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• SANAA • July 6th thru 12th, 1998

Vol. VIII, Issue No. 27 • Price 30 Riyals

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Six Holes in One!

Saleh Meets Marib Tribes to Diffuse Tension

President Ali Abdullah Saleh received earlier this week tribal elders from Marib. According to Yemen Times sources, sheikhs from seven clans of the Jahn tribe met the president and presented their grievances. They left with him requests which he said he will look into favorably. Some of the demands have to do with compensations on the flood damages of 1995. Other demands include reversal of the recent price hikes. The tribes promised to end all violence against the state and to stop sabotaging the oil pipeline passing through the region.

Last week, the tribes had punctured a sixth hole in less than two weeks in the Yemen Hunt Oil Company pipeline carrying oil from Marib to the Red Sea. The YHOC engineers again repaired the damage. "It appears, the tribes have a map of the underground route of the oil pipeline," commented one oil source. The oil spills, so far exceed 20,000 barrels. But a more serious damage is done to the environment. At another level, there is now a lull in the violent confrontation that had occurred between the Jida'an tribe and the army. A similar lull has reigned in the other showdown between the



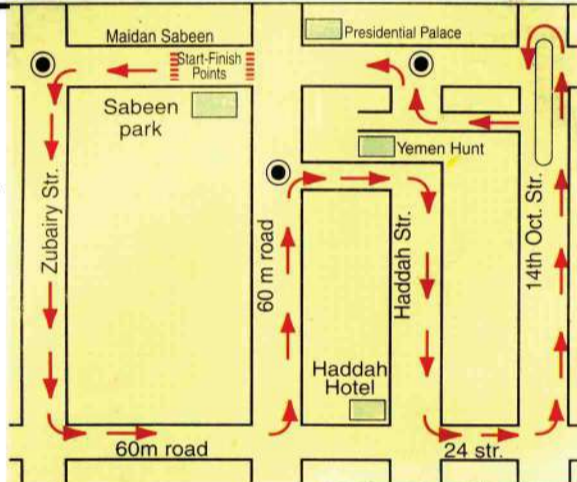
Flames flare from punctured YHOC oil pipeline as tribesmen watch.



Abeedah tribe and the army. Both tribes are now holding talks with the Army Chief of Staff, Abdullah Alaiwah, and military/security personnel. The sheikhs of Marib and Al-Jawf have issued a communique petitioning President Saleh to consider their plight and take steps to remedy their conditions.

Marathon Race in Sanaa Tomorrow!

Tomorrow, Tuesday, July 7th, Sanaa will witness a half-marathon (21 kms) race. In addition to about two thousand Yemenis, runners, from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Qatar and Lebanon will participate. The city's main highways, as shown by the adjacent map, will be off-limits for a good part of the day. Sanaa residents are very enthusiastic.



Saudi Embassy Says:

"We had nothing to do with disturbances in Yemen."

Mr. Ali Al-Qufaidi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Yemen, wrote to the Yemen Times insisting that his country was not responsible for the recent incidents in Yemen. "We hereby categorically refute any blames that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aided or instigated the disturbances," the letter says. The Yemen Times had written, last week, quoting President Ali Abdullah Saleh, that Saudi Arabia was partly behind some of the incidents.

In spite of the embassy letter, it is common knowledge that Saudi Arabia pays generous financial allocations to Yemeni tribal sheikhs, officers, religious leaders, and certain public figures. Through these recipients, Saudi Arabia influences the affairs of Yemen, and often uses its clients to pressure the authorities. Saudi Arabia and Yemen have been negotiating delimitation of their 1,500 kilometer border. The talks linger on with no light in sight.

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20,000 HITS IN 6 MONTHS

On June 30th, 1998, the counter at the Yemen Times online site, <http://www.y.net.ye/yementimes> showed 19898 hits for the first half of the year. The number of readers has been steadily rising from an average of some 12 visitors per day when the site was first installed, to about daily 80 visitors earlier this

year, to over 200 at the moment. We expect to have over 350 hits a day by the end of the year. Most of the people who access Yemen Times online are foreign government officials, business people, academicians, journalists, and others. In addition, Yemeni students abroad and immigrants also access it.

The newspaper receives by e-mail (yementimes@y.net.ye) a lot of feedback and comments, often complementary and useful. The paper responds to some of these messages. "We read the paper because its editors call the shots as they see them, and due to independent reporting," many write.

OUR VIEWPOINT

Visible Growth in Our Parliament

No one will deny that parliament is one of the main pillars of a democracy and that it plays a vital role in a modern state. In fact, many would go to the extent of defining the degree of a working democracy in any nation by the role and vibrance of its parliament.

The Republic of Yemen has had a parliament since its birth. It is interesting to note that the first parliament was more or less hand-picked by the politicians. The second parliament was elected in April 1993. Then came the third parliament, elected in April 1997. Most Yemenis are generally not satisfied with the performance of the representatives of the people, as they feel they do not have much clout. But for the deputies to snatch more clout from an entrenched political structure, deeply rooted in the military, would take some doing, and some time.

Over the last few weeks, however, something interesting happened. I can point to three specific events which point to the visible growth of our parliament, and which show that our representatives are moving in the right direction:

a) Standing for the People:

When the Government decided to remove some subsidies to correct price distortions, which I feel was necessary, there were riots and demonstrations. The parliament reacted in the right way by starting a hearing on the whole affair. In the process, and the first time in the history of Yemen, parliament stood as an equal to the government. In spite of the best efforts of Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, the prime minister, it was clear that parliament was not ready to be cowed under.

b) Islah Breaks Away:

The Congregation for Reform Party (Islah) is an opposition party, in that it is not part of the government. But it has not been behaving, in the past, as an opposition party. Now, last week, that has changed. The Islah is now taking positions that are in line with its role as an opposition - i.e., contrary to the wishes of the ruling party and its government. The Islah now openly declares that it is out to oust the ruling party's government. This is legitimate, and they shouldn't feel peevish about it.

c) PGC MPs Want to Be Partners:

On Thursday, July 2nd, 1998, the People's General Congress deputies were summoned by the president of the party, who is also president of the republic. President Saleh asked the MPs to support the government and warned that PGC deputies should fall in line. The last thing he expected was for the MPs to steadfastly hold their ground. The PGC MPs demanded they wanted to be full partners, and that the politicians must learn to involve them in decision-making. It was a water-shed. The MPs have grown.

These developments are the true signs of a multi-polar power structure, which is the basic format of a democracy. No one person or group should control everything and exercise overwhelming power over everything. The growth of our parliament needs the support of pro-democracy Yemenis.

The Publisher
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



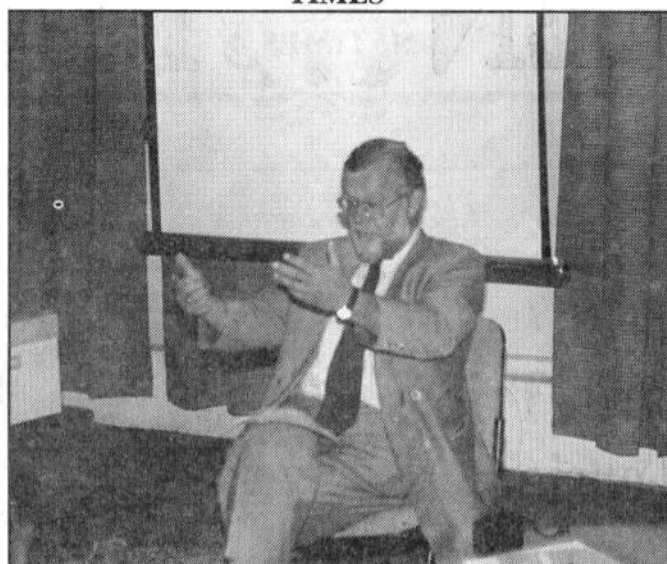
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Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

Editor-in-Chief & Publisher:
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Phone: + 967 (2) 347-057
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Worldwide Disarmament

The thorny and controversial issue of disarmament was the subject of an interesting lecture delivered by the Dutch Ambassador to Sanaa, Mr. Arend Meerburg on Tuesday, 30 June at the British Council Library in Sanaa. An accomplished research physicist, having a 21-year experience in the negotiations to bring about various arms control and disarmament treaties during the Cold War era, Mr. Meerburg touched on several aspects of this multi-faceted issue, including the tech-

nical side of enriching uranium and processing plutonium - the two main ingredients of the bomb. He also discussed the agreements and treaties to stop the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons. Several questions and comments were made by mixed Yemeni and expatriate audience that attended the lecture. Of special concern were the recent nuclear tests made by India and Pakistan within the context of the new world order.

Caltex Dollar Deal

Caltex is starting a massive promotion campaign as of July 4th - American Independence Day. "For every carton of Delo XD 40/50 purchased after July 4th, 1998, for a limited period, the price has been reduced by \$1. All local dealers will be running this promotion," said Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Al-Wajih, the Caltex General Sales Agent. At a press conference held on July 4th, Phil Garrison, General Manager of Caltex Alkhalij in Dubai, said "We are delighted to be offering such a strong promotion to our customers here in Yemen. He added, "Caltex Alkhalij has been associated with Yemen for a long time and it is a very important market to us."

University Strike Called Off

In response to promises by the government to negotiate on favorable terms and raise their salaries by 50% as of the next academic year, the Sanaa University teaching staff decided to call off their two-week strike. They returned to work on Saturday, July 4, to resume the suspended end-of-year exams.

"We are a civil-society institution, which relies on peaceful means to express its just demands," said a statement made by Dr. Abdullah Al-Maqleh, chairman of Sanaa University Teaching Staff Syndicate.

"The stance taken by the government - stipulating that the strike must be called off before talks could start - is quite astonishing, indicating a return to totalitarianism."

Debts Rescheduled

An agreement was signed on Tuesday, June 30, by Yemen and Italy to re-schedule the \$5.2 million debt owed by Yemeni. According to the Paris Club agreement and Napoli conditions signed by Yemen on 20 November, all Yemeni debts to the club members are to be rescheduled.

Similar agreement were reached with the US and Japan. The latter will provide Yemen with \$23 million to alleviate the burden of

debt servicing.

Ecological Survey

Organized by Land and Water Conservation Project at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, a special training course started on July 1 in Sanaa. The course's 20 participant are receiving theoretical and practical lectures on ecological and forest



"Let's Go to France '98"

Mona A. Farhan, a student at the French Department, Aden University, and Alawi Hashem Alawi, a student at the French Department, Sanaa University, won the competition entitled "Let's Go to France '98," which was organized by the French Embassy in Sanaa. There prize is a two-week visit to France to attend World Cup matches and see some of the French tourist attractions and cultural venues. All expenses paid by the French government.

The lucky two, accompanied by a Yemeni teacher of the French language, will go on guided tours to some of France's most famous historical places, museums, towns and palaces.



surveying and the climatic and soil factors affecting the country's plantation cover.

Jordan-Yemen Cooperation Strengthened

Two agreements between Yemen and Jordan on cooperation in issues of labor and religious endowments were ratified by the

two countries' respective authorities.

The first agreement aims to facilitate the movement of labor forces between the two countries, according to their respective rules and regulations. While the second one will regulate the process of manuscript restoration and conservation and revive the old Islamic heritage through printing and publishing ancient texts.

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Saleh O. Abdulakrim:

“There are only 7 doctors serving a population of 450,000!”

Staff Brigadier Saleh Obadi Abdulkarim is the Director of the Yaffa' Directorate in the Governorate of Lahaj. Graduating from the military academy in Cairo, 1965, Abdulkarim, 48, specialized in armored vehicles. He took part in defending the revolutions in both the northern and southern parts of Yemen. He fiercely fought the British occupation of Aden right up to independence day on 30 November, 1967.

Since he was appointed as the Director of Yaffa' in 1997, Abdulkarim has been in an up-hill struggle to provide the most basic of public services for this rather deprived region of Yemen. Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times discussed with Mr. Saleh Abdulkarim some of the most pressing issues that concern Yaffa' and its inhabitants. He filed the following interview.

Q: Could you tell us a bit about the current situation in Yaffa' regarding the provision of basic public services?

A: Frankly speaking, Yaffa' is deprived of almost all of the necessary public service. This situation has persisted since before the revolution. Successive governments had nothing to speak of. It is true that Yaffa' is remote and lies in a very rough terrain, but this is not an excuse for neglecting it. Following the unification of Yemen in 1992, public projects started to gradually come into Yaffa'. People started building roads in cooperation with NGOs and Yemeni immigrants working abroad.

The President has directed that Yaffa' should be connected by roads with Al-Baidha and other Yemeni towns and cities. It is still a dirt road that needs to be paved. Yaffa' is also in urgent need of water supply projects. The project that was started in 1992 with an estimated cost of \$70 million, most of which provided through foreign aid, stopped half way through and was never completed. All our efforts, to finish this project and find out where all the money has gone, came to nothing. Even when completed, this project will only cover the needs of parts of Yaffa'. The city needs more regulated water supply.

On another level, a number of dams are being constructed in the valleys to trap rain water of agricultural purposes, especially coffee beans and fruits. We also aim to extend electricity lines from the intended electricity generating project financed by the German government in the Habilain area, as promised by the Ministry of Electricity.

Q: When did the government officials start paying attention to Yaffa's needs?

A: Since I assumed my post I made extensive efforts to put Yaffa' on the map. The President directed senior government officials to visit the area in order to get first-hand knowledge of its needs.

To start executing any project, you have to make every possible effort to make it a reality.

Q: How good are the health services in Yaffa'?

A: Health services in general and primary health care in particular are very bad. There are only 7 doctors serving a population of 450,000! Although there are 4 major hospitals and 28 health care units, there is not enough staff to properly manage them. Moreover, to add insult to injury, corruption is quite rife in this very vital sector. A good amount of the medicines and other medical supplies regularly sent to the governorate does not reach its final destination, the hospital for which they are intended. As a result of that, people find themselves having to go Aden to obtain the necessary medicines.

Some of them go Al-Naqib hospital, which, although well-equipped, can only cope with 5% of the cases in the directorate.

Yemenis working abroad usually send some medical supplies, but they cannot really keep up with the increasing demand, not to speak of corruption and medicine plundering.

Q: What have you done to combat corruption in the medical sector?

A: Reform committees were organized to look into financial and administrative irregularities. They came out with a number of preliminary findings that will be employed in a more comprehensive reform process.

These reform committees not only restrict themselves to the health sector, but also act in other sectors where corruption is suspected.

Some of the corrupt officials are from Yaffa' itself, who were put in their current posts for political reasons - to spite people from other parties.

Q: Are the sanitation and sewerage systems any good?

A: Lack of proper sanitation and sewerage systems has led to the widespread of diseases and epidemics. This has to do with the restriction of city expansion and a lessening in its trade and industrial potential.

Q: What about telephone lines?

A: The Ministry of Communications is currently implementing a program to supply the Yaffa' with 2,000 telephone lines now and a further 2,500 in the next few years.

Q: Now could you tell us briefly about another very important issue - the judicial and security systems?

A: Both these systems, unfortunately, are rather backward. We really rely on the citizens' awareness and their sense of responsibility and law-abiding. Otherwise, security is quite weak in this area. Out of the 450 police officers and constables that should be working in Yaffa', there are only 6!

As for the judicial system, there is only one judge in the whole of Yaffa', who has to deal with numerous and complicated court cases. Hence, great delays and backlogs are experienced by the citizens.

Q: Are there many blood revenge cases in Yaffa'?

A: All the citizens in Yaffa' (independent, partisan, public officials, tribal sheikhs, etc.) have agreed on and signed several pledges in many people's gatherings and meetings to renounce blood revenge. This has become a fixed principle, to which almost all the people in Yaffa' adhere.

Q: What public projects are being implemented in Yaffa'?

A: There are several projects that will be completed and inau-



gured during the September and October celebrations. A 12-department college of education will be opened. It was funded by Sheikh Omar Qassem Al-Aisa'i, the well-known Arab philanthropist who paid YR 70 million, and other benevolent businessmen from Yaffa'. Studies will start in this college at the beginning of next September. Other projects that need to be urgently started must include road building. This is essential for facilitating an easy access to the city, if we want to attract investors to the area.

Q: How many Yaffa' people are working abroad, and how much money do they send back home?

A: There are more than 700,000 people who originally came from Yaffa' and immigrated to various parts of the world - Malaysia, Indonesia, UK, US, the Gulf, etc. They make big contributions towards building and developing their old country. About 90% of the buildings and institutions currently standing were financed by Yemeni immigrants.

By some estimates, the total amount of money remittances sent every year by these immigrants exceeds \$ 1 billion, which includes money sent to their families and money donated for various projects and charitable causes.

Q: What are the major sources of revenue in Yaffa'?

A: Yaffa' is well known for its excellent coffee bean crop, which is the major source of cash coming into the area, followed by cereals, fruits and vegetables. Yaffa' coffee is exported to various worldwide destinations. There 57 fertile coffee-producing valleys in Yaffa'. Coffee growing is actually increasing in this part of Yemen. Farmers are very particular and determined not to replace coffee with qat, like what is happening in other parts of Yemen. Coffee can become a major source of national revenue.

Q: Now let's move to another thorny subject, namely education. What sort of problems does the educational system in Yaffa' suffer from?

A: There are 138 schools, 3,000 teachers, and 43,000 students - male and female at all levels. There are also a few small schools in remote areas, 90% of which were built by immigrants from Yaffa' and other local philanthropists.

There are several groups and

associations that these immigrants belong to, which try to channel funds and assistance into their old home town to help their fellow citizens.

Q: Yaffa' has many interesting archeological sites and historical edifices and monuments. Why have these places not been exploited as tourist destinations?

A: Lack of properly paved roads and other infrastructure is a major hindrance in this respect. Hopefully, by next year the intended road from Al-Baidha will be completed. More funds are being

pledged by investors and businessmen interested in the area.

Sheikh Al-Aisa'i has also pledged to pave the 30 km-long road leading to Wadi Banaa where there are hot springs or sulfur baths, which are renowned for their healing powers. Sheikh Al-Aisa'i has also expressed his willingness to renovate one of the main hospitals, and to build vocational and technical institute in Yaffa'.

I can say that most of public service projects in Yaffa' will be finished within the next 4 years.

Q: What other future projects do you hope to implement in Yaffa'?

A: We are all working as best as we can to make Yaffa' a better place, irrespective of any political allegiances and partisan affiliations.

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“Close your mouth and begin fasting.”

By: Shaker Alashwal, President, The Yemeni American League, New York

Like many Yemenis outside of Yemen, I follow the news of Yemen with great concern. As an optimist, every event in Yemen that signaled positive change, no matter how insignificant it was, was a big deal to me. Though I was hopeful, I wasn't at all oblivious to the corruption; and to the lots of selfish, self-serving individuals who are responsible for corrupting the system. The unification of Yemen brought a new beginning, which we thought everyone would take advantage of. Most importantly, the unification brought freedom of the press, and freedom of expression. Yemenis became leaders in advancing the main principles of human rights. That made us proud, and ever more hopeful of changes that would be unparalleled in the Arab world. Then came the civil war. The freedoms began to diminish, especially in light of the absence of a strong opposition. Yet many of us remained hopeful that we would ultimately regain which we had enjoyed in those early years after unification. Many of us (the hopeful crowd) stood on many different platforms defending the policies of the government and trying to explain the logic behind

its actions.

Then came last weeks' events. Some actions are unexplainable, however sympathetic one is. The events showed that the system and its decisions were unpendable, and backward in their approach.

I must admit that my pride in the accomplishment of the system has abandoned me. If anything, those events showed that the government of Yemen during the past years was not working on institutionalizing democracy. How could we forget to grow? And how could we not maintain that of which we were most proud - our democracy.

To add insult to injury, it was unfortunate that the government did not know how to react to the situation. The violence that erupted is an indication that the people have not come to understand how they should practice their rights within the law. By committing acts of violence and looting, the demonstrators gave the government permission to forcibly stop such demonstrations. Many argue that those who initiate acts of violence and disruption are government operatives who work to give the government the right to forcefully stop people from demonstrating. That is a scary thought by itself, and my optimistic, trusting mind doesn't want to believe it. Could it be true?

The government is acting as if people would just have to accept the dramatic increase in the cost of their livelihood. The government's approach was very unique and surprising from the very beginning. First the people were not prepared, and the decision to raise the prices caught the country by surprise. While no one will condone violence or the disruption of Yemen's security, the acts of the few should not give the government the right to take away a basic right of expression such as demonstrations.

The government's communiqué banning demonstrations is most disturbing; the communiqué carried by the official media stated that "as there was no law to regulate the people's rights to demonstrate, and until such law is passed, all demonstrations, protests, etc. are illegal."

An eight-year old democracy, still has not regulated the people's right to demonstrate! What have we been doing for the past eight years then? Have we been improving the economy? Have we been attacking corruption? Have we been changing our governing system, to give the people more power, and control over their lives? Are our people enjoying more freedoms? Is our elected parliament as empowered as it should be by Yemen's constitution? Is our judicial system as independent as granted by the

constitution? I don't think much of that has happened.

People are not blind to see that our situation has not improved, but has worsened economically. The government has failed to show people the tradeoff of their sacrifice, when the system is still as corrupt. Who is sacrificing in Yemen? Who is suffering in Yemen? The average person is, and the poor are getting poorer while the rich are getting richer. People are still taking advantage of the system, their fancy villas, and expensive Toyotas and fat bellies attest to that.

How does (Prime Minister) Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani expect to find it easy to convince the common man to accept all these burdens? Why should the government be surprised when the people are concerned about their

livelihood? The government expects the common man in Yemen to tie a rope with a stone around his waist, while others can't find a belt that fits around their bulging bellies. When people see that the government is genuine about the reforms, when people begin to see that they're part of the change, that is when they will cooperate.

I am appealing to the government, to the parliament, to the President to take strong measures to eliminate corruption from the government. Only then would people realize that the govern-

ment's actions are sincere and unquestionable. The world is watching Yemen's move toward the new century. Do not let our steps take us backward. Our country has made great strides, and we need to continue and improve our record. The government needs to institutionalize democracy, a process that undoubtedly takes time, but our people should be encouraged, and taught the right way to practice democracy. Most of all, our most valuable right is our freedom. No open, civilized government has the right to control or take away that right. 'Close your mouth and begin fasting' cannot be a welcome approach, or one that people would be expected to follow.

* The (YAL) Yemeni American League is an organization for college students, graduates and Yemeni professionals in the U.S. The contact address is:

198 Court St. #6, Brooklyn, NY 11201.
Tel: + (718) 855-0420; E-mail: Yalnet@aol.com.
home page: <http://members.aol.com/yalnet/yemenis.htm>

Institutionalizing Democracy

The Electoral Reform International Services (ERIS) is a non-governmental organization, established in 1991, to work in developing democracies, providing electoral assistance as well as assistance in the field of institutional development. Most of its work has been in the former Soviet Union and Africa. It has recently come to the Middle East and Asia.



Two of the ERIS senior officers -Mark Power-Stevens and Andrew Bruce - have just visited Yemen. They talked to Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor.

Mark Power-Stevens, ERIS Program Manager:

The purpose of this visit is to look at a number of future projects in the field of democracy and institutional development. People have told us there are very important subjects on which we can cooperate. Possibly, we'll also be working with political parties in the elected parliament to help strengthen the parliamentary institutions. Possible projects will also be discussed with the Supreme Elections Committee. We are not carrying out all these projects, the idea is to look at

what's possible and what's not. ERIS activities in Yemen on the invitation of the British Embassy, included projects to raise public awareness during the April 1997 elections. The aim was to increase the people's participation, targeting women voters in particular because they would be less likely to participate. We worked with a local organizations, helping to develop the materials, but then it was really implemented by the Yemeni people.

We have also discovered that there are a number of organizations carrying out similar projects in Yemen. So we are keen to talk to not only Yemeni organizations, but also to other international organizations to make sure that we don't do the same things twice. Our goal is to complement or strengthen what others are

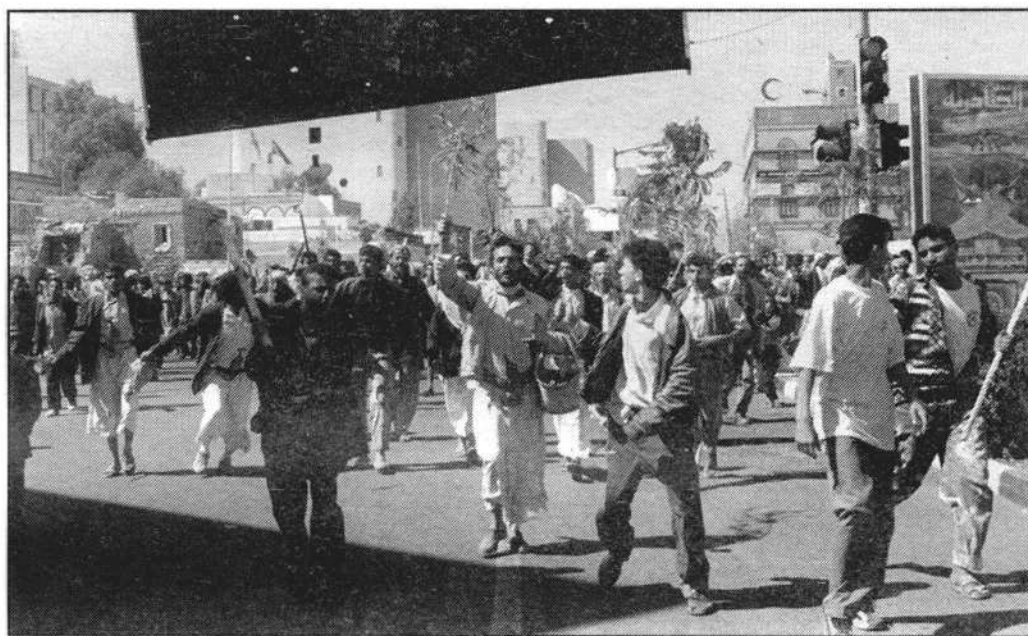
doing and make the best contribution we can.

Andrew Bruce, ERIS Program Officer:

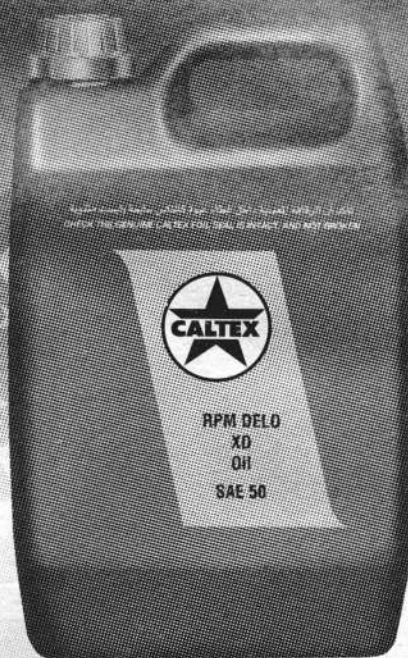
Mark and his colleague Fida Nasrallah were in Yemen last year carrying out a project related to the general elections.

I think it's important to find out what a country such as Yemen wants and needs. We are not here to impose our ideas, but to listen to people and to develop any assistance that might be useful to give.

We would very much like to be involved again in the further development of democracy in Yemen. I know my colleagues Mark and Fida very much enjoyed working here. As an institution and organization we would be keen to have further commitments to this country.



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CALTEX

This is an *OPINION* page.

Every week, a different intellectual writes a *FOCUS* on a pertinent issue!

NGOs in Yemen: Learning from Past Experiences!

By Sato (Kan) Hiroshi*



I Worry About Mushrooming of NGOs in Yemen:

I was very impressed when I attended the First General Conference of NGOs in Sanaa during 16-18 June, 1998. I saw so many so-called "NGOs" gathered there. When I first visited Yemen in 1983, nobody talked about NGOs in Yemen.

When I worked at the Japanese Embassy in Sanaa during the late 1980s as an 'economic and technical cooperation attaché', I noticed a few 'charitable societies' but they never called themselves 'NGOs'.

What has changed? Why did the phrase 'NGO' become a favorite term in Yemen? I think one of the main reasons is misunderstanding or over-expectation on the part of Yemenis regarding the donors. The misunderstanding goes like this: "If we make an 'NGO', we will have access to foreign donors, and if we succeed in making contact with foreign donors, they give us some 'development projects' or at least some money."

Thus, from the view point of some of the NGOs, 'donors mean money'. Hence the mushrooming of NGOs now.

I worry about the impact of this misunderstanding on the future of Yemen. In the long run, this will kill the self-reliant development spirit which Yemen is proud of, and may erode the cultural dignity of 'Arabia Felix'.

In the NGO conference, I presented a paper and pointed to some of the local problems which we, as foreign donors, encounter frequently in dealing with local NGOs. That observations are based on my personal experience, but I'm sure other donors may have similar experiences. The purpose is not to criticize anybody, but just to have a better understanding of the problems and find the best ways to address them.

In some developing countries like Bangladesh and Nepal, there are many development-oriented NGOs. They receive huge amounts of money from donor countries. NGOs mean business there, and they offer good job opportunities for the local bright young men and women. But, there is little 'development'. Yemen should not repeat this. We should think well about what NGOs can do, and what donors can do.

Some Yemeni NGO Problems in Receiving Donated Money:

Some common problems we encountered in dealing with local NGOs relate to their absorptive capacity. For the better development of Yemeni NGOs, those problems should not be repeated.

Mushkila (Problem) 1:

No Receipts are Presented:

Once the person from the NGO receives the check from the donor, he/she disappears and no report or invoice is sent back to the donors (for example, the Embassy of Japan). Some NGOs are often difficult to locate. Donors have no way of tracing the money. We don't know what they bought, or whether they really bought something for the project or they used the money to chew better qat.

Mushkila (2):

Buying Goods Not Specified in the Contract:

After receiving the check, the chairman or whoever is in charge at the NGO would often change his/her mind. They would decide to purchase something not mentioned in the original contract between donors and NGOs. For example, one NGO bought a video player although the contract only mentioned a video camera. It's a violation of the contract.

NGOs are given financial support after examining and approving the original list of necessary goods. NGOs have no right to change their declared shopping lists without consulting the donor. Donors do not give shopping coupons with which NGOs can buy everything they want in the suq. NGOs should buy the items agreed upon in the contract, or return the money to the donor.

Mushkila (3):

Private Use of Donated Goods:

Not only NGOs, but also many government bodies ask for 4-wheel drive cars. And in many cases, those cars are not used for the originally-declared purposes. This is a violation of the contract. Many cars are assigned for the private use of the mudir (director, chairman) of the NGO or government office.

Many Yemeni people jokingly talk to the Japanese people that 'since the car market in Yemen is 90% dominated by the Japanese cars, you have the responsibility to give us a gift'. That does not make sense. Maybe Toyota has a good share of the Yemeni car market. But the Toyota Land Cruiser or "saloon" - as it is called in Yemen - which sometimes the Japanese aid money is used to buy is not a gift from the Toyota Company.

It was bought by the Japanese government with Japanese taxpayers' money. Japanese taxpayers hope this car will be used for a good development project,

they would never think about the amenity of the Mudir.

Mushkila (4):

Not Completing the Project:

At one time, the Japanese Embassy donated walls and doors for a rural school, but the school never opened because there is no roof. Another time the Japanese government donated air conditioning for some project bodies, but they are not in use because there is no electricity.

Or JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) donated computers to an office project, but they are not in use because there is no one who can use a computer.

When NGOs, (actually not just NGOs, but also government bodies) ask donors for assistance, there is a natural tendency to request more luxurious and sophisticated goods. But they should also think how those goods could be used efficiently and how able they are to maintain them (including money for buying spare parts). If you think you cannot use or maintain an equipment, don't request it.

Mushkila (5):

Quarrels within NGO Members

Some of the NGOs are dominated by one strong person. As a Japanese (read, oriental), I don't care about 'western democracy' nuances. The Yemeni society has a tradition of its own, sort of a democracy of it own. If the NGOs are not functioning well, either a 'written charter' or 'election of the board members' is a must.

But the most serious problem plaguing local NGOs is the dispute that takes place among members over money, policy, recruitment, etc., paralyzing the activity of the NGO. The Japanese Embassy prepared money (after getting authorization from Tokyo) for an NGO, but suddenly this NGO was dissolved because of internal problems. Quarrels among the leaders do not benefit the local people.

Everybody has different ideas and interests, so quarrels may arise everywhere. Activities must not be stopped easily if donor money is already received, or even just available. NGOs have responsibility towards the donors. If you don't want to be responsible to foreign donors, don't

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receive their money.

Mushkila (6):

Intervention by Government

This is not an NGOs problem, strictly speaking. If there is a successful local NGO, some people (outside this NGO) become jealous. Also local administrators sometimes feel unhappy about the existence of an influential NGO in their locality.

Such a problem arose recently.

The Japanese Embassy once donated sewing machines for an NGO women training center, which were being used very well. After some time, local politics affected the activity of this NGO. Some of the local people claimed that those sewing machines are their property and asked the government to confiscate them.

The government sent military people to confiscate those sewing machines and moved them to another place, of course without consulting the Japanese Embassy. And worst of all, those sewing machines are not in use any more. The Japanese Embassy donated those machines for the women's training and not to be stored in some dusty place.

Of course, Yemeni NGOs should abide by Yemeni laws and regulations, but the government should have a minimum say in their activities. But since the NGOs are supposed to serve their people, government intervention should be minimal and the government should not poke its nose in the internal matter of NGOs.

Finally, I want to repeat. The purpose of this article is not to accuse anybody, but to avoid making the same mistakes, over and over. We should learn from bad experiences.

From a global view, NGOs are key in 'participatory development'. Donors prefer NGOs, though they will continue to engage the government. Thus, more stable and disciplined local NGOs are needed. Too much interference by the government will spoil the dynamism of NGOs. Too much interference by donors will kill the self-reliant initiative of the local NGOs.

* Sato Kan Hiroshi is a sociologist/economist at the Institute of Developing Economies in Tokyo, Japan. His main field of research is Yemen, where he lived during 1985-88 and again since 1997, in the social impact of development aid projects in developing countries.

He conducted research in several south Asian and Southeast Asian nations and published many books. He is a founding member and director of the "Japan-Yemen Friendship Association", established in Tokyo in 1996.

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ماري للإعلان

ZAKAT: Where Does All the Money Go?



Mr. Abdullah Nasser Al-Dhurafi is the Director of Maslahat Al-Wajibat. Literally translated, this stands for Duties Authority. But since its main job is to collect the Zakat, we will just call it the Zakat Authority. Zakat is sort of an Islamic tax. Mr. Dhurafi had occupied several important posts in the legislative and executive authorities. Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to him and filed the following report.

Q: Could tell us briefly about the Zakat Authority?

A: The Zakat Authority was established immediately after the revolution of September 1962, in response to the great injustice that prevailed during the reign of the Imam in levying Zakat or other taxes. During the rule of the late Ibrahim Al-Hamdi and his prime minister Abdullah Al-Hajri, 25% of Zakat money was diverted directly to NGOs and excharities, in particular. In 1978 when President Ali Abdullah Saleh came to power, this was increased to 75%. But this was later abolished by the new Zakat Law.

Zakat is an important source of revenue for the state. Before the Revolution, the state depended on the levying of Zakat, almost exclusively. It was then levied primarily on agricultural and livestock. Now it covers a whole new range of commercial activities. When I was first appointed, our annual revenue was around YR 700 million. With the enactment of the Zakat Law, the revenue rose to YR 2.2 billion. We hope to levy YR 2.7 billion during this year.

Q: Allegations are rife that the state uses the Zakat money to buy cars and build villas for its officials. What do you say to that?

A: This is absolutely untrue. All our revenues go towards social security benefits.

Q: People say that some of your employees receive bribes in return for lowering the estimate of due Zakat payments. To what extent is this true?

A: We send one notification after another to people obliged by law to pay Zakat. Some of them respond positively, while others pay a small part of the due amount. We sometimes have to send the police with Zakat collectors.

Also we are in the process of instituting a comprehensive reform program to weed out all possible corrupt elements here.

Q: How many people work in this Authority?

A: There are more than 10,000 people working for us, if we include mosques, Imams, community elders and district chiefs as well as the administrative staff

and treasurers in every directorate in every governorate.

Q: How much of Zakat money is spent by way of salaries for all of these employees?

A: Of the Zakat money, 12% goes to the administrators, 8% to the sheikhs, and 5% to community elders and district chiefs.

Q: In what proportions is the bulk of the Zakat money distributed to needy people?

A: I must first make it clear that the Duties Authority levies the Zakat, but do not distribute the money. The money is distributed according to the state's budget: 50% is given to poor families, 10% to the disabled, and 5% is distributed according to other budgetary allocations.

Q: Can the citizen give out Zakat money according to his/her discretion, without the intervention of the state?

A: From the Islamic Sharia point of view, this is not allowed. The Yemeni law has given the citizen the right to spend 25% of the Zakat money imposed on his earnings on his family.

The Zakat money that should be paid annually by any big businessman is around YR 50 million. He may only distribute YR 5 million according to his own discretion, and pay the rest to the state. The opposite usually happens. He says that he himself can distribute the bulk of the money, which is really against the Islamic Sharia.

Q: How do you deal with people who refuse to pay Zakat?

A: The Zakat Law specified certain punishments for Zakat evasion. If some businessmen claim that they have not made good profits during the last fiscal year, they have to come to the Zakat office to swear to that effect.

Q: How is Zakat collected on cattle, crops or real estate?

A: Zakat inspectors usually count the size of the cattle or sheep herd, say, or the number of trees in an orchard. According to this inspection, they estimate the Zakat money to be levied. About YR 200 million is levied per year from qat growers.

It must be borne in mind that Zakat is only imposed on those who own, for one whole year, 85 ounces of gold or its equivalent.

Q: What about arms merchants? Are you able to levy Zakat from them?

A: The arms business in Yemen is an impregnable fortress. It is almost impossible to deal with them, let alone asking them for Zakat money.

Q: What about real estate? How do you levy Zakat on that?

A: This is done in cooperation with the Surveying Authority in figuring out the size of the people's property. But problems also arise when we try to levy the tax from the rich and influential people. We are currently improving the collection methods, generating about YR 90 million a year from this field.

Q: How do you levy the "Fitr" Zakat towards the end of the Holy month of Ramadhan?

A: Fitr Zakat is levied from public employees at the rate of YR 80 per family member.

Q: Is the Zakat money levied by your authority entered into the state's central budget?

A: Zakat is considered a major

part of the state's revenue, as stated in the constitution and the relevant laws. It can only be dispensed with through the Ministry of Finance.

Zakat money is deposited at the Central Bank of Yemen, and not anywhere else.

Q: What are the conditions for Zakat exemptions?

A: According to the Zakat Law, people obliged to pay Zakat are exempted by 25% of the amount due for them to give out at their discretion.

Q: How far are you able to levy Zakat on the fisheries income?

A: The fish wealth represents an important income for the state. Unfortunately, since the fisheries sectors is divided into the public, private and mixed sectors, it is somewhat difficult to keep track of their income.

Q: Do you think the Zakat law is sufficient to serve the purpose for which it is intended?

A: The law was discussed and formulated by a committee of Yemen's elite religious scholars. It was later issued by the President and endorsed by the Council of Ministers. It is now, however, being discussed by parliament, which is proposing a number of amendments.

MPs think that people pay the Zakat normally, not knowing the full extent of the problems we face in collecting this tax.

Q: What do you think of giving a large proportion of Zakat money to the increasing number of NGOs around the country?

A: First of all, I must point out that these charities and NGOs are being created haphazardly. Not all of them are really for charitable cause, though. People may give the 25% Zakat exemption to such organizations if they see fit. But our authority has commitments to a number of social security public establishments.

Q: But people do not seem to give any money to these NGOs. Why?

A: It is because some of these organizations are not really doing charity work. In the past, people used to work as volunteers for charities and spend on them out of their personal assets. Nowadays people want salaries, cars, travels abroad, etc. NGOs have become status symbols and prestige enhancers.

There are much worthier causes to which Zakat money and other donations must be channeled: orphanages, old-people homes, hospitals, poor families, the disabled, etc.

Q: How much does a poor family get from the Zakat money?

A: Each family gets YR 250 a month. I wish we were able to get more Zakat money to give to needy people.

Q: What should be done to make the Duties Authority 100% efficient in collecting Zakat money?

A: If the law is properly implemented and people are made fully aware of the importance of paying Zakat and other taxes, then our authority can proceed with its work in a better manner. People will have to know first where and how the money is spent so that they are rest assured that their money goes where it should.

The Duties Authority must be modernized and provided with efficient and competent tax collectors to function well.

Building Workforce 'Infrastructure'

Organized by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, a special work seminar was held on Monday, 29 June to discuss the final recommendations made by the workshop on establishmentarian development and vocational training. Leading the participants were the Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayyeb; Mr. Ahmed Mustafa, ILO expert; and Mr. Griem Wooller of the Australian SMEC for engineering consultancy.

The seminar was also attended by senior officials at the Vocational Training Fund, the Ministry, the General Authority for Vocational and Technical Training (GAVTT) and other relevant bodies. The aim was to try to draw out organizational structures, consolidating the administrative infrastructure, and allocating the tasks and specializations to the various directorates.

Launching the seminar, Eng. Al-Tayyeb emphasized the importance of founding modern vocational training institutions in Yemen. A project is in the pipeline to help renovate and refurbish the existing institutions and equip them with modern facilities and equipment, indicated by the Minister of Labor.

two training centers for hoteliery and oil and gas." On his part, Mr. Abduljalil Al-Daba, the project's director for technical cooperation and training, indicated that among the 35 participants at the seminar there were two women: Ms. Leial Ba-Shomeila, director if the Center for the Disabled in Aden and Ms. Nawal Abdulaziz, deputy director of the GAVTT office in Aden.

Recommendations

Institutional Strengthening of GAVTT:

- 1- The legal mandate of GAVTT to be revised to cover its mission statement and basic fundamentals.
- 2- The National Council for Vocational Training and Technical Education to be re-established to carry out the stated functions.
- 3- The Management Executive Committee to be elected from among the NCVTT members to act as the Board of Directors of GAVTT and to carry out



He also stressed the need to develop human resources as an essential part of the development process. "Training must encompass all people, from senior executives to junior staff. Every training center should be made into an independent unit," announced Eng. Al-Tayyeb.

A 13-month contract worth YR 60 million was signed with the SMEC company of Australia to rebuild what was destroyed by the war in Aden, Lahaj and Abyan. The funds for the project will be provided by the World Bank, the OPEC Fund, and the Yemeni Government.

Mr. Moqbil A. Al-Sanabani, Administrative Director of the Vocational Training Project, told Yemen Times: "The are 14 training centers eligible for rehabilitation and new equipment. They will provide training in carpentry, electrical wiring and fixtures, building construction, sanitation fitting, car mechanics, and electronics."

"Special plans are now being discussed to establish a training center for training women on basic handicrafts and other vocations that have been a male reserve. With support by the EU, there will also be

the functions stated in the mission statement of the Management Executive Committee.

4- The proposal on organizational structure and mission statements of the administrative units of GAVTT to be adopted and practiced.

5- Action plans to maintain the strengths, to overcome the weaknesses, to seize the opportunities and to eliminate the threats should be developed and implemented by GAVTT.

6- A Management Development Plan, including the mission statements of the directorates, job descriptions of key positions and procedural manuals to be developed and implemented in the second phase of this assignment (Oct-Nov, 1998).

7- The proposal on Technical Education and Vocational Training Production through Training and National Accreditation Criteria to be discussed within the GAVTT leaderships, and to be finalized during the second phase of the assignment.

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Dr. Waleed Jazrawi - President/General Manager
and all Staff of

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the confirmation of Yemeni Unity

7 JULY

Predicament of Yemeni Music

I really feel sad and disappointed with the decline of the Yemeni song after it was revival and flourishing. Of course, there are some reasons behind this fall. But before enumerating these reasons, I would like to give a view of the Yemeni song's situa-

tion in the past. And thus we can find how wide is the gap between the past and the present Yemeni song.

Yemeni Songs in the Past

It has to be remembered that Aden witnessed a great artistic

renaissance during the 1950s and 1960s. It embraced a galaxy of artists who enriched the Yemeni song and were the torch-bearers of the Yemeni muwashsha. They spread it among the folk people in the southern part of the Arab world.

Lying under the yoke of the British colonialists, people were comparatively free to hold some intellectual and cultural activities. But the people in the north, ruled by the Imam didn't have such freedom and songs were forbidden.

Aden at that time was a very important commercial center linking the south with the north. This made trade very active, attracting some gramophone companies from Germany and some local companies were established like Tahaphone and Azizyphone. These companies played an important role in spreading and documenting the Yemeni muwashsha in addition to the songs of Lahaj, Yafa'e and Hadhramaut. Indeed, such lively artistic movement was transported beyond the Yemeni border to the neighboring countries. In this way songs became more widespread. Moreover, Aden had at

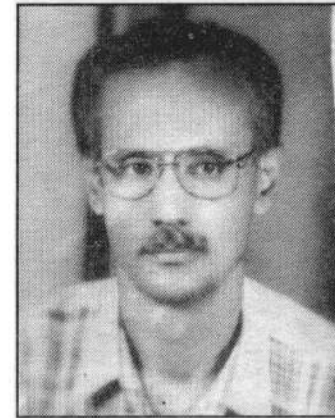
that time a good show of Indian and Egyptian films which were received warmly, particularly on the part of the talented Yemeni artists.

Later the Yemeni song underwent some innovation represented by the works of Ahmad Qassem, Al-Murshedi, Khalil Mohammed Khalil and so on and so forth. Poets like Lutfi Aman, Ahmad Al-Jabery and Mohammed Saeed Jaradah played a very good role in developing the style of the lyrical poem.

Ahmed Fadhl Al-Qomendan did the same to Lahji lyrical poems. Abdullah Hady Subait wrote some lyrics that were sung by the young singer Mohammed Saleh Hamdoon, whose songs were famous also outside Yemen. Hence the Lahaj lyrics occupied a good position in Yemen. Mohammed Jumaa Khan added something new to the songs of Hadhramaut due to the influence of the Indian music because of his Indian father. All this gave the Yemeni song a pioneering role at that time not only in Yemen, but also in the neighboring countries.

Yemeni Song Nowadays

Unfortunately, in the 1970s the Yemeni artistic movement began to dry and wither, especially in the southern part due to political factors. In other words, the regime there wanted the artistic activities to serve its political ideology. This had a negative impact on the situation of the Yemeni artistic movement. This is after the artistic renaissance that brought many musical instruments into the country like the flute, trumpet, lyre, etc. Traveling



to other countries was not allowed. The hard economic situation of the country also added fuel to the fire.

People in the north of Yemen were very conservative where songs were restricted only to wedding parties. Therefore the talented and intellectual figures were forced to immigrate in the hope of finding a greener pasture and freer room to achieve their potential. And thus the Yemeni song was put in the horns of a dilemma where we were not able even to preserve our past achievements in the arena of art and music. This made the Yemeni song unable to produce any echo outside Yemen except only through a select few singers living abroad.

But now the Yemeni song needs our special attention. We have to make analytical studies to evaluate its situation and think of a way-out from this impasse.

Saleh Abdulbaqi,
Arts Editor



On the Road to Mahweet

This week I passed along the same road to Shibam towards Tawilah and Mahweet and had no problems at the check points. My friends and I were now driving in a four door Mercedes sedan and not the Toyota pick-up used last week. Yes friends, symbols count in this country so if you travel in a top model car you're unlikely to attract unwanted attention, I thought. The towns along the road were as attractive as Kawkaban; for example Hosn al Mukhiyar 48 km. before Mahweet lay majestically on a mountain ledge, its old style windows reflecting the morning sun. Bab Al Ahjour was the first attraction after the Kawkaban mountain chain. The town lay against a mountainous ledge

along a windy road with terraced fields below. Tawilah, 15 km before Bani Shibam, between Shibam and Mahweet was also an unexpected treat; the old part of the town lay against eroded mountain peaks and extended towards a fertile valley below.

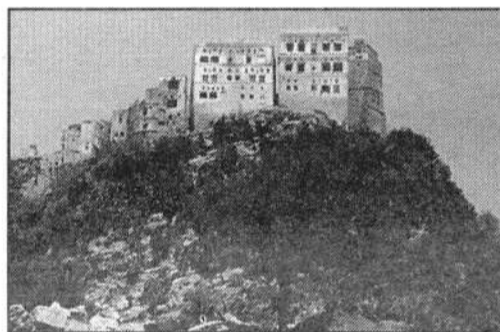
It made sense that the road to Mahweet would probably pass through town centres along the way, unfortunately for us who just wanted to arrive quickly to our destination.

As far as terraced fields go, I could say that the most beautiful sight was at Bani Shihab just six km. before the final destination. There I had a magnificent view of green contoured fields that hugged the hill slopes for tens of meters into the valley below. There are no lakes in Yemen but large pools of water like the one I saw outside the mosque of Bani Shihab, and probably used for bathing before entering the mosque. Bani Shibam 93 km from Sanaa

has a mosque and it being Friday my friends stopped for their holy prayer while curious children came out to inspect the strange Mercedes parked in front and the foreigner sitting inside.

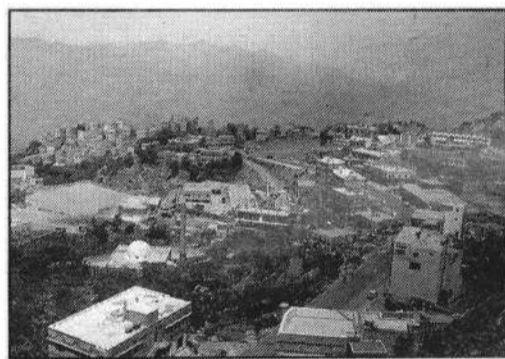
The town of Mahweet offers the tourist a view from the old city centre on the top of a small peak and there is new city proper which stretches below leading to the Mahweet Hotel. It being Friday noon the town was a maze of markets throughout but we were able to get to the base of the old town and walk in. There was the classic door to the old town, not as majestic as for Kawkaban but just as awe inspiring. Once through it and to the left I was pointed out a building used for wedding ceremonies. Further on in I couldn't help but notice some lovely handcarved doors that date back a few hundred years. Then we then entered a gate leading to a large pool that served as bath for prayer goers 400 years ago and was now covered with algae.

The buildings date back several hundred years when wooden beams were used as a base and support especially for those homes which were located above



the small tunneled walk ways of the town. Once we left, of course we left a tip to the local children who are quick to spot the out of town license plate and offer their services to the out of towners. I had a pair of binoculars with me and admired the view from the old centre, which are worthwhile seeing. For the tourist that likes to spot the local costumes as well as the sights then there's an added treat, for the women in each region each wear their own brand of cloth! In Mahweet the shawl was dark violet with a bright pink border while at Bani Shihab I saw women covered with brighter red-yellow paisley bordered shawls.

Martin Dansky,
Yemen Times



NEW POEMS

I CAN SEE FOR MILES AND MILES

MY DREAM DEFLOWERED

- I shall never smile again;
- Nor love only cry in pain.
- My heart meets agonies on all side;
- Agonies are my sea's ebb and tide.
- Sigh my heart, sigh my soul;
- Wander lonely sans a goal.
- My hope has vanished and dried;
- My dreams drift without any guide.
- Life has shrunk into a sigh;
- Providence has snatched our loving eye.
- Destiny has shattered my cherished dreams;
- Oh, no more to see their sacred light beams.



By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi



I see the sun, it's smiling,
I see the clouds,
they're saddening,
I see the rain, it's crying,
I see myself, I'm dying,
I hear the wind, it's howling,
I hear the thunder,
it's shouting,
I see the lightning,
it's frightening,
I see the bombs,
they're destroying,
I see the poor, they're starving,
I see the leaders,
they're laughing,
I see the Devil, he's planning,
I see some people,
they're worshipping,
Worshipping whom you ask?

Why, Satan of course!
Don't mistake the obvious,
We're all sufferers.



By: Waffa Alawi Nasser.

صدر العدد ٤٥ من مجلة
أسامة للأطفال
تحوي العديد من المواد
الشيقة والمفيدة.
سارع بشرائها لأطفالك
أسامة: مجلة كل الأطفال
والفتيان

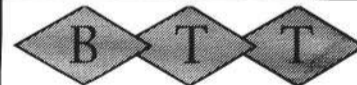
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	1425\$US	Ams.
	1495\$US	Both.

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Letters to the Editor

Looking for Friends

Dear Editor,
I need friends in Yemen. I am very much interested in getting in touch with young people in Yemen. Please, help me find male and female friends aged between 20 to 40 years. I am a 35-year-old male librarian. I can write in English.
My hobbies and interests are writing letters, meeting friends, collecting stamps & cards, listening to pop music and reggae, watching TV, traveling and swimming.
I would be very grateful and happy for your kindness of publishing my address in your most esteemed newspaper. Shukran jazilan.

Hans Kiebart, M.A.
Schacht Str. 6,
D-04155 Leipzig, Germany

Yemeni Education: A New Orientation

For Yemeni students at various levels and specialization these days are full of hope as well as despair. You get to hear many comment from them. Many desperate students ask, "are we going to get jobs if we pass? Are we going to get jobs if we fail?" Success and failure are very much alike for them. Many students, however, keep ahead, not knowing exactly what they want. This is, of course, due to ill-planning, less jobs and more competition.

Every generation should look at the scope and then choose a profitable field. The ambition of children is always to become a doctor or an engineer. But now things have changed and ambitions, we believe, should change accordingly. We are in the era of microsoft technology. We should prepare our children for the demands and challenges of the next century.

There will be no place for those who are not able to catch up with the tempo or still dream with a gold spoon. It is an encouraging trend to see that many of the public and private higher educational institutions at present are full of older people along with the young because in the past people easily got jobs after finishing school. Now they feel the need and inclination to complete a particular course at a higher standard in order to meet the requirements of the market.

It is also a source of pride to find that many students study and work as the same time. This is the right thing which helps a person to become more self-reliant in life. One should not give up education, even if he/she is working. And one should not refuse to work in any place, even if he/she feels that it is degrading for him/her.

After all, no matter what age you are, you can continue to study, and you can even work, because knowledge never ends, failure is never final and success is always ahead.

Hamoud M. Kadha
Faculty of Education, Hodiedah University
Currently, Research Student, Pune University, India

Refugee Community Center, Aden: A Sheer Waste of Funds

As the former community center manager, I would like to point out to the readers of this letter several reasons which would demonstrate why the refugee community center in Aden is a total failure and a complete waste of money.

I was employed as a manager on 20th of March 1998. I replaced the then manager Mr. Saeed who was on the job for two weeks. The chief of mission in Yemen Mrs. Emmanuel had instructed me to

make the center a lively place where the refugees could meet and interact. Moreover, she ordered me to organize refugees according to their respective occupations. For instance, she promised to provide musicians with musical instruments and the payment for reserving a theater when they stage the concert for the large Somali community in Aden. Similarly she promised to help the sports people with clothes, shoes, equipment, etc.

I organized everything as she had instructed. However, it turned out that she didn't intend to fulfil her promises. The refugees felt disappointed when they learned that we were not serious about our pledges. I was disappointed too. I made it clear to my boss that such behavior would tarnish our image with the refugees.

Meanwhile, upon my arrival at the center I found out that it wasn't large enough to accommodate the various activities that the center is intended to house. Moreover, all the seventy chairs at the center which had been bought two weeks ago were already broken or at the point of breaking. To my bewilderment, I was informed that each chair was bought at a price of YR 800. To make matters worse all materials at the center were already deteriorating barely two weeks after its use. You would think that everything has been collected from the rubbish.

On the education field, I have set up three language-teaching programs; English, Arabic and French. However, the highly qualified had deserted us when they learned she refused to pay them. In fact in front of my very eyes I saw every thing that I have toiled to start with a lot of energy and dedication being uprooted by the very person who was supposed to build them.

Consequently the number of the visitors at the center, which had been at an average of 150-200 visitors a day in late April, dropped to about 50-60 visitors in late May.

Finally having given up all hope of cooperation from the triangle chief of mission, I submitted my resignation on 30th May. When I left the job on 6th June there was hardly a program left functioning.

Thus, I believe that it is a total waste of money if the UNHCR and other agencies continue funding such a white elephant and dying center. Otherwise they will have to change the triangle which runs the center now and start shifting responsibility of running the center to other better qualified agencies. I am sure the agency which runs the center currently can't manage.

Mohammed Saeed Esmail
Former Manager
Refugee Community Center, Aden

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مجلى عبدالله مجيد
ويهنئه المناسبة السارة بتقدمه كل من:
عبدالكريم البخيتي - محافظ محافظة مارب,
الإستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني - رئيس المجلس الاستشاري
وكافة أعضاء المجلس
بخالص التهاني والتبريكات القلبية
للشيخ عبدالله مجيد
بمناسبة زفاف ولده
ويهنئه المناسبة السعيدة بزف الأهل والأصدقاء
اسمى آيات التهاني والتبركات. وأدام الله السورور

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<p>America Plus</p> <p>06 July 1998 1900 Highlander 2200 Homicide 2325 3rd Rock-replay</p> <p>07 July 1998 2000 Chicago Sons 2030 It's A Man's World 2100 The Kindred</p> <p>08 July 1998 1900 FX 2100 Melrose Place Year 6 2300 Friends</p> <p>09 July 1998 1500 Beverly Hills 90210 2130 Suddenly Susan 2200 ER</p> <p>10 July 1998 1630 The New Gidget 1830 Murphy Brown 1900 Due South 2000 Union Square</p> <p>11 July 1998 1300 Sunset Beach 1400 Lois and Clark 1900 Flipper 2000 Pearl</p> <p>12 July 1998 1600 227 2000 Family Matters 2030 Murphy Brown 2100 La Femme Nikita</p> <p>Music Now</p> <p>06 July 1998 1400 American Chart Show 1500 Cosmix 1900 Mediterranee 2100 Awtar</p> <p>07 July 1998 1500 Cosmix</p>	<p>1700 Dandana 2300 Music Now Jukebox</p> <p>08 July 1998 2000 Awtar 2200 Sahretna 2300 Music Now Jukebox</p> <p>09 July 1998 1800 Conversation With Massive Attack (Premiere)/Chain Reaction#2 1900 Mediterranee 2100 Awtar</p> <p>10 July 1998 1100 Vital Soul 1400 R.s.v.p. 1600 1998 American Music Awards</p> <p>11 July 1998 1100 Vital Soul 1400 Cosmix 2100 Awtar</p> <p>12 July 1998 1500 Cosmix 1700 Dandana 1900 Mediterranee 2100 Awtar</p> <p>The Disney Channel</p> <p>July 6, 1998 1100 Brand Spanking New Doug 1500 Sinbad 1700 Talespin 2230 Dinosaurs</p> <p>July 7, 1998 1500 Thunder Alley 1930 Boy Meets World 2000 Movie - Never Cry Wolf 2300 Oldest Rookie</p> <p>July 8, 1998 1130 Ducktales 1905 Zorro 2000 Movie - Tiger Town 2110 Student Bodies</p> <p>July 9, 1998 1145 Talespin</p>	<p>1530 Gummi Bears 2000 Movie - Parent Trap 2100 Home Improvement</p> <p>July 10, 1998 1500 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh 1900 Honey I Shrunk the Kids 2200 Dinosaurs</p> <p>July 11, 1998 1500 Honey I Shrunk the Kids 1600 Dinosaurs 1750 Darkwing Duck 1815 Aladdin</p> <p>July 12, 1998 0930 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers 1500 Torkelsons 1530 Brand spanking New Doug 1725 Goof Troop</p> <p>Fun Channel</p> <p>06 July 1998 1030 Akher Al Koala 1200 Happily Ever After 1500 Pinky and the Brain 1525 Reboot</p> <p>07 July 1998 1340 Merry Melodies 1525 Reboot 1550 Beast Wars 1615 Sky dancers</p> <p>08 July 1998 1145 Green Animation 1430 The Mask 1500 Pinky and the Brain</p> <p>09 July 1998 0950 Alf Tales 1230 Sylvester and Tweety 1430 The Mask 1500 HAYA NAMRAH</p> <p>10 July 1998 1030 Merry Melodies 1400 Batman 2005 Fantastic Voyage of Si NBA d</p> <p>11 July 1998 1405 The Cartoon Special Free</p>	<p>Willy 1615 Sky dancers 1730 Batman</p> <p>12 July 1998 1055 Loughz al Jazira 1500 Pinky and the Brain 1640 Animaniacs</p> <p>Hollywood Channel</p> <p>06 July 1998 1330 The Pet Department 1400 E! News Daily 1430 Uncut 1500 E! Gossip Show Daily</p> <p>07 July 1998 1100 Haven 1530 Mysteries and Scandals 1900 Jeopardy</p> <p>08 July 1998 0930 Crook & Chase 1330 The Pet Department 1400 E! News Daily 2300 Main Floor</p> <p>09 July 1998 1600 Globetrotter 1630 Mysteries&Scandals 1700 Videofashion 1730 Fashion Emergency</p> <p>10 July 1998 0930 Infatuation 1530 E! FYE 1600 Globetrotter 2030 Judge Judy</p> <p>11 July 1998 1230 Cooking Secrets of the CIA 1730 Fashion TV 2000 Pictionary 2030 Judge Judy</p> <p>12 July 1998 1200 Super Collectors 1230 Garden Variety 1600 Travel America 1900 Jeopardy</p>	<p>Orbit News Channel</p> <p>06 July 1998 1600 CBS This Morning 1800 ABC Good Morning America 2000 NBC Dateline</p> <p>07 July 1998 1230 ABC World News this Morning Live 1300 CBS Morning News Live22 2300 NBC Dateline</p> <p>08 July 1998 1600 CBS This Morning 1800 ABC Good Morning America 2000 NBC Dateline</p> <p>09 July 1998 1600 CBS This Morning 1800 ABC Good Morning America 2230 ABC Nightline</p> <p>10 July 1998 1400 NBC The Today Show Live 2000 CBS 48 Hours 2100 ABC News Thursday Night 2200 American Journal</p> <p>11 July 1998 1600 CBS News Saturday Morning 1900 CBS 48 Hours 2200 Wall Street Week</p> <p>12 July 1998 1230 NBC Nightly News 1730 CBS Face the Nation Live 2200 American Journal</p>	<p>Super Movies</p> <p>06 July 1998 1430 E! Behind The Scenes 1900 Missing Pieces - 2V 2300 Dolores Claiborne - 3SVL</p> <p>07 July 1998 1500 Fearless - 2L 2100 Mad Max 2 - 3V 2300 City Of Joy - 3V</p> <p>08 July 1998 1300 Free Willy 2 - 1 1900 Black Beauty - 2L 2100 Deceived - 3V</p> <p>09 July 1998 1700 The Adventures Of Smoke Bellew Ep.1 - 1 2030 E! Coming Attractions at 17:30 GMT 2100 Only You - 2L (Premiere) 2300 Under Siege II - 3VL (Premiere)</p> <p>10 July 1998 1430 E! Coming Attractions 1900 My Blue Heaven - 2 2100 In The Bleak Mid-winter (Premiere)</p> <p>11 July 1998 2100 Killing Dad - 2S 2230 E! Coming Attractions at 19:30 GMT 2300 Stakeout - 3V</p> <p>12 July 1998 0900 Hoop Dreams - 2L 1500 Swing Shift - 2L 2100 Before Sunrise - 2L</p>	<p>ESPN</p> <p>06 July 1998 1730 SportsCenter 1830 1998 France World Cup Quarterfinals Game 3 2100 1998 France World Cup Quarterfinals Game 4</p> <p>07 July 1998 1555 English Horse Racing Live 1800 Racehorse Digest 1900 SportsCenter 2000 World Cup Phone-In Live</p> <p>08 July 1998 1800 Extreme Games 1900 SportsCenter 2000 World Cup Phone-In Live</p> <p>09 July 1998 1555 English Horse Racing - Newmarket Live 1830 Gillette Sports Special 1900 SportsCenter 2000 European Football Weekly</p> <p>10 July 1998 1900 SportsCenter 2000 NBA Action 2030 WNBA Action 2100 MLS: Colorado Rapids at Chicago Fire</p> <p>11 July 1998 1905 SportsCenter 2000 Extreme Bloopers 2030 World Cup Phone-In Live</p> <p>12 July 1998 1530 1998 France World Cup - Semifinal Game 2 1900 SportsCenter 2000 World Cup Phone-In Live 2100 1998 France World Cup Final Live</p>
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علي عبدالله صالح

وللحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني
وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر
وإلى المجلس الاستشاري برئاسة الاستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني
وإلى الشعب اليمني
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Ali Abdullah Saleh,

the Government of Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani,

The Parliament headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar,

The Consultative Council headed by Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, and

the Yemeni People on the anniversary of July 7th,

re-affirmation of Yemeni Unity

7 JULY



شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط

تتقدم

بأعمق التهاني والتبريكات وأطيب الأمنيات لفخامة الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح

وللحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإيرياني
وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر
وإلى المجلس الاستشاري برئاسة الاستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني
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Ali Abdullah Saleh,

Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, & all Members of his Cabinet
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar & all Members of Parliament,
Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani & all Members of the Consultative Council,
and all the Yemeni People

on the anniversary of July 7th, triumph of Yemeni Unity

7 JULY

AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 30-6-98. (Nasserite Unionist Party)

AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 30-6-98. (Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Senior diplomatic sources expect the Supreme Yemeni-Saudi Committee talks currently held in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, to achieve nothing.
- 2- Opposition Council warns the government against imposing an undeclared state of emergency.
- 3- Cease fire between government troops and Mareb tribes breaks down into fiercer fighting.
- 4- Despite permission given by the governor, security forces in Lahaj prevent a demonstration from going ahead.

Article Summary:

Cardboard Opposition

By Abdullah AL-Khawlani

The way the government has implemented the World Bank dictates shows that it has no regard whatever to the general public or the opposition parties. This is mainly because the response of the people and the opposition was disorganized, to say the least.

The latest popular uprising has really exposed the opposition; a decor to compliment a democracy imposed on the government by the 'new world order.' The opposition has proven its failure to lead the people not only during exceptional circumstances, but also in normal conditions.

The ruling authorities use the 'stick and carrot' policy in dealing with senior opposition figures. If the opposition parties were to actually lead the peaceful demonstrations, the government would have received a very strong message and would not have dared to infiltrate the demonstrations by elements to instigate act of violence and looting.

AL-TAREEQ: Aden weekly, 30-6-98. (Independent)

AL-TAREEQ: Aden weekly, 30-6-98. (Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Ministry of Interior issues a special application form to be filled-in by people wishing to demonstrate.
- 2- Two senior members of the Yemeni Socialist Party were detained for 3 days as a precautionary measure against possible involvement in demonstrations.
- 3- US is trying to make Yemen pay for supporting Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Article Summary:

Aden Oil Refinery Privatization

Ever since it was handed by the British to the local Yemeni administration in 1982, not much change or development was made to the Aden Oil Refinery. It continued to operate with '50s technology. All efforts to modernize the refinery failed



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

due to lack of funds and proper planning. In 1992, about \$350 million were estimated to be needed for the modernization process, but the bidding companies demanded exorbitant guarantees, including getting part of the oil revenue. The Aden Oil Refinery's debts of about \$85 million will not be conducive to its proposed privatization. So who is going to benefit if the government goes ahead with the privatization plans? And hasn't it published the decision to privatize in the official media?



AL-THAWRI: Sanaa weekly, 2-7-98. (Yemen Socialist Party - YSP)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Popular protests continue throughout the country
- 2- Undeclared war in Mareb and Jawf leaves tens of people dead, hundreds wounded and huge damage to property.
- 3- Army troops are re-deployed in Hajja and Taiz in anticipation of new acts of protest.
- 4- Leading YSP Politburo member: "The government's policies are harming wide sectors of the population."

Article Summary:

Terror in Hadda

People living in the southern part of Sanaa experienced more than five hours of sheer terror that lasted from 11,30 am to 4 pm on Tuesday, 30 June. An armed group broke into a house under construction owned by Staff Brig. Abdulmalik Al-Sayyani - former minister of defense and current minister of transport. A fierce exchange of fire then ensued between the armed group and uniformed troops. No casualties were reported.

The armed confrontation was the culmination of a dispute over a piece of land between Al-Sayyani and Sheikh Mohammed Al-Rowaihan. The first took over the land, while the second holds the deeds which were granted by a Presidential directive.



AL-SAHWA: Sanaa weekly, 2-7-98. (Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah))

Main Headlines:

- 1- Speaker of Parliament and Islah Leader, Sheikh Al-Ahmer is to visit Iran and Cuba.
- 2- 3000 people rake part in a peaceful demonstration in Mukallah in protest over the government's decision to raise prices.
- 3- Prime Minister Al-Iryani stipulates that university lecturers in Sanaa and Aden should end their strike before talks could start to address their demands.

Article Summary

Real Cause of Economic Crisis

The government has considered the deep economic crisis that hit the country as a problem of small revenue causing a budgetary deficit, which leads to rising inflation. So according to this shortsightedness, the solution would be to increase the revenue. Hence, it resorted to price increases and incurring more foreign debts. The temporary lowering of inflation gave the illusions that the crisis is over. However, the budget deficit rose dramatically during the first half of 1998, threatening to raise inflation.

The real reason behind the deteriorating economic situation is corruption and bad management of the national economy. Bad management means the inability to adopt successful economic policies. The inefficiency of state establishments, the concentration of power within a small elite, the marginalization of important civil institutions, and neglecting to implement

laws and regulations are all factors fuelling the crisis.



26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa weekly, 2-7-98. (Yemen Armed Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1- The President: "Reform the judicial system is the first step towards economic, financial and administrative reforms."
- 2- Vice-President: "We cannot remain silent with respect to those who monopolize and control the prices of basic food commodities."
- 3- Yemen condemns Israel's decisions to expand settlements into Jerusalem.
- 4- Central Organization for Control and Audit refers a number of embezzlement cases to the general prosecutor's office.
- 5- Parliament endorses two new oil production sharing agreements.
- 6- Minister of Oil: "The government still subsidizes diesel and kerosene."
- 7- Deputy Minister of Interior: "Security is kept stable in all parts of the republic."
- 8- Council of Ministers bans the establishment of any new college without the permission of the Universities Supreme Council.

Article Summary:

Opposition's Problem

By Sadeq Al-Yusufi

Any citizen or group of indi-

viduals have the right to openly express their opinion in peaceful means. But they do not have the right to inflict damage and harm on others and on public property. This dictum is valid almost everywhere in the world.

Groups of people that came out to express their opinion regarding the price rise did so peacefully at the beginning. Hence, the security personnel dealt with them with the utmost tolerance and feeling of responsibility.

Investigations following the acts of violence and looting indicated that some opposition parties infiltrated the demonstrations in order to incite people to go on the rampage. They could have practiced their freedom of expression in a more civilized way.

The opposition's problem in Yemen is that it thinks that the ruling authority is about to attack it. Many opposition parties still do not know how to lead the people and influence the authority.

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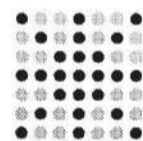
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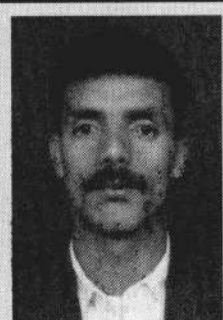
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Karate Teams Ready for Big Fight

The preliminary qualifying matches of the Yemeni Cities Karate championship for the below 17 years finished last week. One team from each governorate was selected. The Yemeni Karate Association secretary general, Mr. Mujahed Al-Samhy told the Yemen Times that the qualifiers finished in all the cities except for Sanaa, which hasn't selected its team yet.

The final matches of this championship will be held in Sanaa during 8-10 July. It will be conducted according to the disqualifying system for the weights 35kg, 40kg, 50kg, 55kg, 67kg and 90kg.

The results of the preliminary qualifiers were as follows:

- 1- Ahly Taiz,
- 2- Al-Hilal of Hodeida,
- 3- Wahdat Aden,
- 4- Dhafir of Abyan,
- 5- Saba Najm of Dhamar, and

6- Al-Shararah of Lahj. Every team will include six sportsmen and a coach. This championship will be financed by the Youth Care Fund.

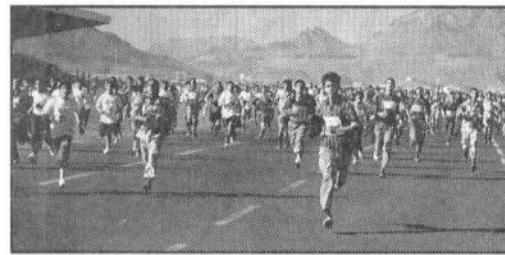


Tomorrow: Sanaa Half-Marathon Takeoff

Organized by the Yemeni Athletics Federation (YAF) and funded by the Yemenia Airlines, the Sanaa half-marathon, will start tomorrow, Tuesday, July 7, at Al-Sabeen Square. Five Arab countries are participating: Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have declined the invitation, and no replies were sent by the other invited Arab countries.

This sports event is a part of the celebrations held to mark the occasion of the 7th July - Victory Day.

The Egyptian team:
- Ahmed Ali Al-Sukbi, an administrator
- Abdunaby Abdu,
- Ayman Anwar Mahmoud, and
- Mohammed Mohammed Al-Mursy.



The Jordanian team:
- Talib Saleh, an administrator
- Salamah Abdulkareem and
- Ali Mohammed Alsamadi.

The Qatari team:
- Mansoor Saleh, an administrator
- Ali Ahmed Saleh and
- Abdulshakur Othman.

The Lebanese team:
- Mohyi-al-Deen Akwah, an administrator
- Ali Ewad and
- Omar Abdullatif.

The YAF has specified the starting and finish points of the race and its distance. There will be three different races: half marathon (21km), road race (10km) and junior male and female race (3km). The YAF met last Saturday with the security and health authorities to prepare for the marathon.

Minister of Sports Receives Chess Champs



The Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh received at his office last week the champions

of the chess team who secured the third place in the Chess Arab Championship held in Tunisia last month. Among them was also Abdulrahman Abdulaziz who won the second place in the marathon race held in Taiwan. In his welcome speech, Dr. Raweh stressed the importance of

supporting the sports associations, particularly those of singles games. He also indicated that the Ministry and the Yemeni Olympic Committee now support the Yemeni participation in less costly games like chess. Dr. Raweh also promised to increase the support of the Ministry for chess players especially after the laudable achievements of our chess champs in many Arab and World championships.

On the other hand, the Yemeni Olympic Committee is preparing for a ceremony to honor top sportsmen and women in all types of games in order to encourage and push them forward.

Head of The General Athletics Federation:

"This marathon is open for all sportspeople."

The Yemen Times met Mr. Fouad Mohammed Al-Komeim, the head of the General Athletics Federation (YAF), who talked about the activities of the federation and the preparations for the Sanaa Fifth Marathon, which is to be held next Tuesday at the Sabeen field.

Mr. Omar Koweiran, the head of the Media Committee, filed the following interview:

Q: Could you tell us about your activities especially the prep-



arations for the Sanaa Fifth Half Marathon?

A: YAF has participated in many activities and organized several championships on official and public occasions, in addition to the regular champion-

ships in corporation with other authorities.

The Sanaa Fifth Half Marathon was first held in 1994 for the President's cup. It is an annual activity held to celebrate the anniversary of the unification of

Yemen. In this 21-km marathon is important because it is open for all sportspeople.

Q: Has the private sector assisted YAF in financing this marathon?

A: The private sector has played a considerable role towards these activities. Many companies and establishments have made great contributions. The 1994 marathon was sponsored by the Red Sea Flour Mills, the 1995 marathon by Al-Salam Trading Company, the 1996 marathon was sponsored by Al-Yemda Airlines, the 1997 marathon by Kodak-Zabara, this year's marathon is sponsored by Yemenia Airlines.

Q: What are the participating countries?

A: YAF has invited many Arab countries, some of them accepted the invitation such as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and Syria. Saudi Arabia and the UAE apologized for not participating.

Q: Are there any other racing events in addition to the half marathon?

A: There are various races such as the road 10 km race and the junior 3 km race. As I said this is an open marathon.

Q: Does your association intend to organize a pan-Arab championship?

A: The YAF aims to hold an Arab championship under the theme "The Yemeni Unification is the Nucleus of an Arab Unification".

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تتقدم بأعمق التهاني والتبريكات وأطيب الأمنيات لفخامة الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح

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WHAT WENT WRONG Between the People & Government of Yemen



By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
 Professor of Economics,
 Sanaa University.

The last few weeks have witnessed considerable agitation and restlessness in many parts of the country. The immediate cause was the price hikes which resulted from the removal of subsidies. But, the underlying reasons are more complicated.

But first, let us take the obvious reason - the measures taken by the state to correct price distortion; i.e., removal of subsidies done under the overall reform package. The government says that these reforms are necessary, and that its budget can no longer support the heavy burden of subsidies. That is absolutely correct. Yet, in my opinion, there are

3 flaws in the way the government has been going about these measures.

1) The government has failed to involve the various opinion makers of the country in this process. If the government had explained what it plans to do, why it must do it, and how it proposes to do it, there would have been far less resistance. For example, the representatives of the people sitting in parliament have not been brought on board. The leaders of the various political parties have not been consulted. The media leaders have not been informed. The university professors, the lawyers, engineers, medical doctors, etc., have been neglected. In fact, even the business leaders of this country are not fully aware of the process.

What this boils down to is the need to change the arrogant behavior of government officials. One of the basic principal of a democratic system is that opinion-makers are just as important as decision-makers. The officials in government had better learn that, and fast.

2) The image of a corrupt government does not help. The public is negatively moved by the affluence of people in senior public offices, while they know well that these people were not

originally rich, nor does their salary amount to anything. The question is, therefore, how is it that they can manage to amass so much wealth in a short time. Who pays for the money-grabbing adventures of our officials?

Therefore, to ask the public to be patient and to accept to suffer even more while the people in senior public offices are basically immune to the hardships is logically wrong and morally untenable. Just think about it.

Most senior officials have hordes of bodyguards. Therefore, they are immune to breakdown in security. Most senior officials have electric generators. Therefore, they are immune to electric blackouts. Most senior officials have water wells at home. Therefore, they are immune to shortfalls in water supply. Most senior officials have private gardens at home. Therefore, they are oblivious to the lack of public parks. Most senior officials rush off abroad to take care of medical needs. They are immune to lack of medical services at home. Most senior officials send their kids to private schools or even abroad. They are not worried about the breakdown of educational services. The list can go on.

Basically, senior government officials actually do not live with us, or at least do not share with us the services.

3) The government has tried to fight back by blaming this or that group of people. At first, some officials actually blamed the whole public. The accusations were that either the public was not patriotic enough to suffer quietly, or that they did not know their interests. What a joke? This can be traced to textbooks. For example read what the rulers of France were saying about the public just before the Revolution.

Then the officials started to narrow down the blame. First the finger was pointed at the "mundasseen" - people who sneaked into the crowds to make trouble. Then the finger was shifted to include some political parties.

Now the government officials are trying to point the finger at Yemen's industrialists. They say that the biscuit and confectionery factories are actually the people benefiting from the subsidies. The way to read this is that the government is trying to shift the anger at the implied "parasites".

How irresponsible can these government people be? Not only that, these new accusations come from a background of a sick sectarian approach and possibly with an eye to settle old scores.

In the final analysis, the issue is not the reform package, but how our officials manage it!

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