recognized the problem, and are facing this harsh crime as diligently as we can. Deadbeat dads is a system in which the American federal

Government joins with local state agencies on an all out search for fathers who do not claim paternity, and avoid the responsibility of fatherhood. We hope to find Bassam Mosleh Algazali. I reach out to the people of his native nation of Yemen. Please help us find Algazali, a beautiful child is left unwanted. I call upon the People of Yemen to help us with any information they can, leading to Algazali's location. I thank the people of Yemen because I trust them despite Algazali's doings. That he is an individual, and I trust his native nation of Yemen will not only spread the word of Algazali's doings, but will acknowledge Nathaniel Amir Wheeler and will help Bassam Mosleh Algazali recognize his child. Thank you and God Bless the People of Yemen.

Gary R. Wheeler
gbrotherpro@aol.com

Dear Sir,
Today, and only today, my need is so great to write these lines, in order to reveal the real situation at Aden College of Education. Recently we finished the first semester examinations after long and continuous hard-working, especially by good undergraduate students who always take

care and pay attention to their studies. I found myself in a very bad position for not being given what I actually deserve in the subject of 'Novel' because I scored only 67 marks with no significant reason, despite my good and sensible answers in both the primary and the final exam. To make you completely aware of this miserable situation, it should be realized that the mean teacher did not hand us back our answer-sheets. Therefore we insisted on her to return them to us, but she refused with no satisfactory reasons. After publishing the final results, we knew that since the moment she began teaching she has been hiding students' answer-sheets to silence anyone who says 'As you sow so you reap'. If you have any suspicion for all the above you can use your own legal means to communicate with my college to ask the English Department about this major devastating condition at our university. I am confident, and will be fully appreciative if you kindly help me send this message to the whole society.

Yours faithfully,
Adeeb Abdulgabbbar Ibrahim
Aden Educational College
English Department - Level 3
Condolences

Sir
I am very sorry for my late condolences as I got the news late. In fact, we were shocked to hear that your mother is no more. At first, I could not believe the news, because we are still injured by the passing away of the late Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqa' "may Allah have mercy on them all." But when I came through the article "The great couple" in your newspaper, I found the news was true. I regret could not express my deep, sincere consolation to you all on this great affliction, but let the Almighty do what He wants. It is only our destiny. Similarly, I could not express my gratitude and appreciation to the late couple on the positive role they played in developing the country, establishing the charitable institutions, helping the poor, etc. Therefore, I would like humbly to present my word of condolence to you. Abdulaziz and Aziza, as well as lessons they taught us about life, all would still be alive in our memories forever. My deepest condolences to you all. May Allah bless you with patience.
Yours faithfully
Fadl Ahmed Abbas Al-Mohsen
Arhab

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Arafat to Meet Powell in Ramallah
GAZA—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat returned to the West bank city of Ramallah Saturday from Jordan and will meet visiting U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell Sunday afternoon.

Spokesman of the U.S. Embassy to Israel Larry Schwartz said the meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. (1030 GMT) after the U.S. secretary of state holds talks with Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem. The meeting between Arafat and Powell had been arranged for Gaza City where Arafat has always been based since the eruption of the Palestinian-Israeli clashes late last September, in which over 400 people, mostly Palestinians, have been killed and more than 15,000 others injured.

The fatal clashes have also further damaged the flagging Middle East peace process, which has been stalled on all tracks.

On the change of the venue, Schwartz said it was made not out of security concerns, but as "a matter of conven-

ience," since Ramallah is closer than Gaza City to Jerusalem. Powell, whose country is the major sponsor of the Mideast peace process, arrived in Egypt Saturday morning, starting his first Mideast tour since taking office on January 20.

He will also visit Israel, the Palestinian self-rule areas, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Xinhua

Bush, Blair Discuss Sanctions Against Iraq

WASHINGTON—U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair discussed ways to make sanctions against Iraq more effective in their first face-to-face meeting Friday.

At a joint news conference with Blair at the presidential retreat, Camp David, Bush said that there was a determination that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein "shall not terrorize his neighbors and develop weapons of mass destruction."

Blair said that it was important to

emphasize that "our quarrel is not with the Iraqi people" and that the allies "make sure the sanctions hit him (Saddam)."

Xinhua

Beijing Olympic Bid Very Positive, Says Bubka

BEIJING—Former Olympic pole vaulting champion Sergi Bubka, a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) evaluation commission who concluded a four-day inspection tour of Beijing on Saturday, said the Chinese capital's 2008 Olympic bid project looked very positive.

"Generally I can say, as a sportsman, the plan looks very positive and good," the legendary athlete from Ukraine said.

The four-time Olympian focused his attention on the sports facilities in the Beijing bid, pointing out that it's very important that the venues be located near the Olympic village, which will provide much-needed convenience for the athletes.

Actually, he checked the travel time

within some of the proposed Olympic facilities and found the result exactly the same with what the Beijing Olympic Bidding Committee (BOBICO) had promised.

On his first ever trip to the world's most populous country, Bubka described the Chinese people as "nice, friendly and very enthusiastic about sports".

"You really love sports," he said.

The Ukrainian, who retired from his athletic career earlier this year, was elected to the IOC Executive Board after the Sydney Olympics.

Xinhua

D-8 Summit Opens in Cairo to Discuss Economic Cooperation

CAIRO—The third summit of the Group of Eight Islamic Developing Countries (D-8) opened here on Sunday to discuss ways of promoting trade and economic and technological cooperation.

The Islamic group, spanning Africa, Asia and Europe, comprises Egypt, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and

Turkey which is seeking to join the European Union.

The summit is expected to focus on combating poverty, setting up joint ventures, bolstering investments and supporting the private sector in the member states.

The D-8 summit is held every two years, with the inaugural summit held in 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city, where the group's headquarters is based.

The second summit was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, during which emphasis was given on easing customs procedures and documentation to facilitate movements of goods among the D-8 members, as well as ways to ease travel restrictions.

Xinhua

Russian Communist Party Raps U.S.-British Raids on Iraq

CAIRO—Russian Communist Party Chairman Gennady Zyuganov here on Wednesday denounced the latest U.S.-British air strikes against Iraq as "brutal attacks," the state-run Middle East

News Agency (MENA) reported.

Zyuganov, who arrived here in the day for a visit, said that the world community should take measures to end the suffering of the sanction-stricken Iraqi people.

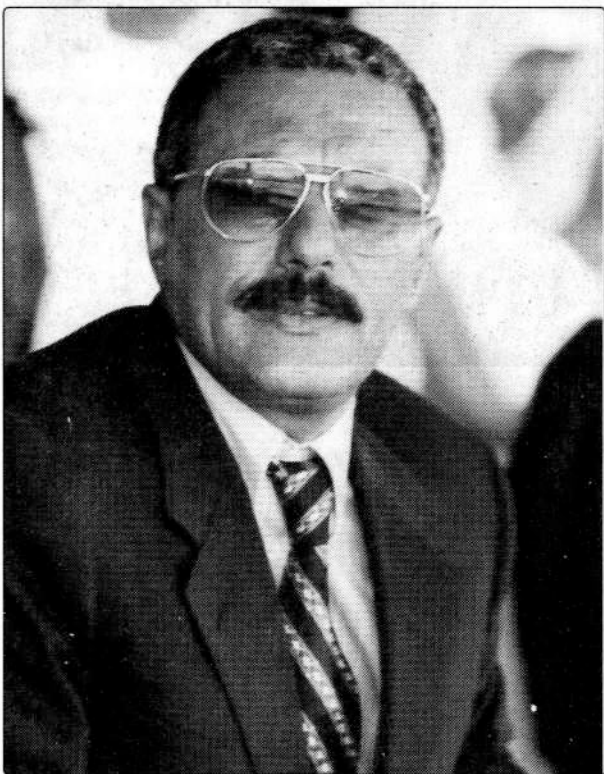
"We, as a Russian popular leftist bloc, have expressed our view on the issue. The party convened on Saturday to strongly condemn the U.S.-British attacks and call on the Russian government to work towards the lifting of the embargo on Iraq," he said.

The U.N. imposed economic sanctions on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Zyuganov will hold talks with Egypt's People's Assembly (parliament) Speaker Ahmed Fathi Sorour to discuss the latest developments in the Mideast peace process and ways of enhancing bilateral ties.

U.S. and British warplanes Friday night bombed Iraqi communications and air defense targets in the south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, killing two civilians and injuring 20 others.

Xinhua



نتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

علي عبد الله صالح

وإلى الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة العرس الديمقراطي الذي يحتفل به جميع أبناء الوطن والمتمثل بنجاح انتخابات السلطة المحلية، والاستفتاء

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and to all Yemenis

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أحمد مازن أحمد شمان

بإطفاء شمعه الثانية من عمره المديد (إن شاء الله).

عيد ميلاد سعيد وعقبى لمئة عام.

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عائلة أحمد شمان وعائلة فيصل سعيد نعمان

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها للأستاذ /

عبد القادر أبو فارع

بمناسبة الخطوبة، فآل ألف مبروك..

جلال الشرحبي، احمد حلاو، نبيل وفؤاد عبد الله حميد،

نبيل العريقي وجميع الزملاء..

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ACROSS:
1- Sound (5)
4- Medical examination (7)
8- Correct use of words (7)
9- Fruit of the vine (5)
10- Roman goddess (4)
11- First musical note (3)
12- Lima's country (4)
15- Night-time deadline (6)
16- Find (6)
19- Throw (4)
21- Purpose (3)
22- Attack (4)
26- Kofi... United Nations chief (5)
27- Worked (dough) (7)
28- Ornamental Staff (7)
29- Gustly (5)

DOWN:
1- All night watch (5)
2- Novice (7)
3- Hemispherical roof (4)
4- Container (6)
5- Container (6)
6- Playing card (5)
7- Take liberties (7)
13- Obtain (3)
14- Household pet (3)
15- Curved sword (7)
17- Desert (7)
18- Humour (6)
20- Scorch (5)
23- Father (5)
24- Intertwine (4)
25- Cat's cry (4)

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* Outstanding maintenance-free service life.
* Eliminates corrosion of terminals and hold-downs.
* Lead-calcium-tin grid chemistry extends service life in high temperature environments.
* excellent storage life.

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- العدد الصحنى - ٢٦,٢٨٣
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موظفة استقبال خيرة اللغة الانكليزية،
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