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Parliament Debates Government's Agenda

طابعات جليسم غاز في الإطباتية الشهيرة.
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On Saturday Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajamal presented his government's agenda of action to the Parliament for discussion and approval. The agenda highlights the intention of the government to carry out reforms in different departments of the government. The focus is on the civil service, financial and monetary

reforms, enhancing democracy and civil society while combating corruption. It is also serious about modernization of the educational system which has aroused resentment of the Islah party that sponsors the scholastic institutes. This may create a battle between Islah and GPC. After listening to the agenda of the govern-

ment, some committees were formed in parliament to review the details of the agenda. Within a few days they will report to parliament for approval, based on which a vote of confidence motion will be debated. However, the GPC has high hopes that the agenda will be passed as they have a majority of seats.

More about the agenda on page 5

Abdulghani Appointed as Chairman of the Shura Council

President Ali Abdullah Saleh passed a presidential decree on Saturday, appointing 111 persons to the Shura Council (SC), established in accordance with the constitutional amendments put to public referendum last February. The SC, which has replaced the Consultative Council (CC), includes 11 ministers from the government of Dr. Abdulqader Al-Iryani. These ministers are: Ismael al-Wazir, Ali Hameed Sharaf, Dr. Abdullah Abdulwali Nasher, Mohammed al-Tayyib, Mohammed Ahmad al-Junaid, Hussein Mohammed Arab, Ahmad Musaed Hussein, Abdulmalek al-Sayani, Dr. Abdulmalik Mansur, Mohammed Dhaif Allah, and Naser Al-Shaibani. It also includes three of Yemen's ambassadors from abroad. They are Dr. Ahmad Al-Kabab, Hussein Ahmad Al-Lawzi, Mohammed Al-Iryani, and Dr. Hussein Al-Amri. The opposition party leaders who got their share in the new institution as Abdulmalik al-Mikhalfi of the Unionist Nasserite Party, Dr. Qasem Sallam of the Baath party are on the list, in addition to Judge Ahmad Al-Shami. There are also some members from the Socialist Party. For the first time three women have



been given representation in the SC. They are: Muna Bashraheel, a former MP, and Fatimah Mohammed bin Mohammed, a writer, and Tawakkul Salim Yassin. The SC has representation from other social, tribal and business communities, some of whom were members of the former CC. It is expected that the SC will hold its first meeting on Wednesday in which they will elect Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani chairman. They will also take a constitutional oath of office before the president next Saturday. Political observers think that the change in the leadership this time is not as radical as the formation of the SC rehabilitates the careers of many former ministers, ambassadors or governors. The SC will play an instrumental role in the life of society as it has been bestowed with a lot of decision-making powers that were earlier restricted to the Parliament only. This was ruthlessly criticized before carrying out the referendum on the constitutional amendments. The criticism was on the grounds that the SC has many privileges which only the parliament has as an elected body.

List of SC members on P 2

Dahm Tribe Rejects the Jeddah Border Treaty & Threatens Demarcation Companies

A statement by the Dahm Al-Hamraa tribe affirmed that the tribe would not allow any demarcation company to work on its land according to the Jeddah border treaty signed between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in 2000. Below is a summary of the statement: "We are awaiting a just solution to the issue of our land and tribal borders as illustrated by the documents beforehand, a copy of which has been handed to the President, which includes: verdicts by the Sheriff of Nijran in 1027 and 1130 Hijrah, a verdict by the Sheriff of Mecca Abdulqader bin Abdulhameed in 1182, etc. and other documents; After we have notified the leadership of Saudi Arabia about our legal and ancestral right to our land that we inherited from our grandfathers 400 years ago, we were totally surprised to hear about the company assigned to demarcate the borders. Despite our appeal to the leadership of the two countries to seriously consider our problem we have been ignored and neglected. Therefore, we find ourselves forced to forbid any company from working on our land. At the same time we trust that still there are opportunities for who are determined to solve the problem before the aforementioned company starts its activities."

For and on behalf of
Sheikhs and tribesmen of Daham Al-Hamraa Tribe
Yahia b. Abdullah Al-Shayef"

Yemen Suggests Abu Al-Hamza Be Tried in Yemen & British Prisoners Complete Their Sentence in the UK

Yemen official sources said that the Yemeni government proposed the extradition of the 5 British prisoners convicted of terrorism in Aden in exchange of fundamentalist Islamic leader Abu Hamza Al-Masri.



The sources added that President Ali Abdullah Saleh sent a letter to the British government indicating Yemen's willingness to hand over the British prisoners to serve their sentences in the UK provided that London hands Abu, Al-Hamza Al-Masri over to the Yemeni government, which accuses him of supporting terrorist groups operating in Yemen.

Continued on P2

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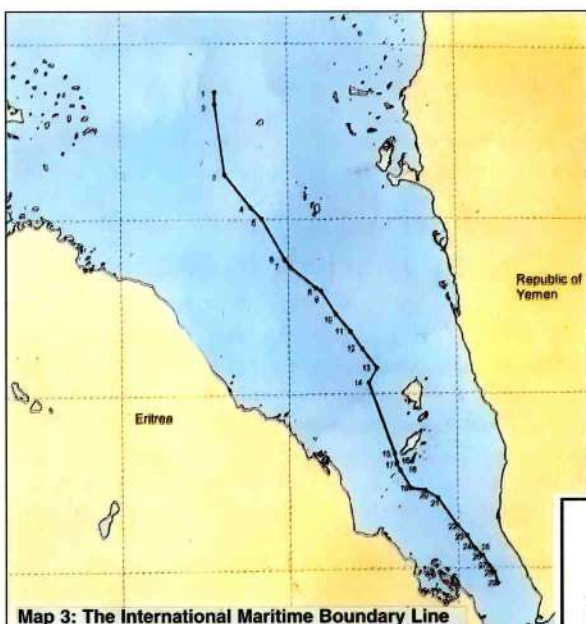
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Yemeni Eritrean Delimitation, Completion of the Maritime Line

Political experts have recently revealed that there are potential shortcomings in the recently completed maritime line between Eritrea and Yemen, which in turn could result in severe fishing problems. According to the experts, the dispute between Eritrea and Yemen started initially when Eritrea claimed sovereignty over all the islands situated between Yemen and Eritrea. The International Law implying this act was illegal. Map 1. (see page 2) explains the memorandum put forward by the Eritrean side assuming that Eritrea has the right to claim sovereignty over the mentioned islands. On the other hand, Yemen explained in its memorandum that all citizens in the coastal area of

Yemen depend for their living on fishing in the South Western area of the Red Sea, which is deeper and richer than the East and North seas. Hence sharks are found there. Keeping in mind that Yemeni fishermen seek shark fins because of their high price abroad and because of the internal problems of Eritrea, the ratio of fishermen is 1:20 Eritrean to Yemeni. So, if the Yemeni fishermen were not allowed to work in the Eritrean side they (Yemeni fishermen) will be greatly disadvantaged. For ages the Yemeni fishermen used to fish as far west as Dahlac, The Mohabakf and Haycock islands. Map 2. (see page 2) represents the Yemeni proposal regarding the issue.

Continued on P 2



Al-Osbi Blocked for 8 Hours & 'Human Rights' Still Banned

The Security Office in Sana'a banned circulation of the Al-Osbi newspaper last Thursday for 8 hours under the pretext of publishing a news item about the government agenda two days before it was presented to the parliament. "I don't think this was the only reason for blocking distribution of the newspaper," said Hassan Al-Odeini Editor-in-Chief of Al-Osbi; He said that the paper has for the last several weeks been under pressure

against publishing news that the security office considered contrary to the interests of the new government.

Continued on P2

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Words of Wisdom

"The concept of deadline and the value of time are two crucial differences that separate us Yemenis from the rest of the world. And we are on the wrong side of the equation. It is in our interest to start working to join the rest of the world, by emphasizing those values in our society."

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



Our Opinion People Want a Better Living!

From the survey we did over the last two weeks, published in "Yemen Times light" supplement his week, I realized that there is one basic thing the public wants from the new government. That is improving the living standard. When asked whether or not they were optimistic about how they would evaluate the government one year from now, most of them, particularly the poor segment, gave the same answer. They would judge the abilities of the new government based on their standard of living. If their standard is enhanced, then the government would be rated positively, otherwise not.

The Yemeni citizens of today are mainly preoccupied with earning their bread. They are struggling day and night to make ends meet. The deteriorating economic conditions of the past years has had a negative impact on their lives. Now they want to get back to the level they were at a decade or so ago. They see the government's role is to do its best to improve the economy and the overall standard of living. They want it to combat corruption and bring the benefits of the national resources to the people instead of delivering them to a few crooks.

One of the individuals interviewed openly expressed his pessimism about the future of the country simply because he has been told the same thing over and over again and he has seen governments come and go, yet the conditions have stayed the same. He believes there is little hope in the new government because it is the system which needs to be changed. Whatever he meant does reflect some degree of desperation.

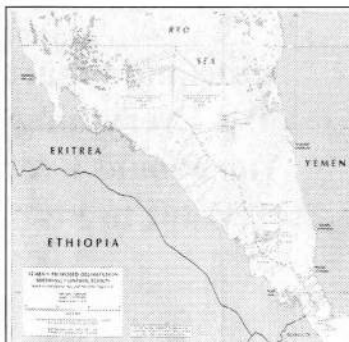
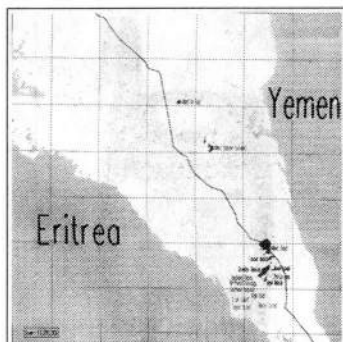
This is what the people want. They want a better living. Will the government be able to rise to the occasion and prove that it was an efficient government by 2002? Only time will tell!

Continued from page 1

Yemeni Eritrean Delimitations; Completion of the maritime line

The Arbitration Tribunal settled this dispute by confirming that both the Yemeni and the Eritrean side have the right to practice Traditional Fishing in the region, as well as to seek shelter in the islands in cases of turbulences in the red sea.

Map 3. Illustrates the maritime between Yemen and Eritrea.



Map 1: Eritrea's proposed delimitation

Map 2: Yemen's proposed delimitation

However, as noticed, the line drawn was not completed further the north due to the interference of Saudi Arabia, which claimed that the North of Jabal Al Tai'r is Saudi territory, in a letter to the Tribunal. However, by that time the dispute between Eritrean and Yemen was sorted because the Tribunal already decided the International Maritime Boundary Line. And because the borders between Yemen and Saudi are already decided, so that leave no matter of dispute anyhow.

Eventually in December 1999, it was agreed to complete drawing the line North of Jabal Al Tai'r and further, which is actually the median line because the region is wide and there are no disputed islands in the region.

Nevertheless, the question whether or not Eritrea will submit to the Tribunal award is still posing, especially that Eritrea is well aware that Yemen is more advantaged due to the percentage of Yemeni Fishermen to Eritrean and that Fishery is much richer in the Eritrean side.

Continued from Page 1:

List of Members of Newly Formed Shura Council

1- Abdulaziz Abdulghani - Chairman
(Former Consultative Council Chairman)

Members:

- 2- Abdullah Saleh A-Bar
- 3- Muhsin Al-Ulufi
- 4- Ismail Ahmed Al-Wazir - Former Justice Minister
- 5- Abdulwahhab Al-Anisi
- 6- Yahya Mohamed Al-Mutawakkil
- 7- Abdullateef Dhaifallah
- 8- Ali Lutf Al-Thawr
- 9- Hussein Mohamed Al-Maswari - Former Capital Secretary
- 10- Dr. Hussein Abdullah Al-Amri
- 11- Hussan Ahmed Al-lawzi
- 12- Saleh Ali Al-Ashwal
- 13- Ahmed Ali Al-Muhanni
- 14- Ali Hamid Sharaf - Former Minister of Electricity and Water
- 15- Dr. Abdullah Abdulwali Nasher - Former Minister of Health
- 16- Mohamed Mohamed Al-Tayyib - Former Minister of Labor & Vocational Training
- 17- Mohamed Ahmed Al-Junaid - Former Minister of Civil Service
- 18- Mohamed Hassan Dammaj
- 19- Mohamed Ahmed Al-Kabab
- 20- Fadhil Muhsin Abdullah
- 21- Ali Ahmed Nasser Al-Salami
- 22- Mohamed Hussein Al-Aidarous
- 23- Dr. Hussein Mohamed Arab - Former

Minister of Interior

24- Ahmed Musa'id Hussein - Former Minister of Fisheries

25- Abdullah Saleh Sab'a

26- Abdulmalik Al-Sayyani - Former Minister of Transportation

27- Abdulmalik Mansour - Former Minister of Culture & Tourism

28- Mohamed Dhaifallah Mohamed - Former Minister of Defense

29- Haidar Saleh Al-Habibi

30- Ali Abdullah Al-Sallal

31- Abdulhamid Al-Haddi

32- Dr. Abdullah Hussein Barakat

33- Mohamed Hatem Al-Khawi

34- Abdulhamid Noman Rajeh

35- Abdulsalam haled Karman

36- Nasser Shaibani - Minister of Endowments and Guidance

37- Ali Mohamed Saeed

38- Fadhil Mohamed Aidaroos Al-Afifi

39- Dr. Ghalib Abdulkafi Al-Qirshi

40- Ahmed Yahya Al-Imad

41- Ahmed Mohamed Al-Shami

42- Mohamed Abdullah Al-Iryani

43- Abdulmalik Ismail

44- Ibrahim Abdullah Al-Sa'eedi

45- Mohamed Ahmed Mansour

46- Ali Ahmed Nasser Al-Dhahab

47- Ahmed Ali Al-Salami

48- Mohamed Salim Akoush

49- Hussein Ahmed Al-Salami

50- Mohamed Ahmed Ajan

- 51- Muhsin Ali Yasser
- 52- Tariq Nasser Al-Fadhli
- 53- Muhsin bin Ma'ili
- 54- Saeed Al-Ukbari
- 55- Mohamed Saleh Qar'a
- 56- Mohamed Hadi Awadh
- 57- Dr. Qassim Sallam
- 58- Qaid Shuat
- 59- Awadh Abdullah Mashbah
- 60- Adil Hassan Al-Saqqaf
- 61- Al-Haithami Ash-shal
- 62- Abdullah Majid'e
- 63- Ali Al-Qabli Nimran
- 64- Mohamed Abu Bakr Al-Amoudi
- 65- Ali Ahmed Al-Wahidi
- 66- Awadh Al-Rabizi
- 67- Dr. Hussein Ali Hassan
- 68- Mohamed Naji Al-Ghadir
- 69- Mohamed Abdullah Abu Luhum
- 70- Abdulmalik Al-Mikhlafi
- 71- Abdo Othman Mohamed
- 72- Mohamed Ali Mar'i
- 73- Sadiq Ali Muhsin Basha
- 74- Abbas Al-Nahari
- 75- Mahmoud Abdullah Arasi
- 76- Yahya Mohamed Al-Kuhlani
- 77- Ali Hamid Julaidan
- 78- Ali Mohamed Al-Suraimi
- 79- Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Makki
- 80- Yahya Abdullah Qahtan
- 81- Salah Al-Ajam

- 82- Saeed Ja'bool
- 83- Muna Basharaheel
- 84- Mohamed Ismaeel Al-Dhali'i
- 85- Abdullah Hamis Al-Awari
- 86- Ali Al-Khader Al-Saeed
- 87- Ahmed Ali bin Jalal
- 88- Ali Salim Bukair
- 89- Hamoud Al-Shaif
- 90- Fatima Mohamed bin Mohamed
- 91- Yahya Ali Al-Habbari
- 92- Abdullah Abdulsalam Sabra
- 93- Mohamed Shaif Jarallah
- 94- Hamoud Atif
- 95- Abdulwali Ahmed Saif Al-Sharjabi
- 96- Shaif Makhari
- 97- Dirhim Abu Luhum
- 98- Mohamed Afandi
- 99- Abdulrahman Hameed
- 100- Hameed Hanash
- 101- Abdo Hamoud Rajeh
- 102- Man'i Al-Saih
- 103- Dr. Mohamed Yahya Al-Adhi
- 104- Abdullah Ahmed Al-Sanabani
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- 106- Hamoud Qutaina
- 107- Hassan Abdulrazzaq
- 108- Mohamed Abdullah Al-Jaifi
- 109- Balleil bin Rajeh Labuza
- 110- Yahya Al-Ukaimi
- 111- Tawakkal Salem Yassin Al-Mahri

New Information on the USS Cole Blast

Security personnel in Sana'a arrested last week three suspected persons on the USS destroyer blast on 12.10.2000, killing 17 and injuring 39. It is expected that they would be presented to court in Aden. The number of accused persons suspected to have been involved in the incident has reached more than fifteen. It is reported that security personnel have also detained some others suspects as well. On their part, security agencies denied having launched arrest campaigns in Aden, Lahj, Abyan and Sana'a.

Some sources had expected that the suspects were not going to be tried at present as investigations were not yet over. On the other hand, Yemeni investigating team has also ended a visit to the USA collecting more information on the case, meeting with some US officials and members who were on board of the USS Cole at the time of the incident.

Sources have also confirmed that the Yemeni team has obtained medical reports pertaining to marine crews killed and injured in the blast. They've also obtained results of DNA tests conducted on a bone found on the surface of the destroyer and on some blood stains found on safety razor blade in the house of one of the suicide bombers named al-Khamri. The test indicated that blood on the safety razor blade was identical to a blood sample of one of his relatives who was his step brother. The same team is scheduled to leave for Germany for further investigations.

Continued from page 1

Yemen Suggests Swap of Prisoners & Abu Hamza

According to the sources, the Yemeni government said that it will guarantee a fair and just trial for Abu Al-Hamza. And that he can have Yemeni or British lawyers for his defense.

The Yemeni government had requested the British government to hand Abu Hamza to Yemen to be tried according to Yemeni law, but the request was rejected. On the other hand, the UK had requested Yemen to pass an amnesty communiqué and send the 5 prisoners back home. The former British ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Vic Henderson confirmed to the Yemen Times last in an interview last January that an appeal letter from the prisoners' families was submitted through diplomatic channels to the Yemeni government and that they hoped

president Saleh would consider it sympathetically.

The British prisoners were arrested along with others on December 23, 1998 for having formed an armed gang and carrying out terrorist acts. They were tried and given imprisonment sentences ranging from three to seven years. Some of the arrested suspects had completed their terms and went back home. Among the remaining prisoners are two sons of Abu Al-Hamza who is wanted by the Yemeni government for being behind many terrorist explosions.

British officials reportedly said that they cannot arrest him without any legal warrant according to the British law, and hence it is also expected that this latest proposal of the Yemen government would be rejected.

Continued from p 1

Al-Osbu Blocked & 'Human Rights' Still Banned

The newspaper, as well as its distributor Talal Al-Alimi and its representative Wadhah Al-Madhaji were released following a phone call between Mr. Mahboub Ali, Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) and Prime Minister, Mr. Bajammal.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Information seized the Human Rights

Newspaper last week which is published by Nushataa Human Rights NGO under the pretext that the Ministry had not been notified before. The Nushataa Organization condemned the event and described it as a violation of the Law of Journalism which gives every licensed party or organization the right to issue a newspaper.

Yemeni Businessmen meet Iran's Delegation

The Iranian delegation led by Mr. Kamal Kharazi, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Iran, currently visiting Yemen, met yesterday with a number of Yemeni businessmen at the Sana'a Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The two sides discussed means of enhancing the scope and prospect of investment in the two countries.

Queen Arwa University Hosts its Fourth Cultural Week

Under the patronage of President Saleh, the Queen Arwa University hosts from 9-11 May its fourth Cultural Week under the motto "Women As Partners in Development" in collaboration with distinguished institutions interested in the issues of women. The festival will include many cultural, sports and artistic events including a bazaar. The participation of a number of honorable embassies is also expected in addition to an impressive attendance."

Yemeni Drivers Syndicate Goes on a Strike

The General Syndicate Union, Aden announced a 2-hour strike for all transportation workers. In a press releases the Yemeni Drivers syndicate said that the strike would continue if the Local Council did not consider the issues of transportation in the govern-

ment of bilateral ties and promotion of mutually beneficial trade exchange. Mr. Jan Krol will also have meetings with the highest ranking Yemeni officials. A special program is prepared to receive the group of Polish businessmen by the Federation of the Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Besides the bilateral talks they will also visit Aden, including the Free Trade Zone, and Taiz. Both Polish and Yemeni Chambers of Commerce are currently negotiating a co-operation agreement which should be signed during the visit. This is the first Polish parliamentary's visit to Yemen at this level ever since diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries were established back in 1957. Moreover, a visit of such a large group of Polish businessmen accompanying the Deputy Speaker represents a direct proof of the Polish business community's interest in Yemeni markets. There is no doubt that mutually beneficial co-operation will serve both countries well.

Deputy Speaker of Poland's Parliament visit to Yemen

Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Jan Krol, will pay an official visit to Yemen from 30th April to 4th May, 2001. This visit comes in response to the invitation extended by Mr. Jaafar Saeed Basaleh, Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Yemen. Mr. Jan Krol will be accompanied by 14 Polish businessmen representing the biggest Polish companies, including the Deputy Chairman of the Polish Chamber of Commerce.

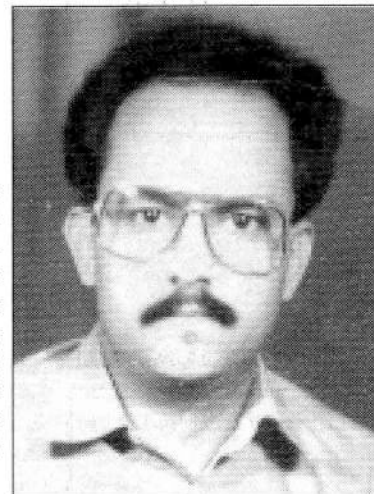
Mr. Jan Krol is a well-known Polish politician and member of the Freedom Union party. He started his political career in the beginning of 70's. Then in 80's he was closely connected to the "Solidarity" movement, co-founding Citizen's Movement Democratic Action, Democratic Union and Freedom Union in 90's.

Mr. Jan Krol will have talks with his Yemeni counterpart, Mr. Jaafar S. Basaleh, concerning Polish-Yemeni parliamentary co-operation, enhance-

ment of bilateral ties and promotion of mutually beneficial trade exchange. Mr. Jan Krol will also have meetings with the highest ranking Yemeni officials. A special program is prepared to receive the group of Polish businessmen by the Federation of the Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Besides the bilateral talks they will also visit Aden, including the Free Trade Zone, and Taiz. Both Polish and Yemeni Chambers of Commerce are currently negotiating a co-operation agreement which should be signed during the visit. This is the first Polish parliamentary's visit to Yemen at this level ever since diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries were established back in 1957. Moreover, a visit of such a large group of Polish businessmen accompanying the Deputy Speaker represents a direct proof of the Polish business community's interest in Yemeni markets. There is no doubt that mutually beneficial co-operation will serve both countries well.

Commemoration Ceremony for Al-Mujahed

The Tourism Office, Taiz will organize tomorrow the first commemoration party for the late Mohammed Mohammed Al-Mujahed, General Director of the Tourism Office in Taiz who died in a car accident on March 13. The deceased was one of the most outstanding Yemeni authors who contributed richly to the historical research of Yemen when he was the secretary general of the Yemeni Society of History and Heritage.



The Al-Saeed Foundation Awards distributed

The Al Saeed Foundation for Science & Culture celebrated last Thursday the distribution of the Fourth Round prizes at the Foundation headquarters in Taiz. During the event, which was attended by the Minister of Culture, Mr. Abdul Wahhab Al-Rawhani and a good number of academics and journalists, Al-Rawhani stressed the need to connect culture with development urging upon capitalists to patronize such cultural institutions. On behalf of the Prize's Board of Trustees, Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed An'am welcomed the participants and highlighted the aim of awarding the prizes for the promotion of Arab and Yemeni culture, heritage as well as supporting and encouraging talents in culture, arts and scientific research.



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Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh to YT:

“Instead of facilitating things for tourists, security bodies put more restrictions on their movements by watching them closely as if suspecting them.”

Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh al-Ahmar, chairman of the Yemeni Society for Tourist and Travel Agencies, descends from a well-known family. Mr. Yahya spelled out pitfalls and drawbacks impeding the tourism industry flourishing in Yemen. Hassan al-Zaidi of the Yemen Times met with him and filed the following interview:

Q: How do you assess the tourist activity in the country?

A: Tourist activity has declined remarkably in the past few years owing to many setbacks.

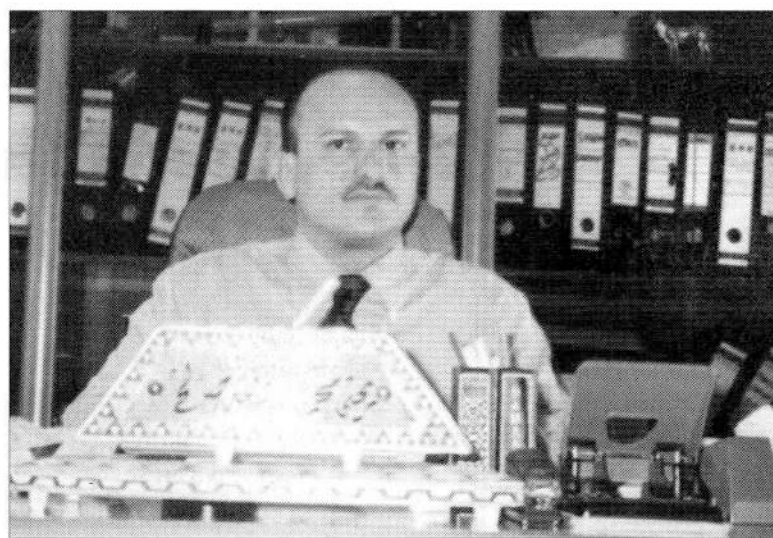
Q: What are these setbacks?

A: First and foremost, is the kidnapping incidents. Secondly, the security escorts. In the past there used to be some difficulties restricting the flow of tourists to the country. However, we pulled together and overcome these obstacles.

However, in the past ten years, kidnapping incidents have been on the rise. Yemen has all the potentials for tourism. However, tourists think the country is risky and insecure. Hence, most of them shun coming to Yemen. If they venture to come to Yemen, out of their love, they become upset by security escorts which make a mess of the whole thing. The escorts are following outdated procedures with old mentalities, as if we're living with the medieval ages.

Q: In your opinion, what are the options for these old and outdated procedures?

A: We have already made our demands clear and straightforward since the beginning of the kidnapping incidents, especially before the passing of the Kidnapping Law. We have contended that there is a legislation, effective laws, and prevalent tribal norms. If these fail to be implemented there are other options to consider. However, it is those in charge of the law and order who are the reason behind the spread of the kidnapping incidents. Kidnappers may be illiterate and ignorant. They may not know what they are doing. There is no reason to say that they have legitimate demands, because all the people in all over Yemen have legitimate demands. And if these demands are met through kidnapping tourists, the country will turn into an anarchy. There are many peaceful ways that can be adopted to ask for these demands. Citizens in the historical sites and monuments have also to be involved in the tourist activity so that they know how important it is and how beneficial it is for them.



Q: What are the demands of the tourist agencies to improve the limitations of the security procedures?

A: We have already convened many meetings and came out with certain recommendations. However, officials of the Tourism and Culture Ministry were negative in this regard. We, then, contacted the Interior Ministry and held many meetings. However, the Interior Ministry left our demands on the shelf and forgot about them.

We pressed for removing security escorts and checkpoints. The kind of procedures carried out recently considerably impede the tourist activity and investment process. Many foreigners including investors, working in companies are not allowed to travel outside towns unless they have official permits from the travel agency which is also to be referred to the General Authority for Tourism. It is a rather long story. This sort of procedures impede movements of investors and foreigners inside the country. It is unreasonable that the country press for investment at a time it intensifies restrictions on investors' movements within the country.

Q: How do you explain travel warnings to Yemen announced by some countries to their citizens?

A: It is natural as foreigners working in embassies and other companies to find it quite difficult to move outside towns to the countryside or any other place to spend the week end or any other vacation. Instead of facilitating things for them, security bodies put more restrictions on their movements by watching them closely as if suspecting them. These procedures do not fit with the time. It is certain that these foreigners give reports to their countries depicting the state of insecurity. This certainly affects the image of Yemen outside despite the fact that these procedures are unnecessary.

Q: What are the major things that attract tourists to come to the coun-

try? Are tourist attractions really qualified to attract tourists?

A: Yemen is not an alien on the world map. Whoever hears the word "Yemen", goes deep in thought to the time he has read about it. Spontaneously, this stimulates his desire to visit the country.

Most of the travel agency programs cover cultural, historical and tourist sites. However, developing these tourist attraction sites and tourist programs hang on security, stability and implementation of law and order. Not the least of which is the cancellation of the security escorts and check points. There are other options to enforce security and stability. If these are put into effect, tourist agencies will certainly develop simultaneously and come up with new techniques to promote tourists' interests in the country. Yemen is rich in tourist potentials comparable to other countries. Programs include culture, history, civilization, nature, etc. Moreover, there is an unexplored sea wealth and beauty in the Red Sea.

Swimming can be of the primary resources of the national revenue and would be a major supporter for the national economy.

Q: It's reported that there are some terrorist groups and hard liner Islamic movements in the country. They are labeled as risky and insecure to citizens by many tourist minded countries. Do you think boosting tourism requires restricting activities and existence of these movements?

A: Yemen has been welcoming all who come to the country, irrespective of their nationalities. However, some Arabs abuse this welcome and attempted to upset security and stability of the country. This makes us have a rather negative view of them. Sometimes, and in many Arab countries, there are many restrictions when it comes to Arabs. However, Yemen embraces all Arabs

and welcomes them. The security bodies have to be on the alert to stop these outlaws who abuse Yemen's hospitality.

Q: How do you view tourism promotion amid all these obstacles? What about Yemen's tourist participation outside the country?

A: Tourists coming to the country are the best promoters. Yemen also has an active participation in most of the international exhibitions in tourist exporting countries. Tourist agencies play a major role in promoting tourism. Moreover, films and publications are made in collaboration with the Tourism Promotion Council. However, sometimes, and while tourist exhibitions were being organized, some kidnapping incidents took place. This has adverse results. Security bodies have to shoulder the responsibility of keeping security and stability within the country.

Moreover, we did not agree on the way the Tourism Promotion Council was formed. We have convened some meetings and endorsed some plans. However, for ten months the council was not convened. We do not know how things are run inside the council. We press for the passage of a law to establish the Tourism Promotion Council, endorsing its annual decisions and budget.

Q: As the chairman of the Yemeni society for Travel and Tourist Agencies, what is the role the society plays in the tourism field?

A: Most of the activities of the society are focused inside the country. We have contacts with the Arab Tourist Union. Most of our activities are to follow up on problems stirred up by security bodies.

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Q: How do you view smuggling and the destroying of antiquities?

A: Yemen has witnessed many civilizations over the past centuries. Antiquities are spread everywhere in Yemen. The authority has to play a pivotal role in promoting the awareness of people to the importance of these antiquities. They have to feel that its their heritage as well. There is a major role for the General Authority for Antiquities to play in this regard. The authority also has to uncover and disclose whoever trades or destroys anti-

quities to the public and hold them accountable.

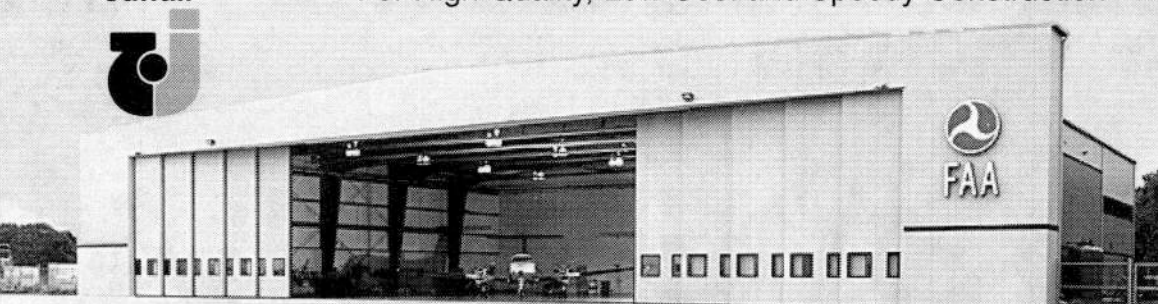
Most of our antiquities are still under ground. A lot of effort, time, energy and money have to be exerted to excavate these antiquities. Foreign support can be attained, however, only when donor countries feel that there is serious and sincere attitude on our part to conduct these projects. For example, there are some international organizations funding some excavation campaigns in Mareb.



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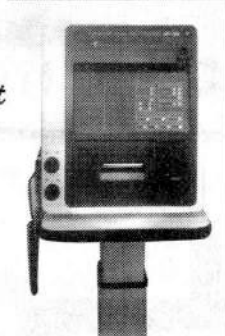
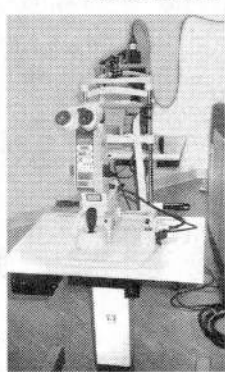
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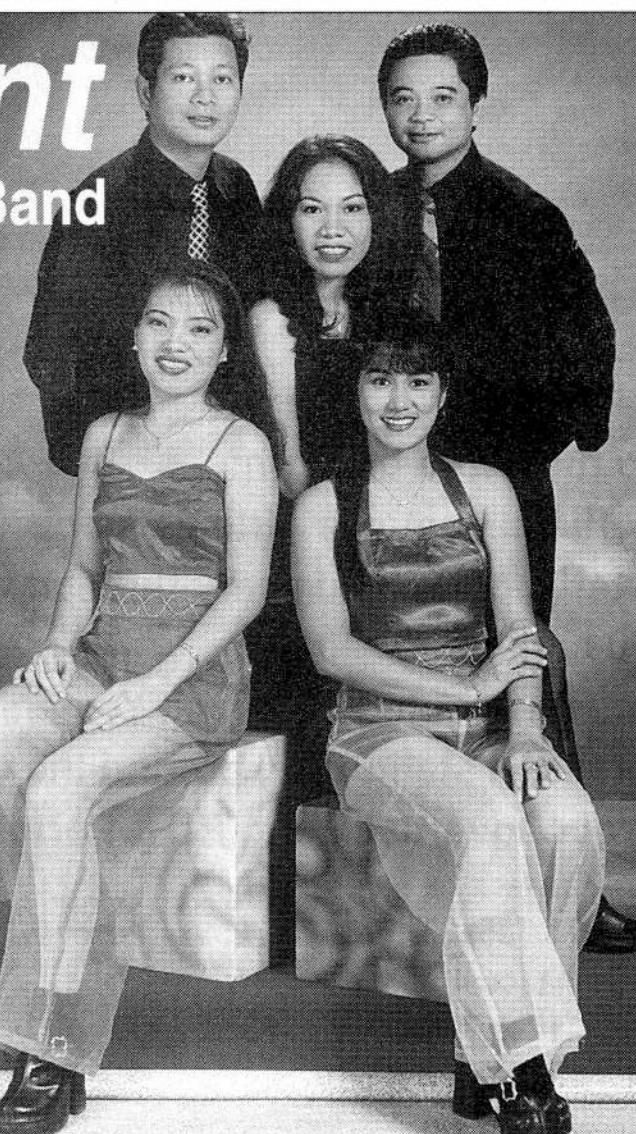
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“Yemenia Magazine” In The Eyes Of Its Advertisers

Mutahhar Ahmed Ghamdhan,
General Manager
Sanaa Trade Center

Based on our belief of the importance of the media and its role in enlightening the public, we are delighted as the Sanaa Trade Center in participating in the Yemenia magazine of the Yemen Airways. **We believe that the magazine will be one of the windows to a wide range of travelers.**

The magazine also gives us an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with such a leading airlines, which we hope will become a pioneer in attracting prominent international agencies and add a new dimension to the marketing business in Yemen.

Koshy Vinod
Vice President and General Manager
Arabian Group of Companies

The introduction of Yemenia in-flight magazine is an excellent idea as it enhances information and publicity. The articles on Yemen give more knowledge on the culture and heritage of Yemen and its people. **The various advertisements make it easier for readers to know what Yemen has to offer.**

Sharif Sabri,
Sales Manager
Sheraton-Sanaa Hotel

There are two main reasons why we decided to advertise in Yemen Airways in-flight magazine:

Firstly, in principle, Sheraton Sanaa Hotel's policy is to support the most important national achievements in the country. Also, it will facilitate more exposure for Sheraton Sanaa Hotel and attract the business and leisure travelers to stay in it.

Secondly, **we believe that elegant and professional advertising material are required in the airline businesses, and this will definitely give a good impression about the advertisers including our hotel.**

Walid Al-Saqqaf
Editor-in-Chief
Yemen Times

There are several reasons to advertise in the upcoming “Yemenia magazine”, especially for us in the media sector. The most prominent among those reasons is that every media organ wishes to reach the new potential visitors who, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Tourism, are expected to pour into the country during the summer.

Because the appearance of the magazine will coincide with the summer vacation, thousands of tourists are expected to read it for the first time and through the advertisements in the magazine.

Another reason is that because it is the first ever in-flight magazine for Yemenia, it will attract even the frequent flyer, Yemenis and foreigners alike, and will thus give a golden chance for advertisers to reach out to those individuals and introduce their services and products.

Finally, the magazines span of 3 months will be of great benefit for advertisers as it will cover a period longer than any other magazine and newspaper in Yemen or abroad. Its distribution to most of the local and foreign readership will also add to its attraction and popularity.

I expect that advertising in this magazine, especially the first issue will elicit in tremendously positive reaction from the readers and give an opportunity to the advertising companies to interact with new potential customers. That is why we are happy to advertise in this prestigious, pioneer magazine.

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As Government Program Heralds More Suffering for People and Battle between Islah and GPC over Education

Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi
Yemen Times

The Cabinet approved on Tuesday the overall program that would be presented to the parliament for final approval very soon. The program derives its main goals from the program of the ruling party, GPC, and the speech of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the new government after its members were sworn in. On these broad lines the government has defined its responsibilities.

The program focuses on the continuation of the policies of economic, administrative, and financial reforms which have conducted with the help of World Bank and IMF since 1995. It also highlights the judiciary, social affairs and reforming a number of legislations and laws, as well as enhancing decentralization.

It aims at fighting corruption, reforming civil services, promoting non-oil resources, curbing problems of water shortage, population, in addition to the electoral system, amending election laws, local governance and administrative divisions of the country into electoral constituencies.

The five main concerns of the new government, formed on April 4, are administrative reform in the civil service, human development, economic, social and investment development, democracy promotion and expansion of public participation, and finally reform of judicial system and human rights concerns.

The program says the government is serious about the reform of the civil service sector, putting limits to dual and phantom job carriers on government payrolls and enacting the Pension Law.

The new government seems to be serious about unification of the education system, putting into practice the law of

education which was invalidated in 1990.

This law abolishes the scholastic institutes being sponsored by the Islamic party, Islah. In addition, it prioritizes technical and vocational education as well as higher studies. It also gives women more room in education in an attempt to minimize illiteracy. The rate among them is now over 80%. It also targets the social care authorities to decrease the poverty rate (now over 30%) and put an end to begging. It also intends to improve tourism, culture, environment, by establishing a fund for cultural development.

In the arena of economic and monetary reforms, the program assures that the government will go ahead with the implementation of the reform, controlling the budget deficit and reducing expenses. It will also lift subsidies on diesel, petrol and other services which, of course, would accelerate people's sufferings. It pledges to conduct financial and banking reforms and work hard to establish a stock market in the country.

The government will implement a five-year plan with the aim of achieving growth between 5%-5.5% in the national gross production during the years 2001-2002. For this, the government will encourage the private sector to invest in services like water, roads, electricity and communications. As well as agricultural manufacturing like mango, wool, dates and coffee, and minimizing the planting of qat. It intends to build 318 dams at YR 4 billion, giving attention to the fishing sector.

At the industrial level, the government intends to adopt and conduct a strategy to develop industry and plan for establishing of huge manufacturing complexes in Aden, Hodeidah, and Mukalla. It promises to continue efforts to join the World Trade Organization as well as gatherings with similar goals. It will also, according to its program,

enhance oil exploration in different areas, giving more attention to gas and its exploitation.

It confirms that it will improve the electrical situation, increasing telephone users to 150,000, mobile phone users 200% and internet users 100% during the coming year.

For the first time in the history of any government, the new government singles out in its program two chapters: one is for civil society and human rights and the other for fighting corruption.

It is a good sign that it acknowledges the horror of corruption and reveals that with democracy and free expressions, joint ventures by all people can be formed to eradicate corruption. Local councils and parliaments can help significantly in this regard. "It is not possible to uproot corruption in a two-year time", the program reads. However, it says this time should initiate the campaign against this virus and all people support it.

It is expected that the government's program will be approved easily as the GPC enjoys a majority in the parliament. However, the Islah caucus will oppose most of the program's articles, mainly those related to education and economic conditions of the rank and file.

The coming few days will see a heated debate over the question of education unification between Islah and GPC as Islah thinks this targets itself. It heralds a battle between them which might end their age-old strategic coalition which was hit during the local election.

Islah might mobilize the opposition and public opinion against the program which will add fuel to the fire and thus worsen the people's living standards. The question now is: will the government of Mr. Abdulqader Bajamal be able to face all these problems and put its program into practice, thus creating a link between what is said and done?

Abdulrahman Ba Fadhel:

"We always argue how development goes positive meanwhile individual income goes down (negatively)"

The new government includes for the first time 23 new Ministers, with 17 ousted Ministers. Also creation of new ministries as well as unification of others. We appreciate new blood in the government body that will end a known diplomatic proverb that says formation of Yemen Governments is only change of seats.

The government is unfortunately headed by an Ex. Minister, who participated already in many governments; including the best GPC government headed by independent strong character, with deep administrative, economic culture namely Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanem, which didn't continue for long, (six months only). This government is for two Years minus one quarter, which will be allocated for coming parliamentary and local elections as well.

The program of this government is not new. It will surely continue the preceding one where this Prime Minister was Pioneer of preceding government program; that is why we will oppose this government, and will not vote in its favor.

The program in reality, irrespective of what the government claims, will be as follows:

1- Continuation of World Bank Program in two fields:

i) Elimination of claimed subsidy of Gasoline with increase in price by not less than 40%. This will lead automatically to transport and bread price increase, as Gasoline plays a major role in these two commodities. This in return will lead to increase in all fields. Gasoline will affect agriculture. Most farmers will abandon their job which means more dependence on US wheat and wheat flour!!

ii) The government claims always even the preceding one, that development in the Yemen approached 7% which didn't happen even in US and Europe. We always argue how development goes positive meanwhile individual income goes down (negatively). Increase in all services including electricity, telephone, gas and water without even notifying people or at least legisl

power in Parliament.

iii) Privatization of public sector mainly Aden refinery, cement factories, Medicine corporation among others. We have been in England last month, namely in Adam Smith Institute (ADI), which is Excellent, and unique in its activities among which is privatization with large experience practiced a long with British privatization Process Since the 80's.

The keys and main tools that lead to large success there, are not available in our country!! So here it will be an absolute failure. These tools which we learned are the following:

1- transparency which is fully unavailable in Yemen.

2- Competitively in the same field of privatization which we lack in Yemen.

3- Laws and Regulations to guarantee good service and competitive prices. Independent Body with full authority to look for interest of both consumer and producer, that we absolutely do not have. Laws in Yemen in general are not applied by consecutive governments and no guarantee can be expected, to protect consumer interest, but for producer is always guaranteed. More over where and how the independent body will be formed.

As an example British Airways Assets evaluated by 300 million pound, sold with 900 million pound in shares !! while in Yemen assets due to government corruption will be sold with even less than half of their value.

4- Privatization philosophy is based on shares to be distributed among citizens, in a way that no one can have more than 15% from abroad as it happened in British Airways. Not only that, but also, Workers and Employee should be in the picture during the whole process of privatization. More over they have to be share holders with at least 5% free shares for them as a motive. The Preceding government refused to put even the parliament in the picture !!

5- Sharing process should be governed by the Bourse, where Yemen has no bourse at all.

6- Finally independent, transparent, judicial power which in Yemen is still lagging behind.



For all reasons above (ADI) should be proud of British Privatization that lead to employment, lowering prices of services, with better quality, and large some of money to feed the treasury. We hope ADI will pay a visit to Yemen to see our situation. If privatization is needed it is the Management only, where elite staff is highly corrupted, in public sector. Privatization of Public sector, will lead to increase in no employment, degradation in services, and high prices at the same time. Last word for World Bank carrying, with deep thanks, reforms in Yemen. We feel strongly, all members in the Parliament, that without Administrative reforms, all its efforts will collapse.

Evidence is what Mr. Andersud (WB representative) told us in his last visit of farewell to Parliament heads of caucus with Finance Committee as well. He submitted a report to us stressing that in Yemen:

- (1) Unemployment increases.
- (2) Poverty increases.
- (3) Oil revenue decreases.
- (4) Water Supply decreases.

In other terms WB program failed in Yemen. Briefly Speaking with subsidies, elimination + increase in services prices (water, telephone, electricity etc.) + New taxes (income, real state, selling tax, etc.) + all this against individual income decreasing + High corruption rate, all will lead to a disaster of which the WB is highly responsible. We always say that Yemen is not Europe. And what frighten us more, that severe economic situation might lead to our democracy collapse, as people say today what is the use of freedom of expression while famine is spreading.

Our main distinguished affair in the region is DEMOCRACY, and human rights, and freedom of expression. If it goes due to Economic failure the WB will be surely guilty and responsible.

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The Degussa AG specialty chemical group is an innovator and its Construction Chemical division the world leader. The group forms the world's largest supplier of construction chemicals, with the greatest spread of technologies. Degussa AG currently employs a workforce of 18,000 in 88 operating companies in 55 countries. Group turnover approaches \$2 billion.

These technologies and construction know how are made available in Yemen through Al Dar Mimar for Engineering & Construction. The Business Development Manager for MBT, Graham Dean states "We recognized the huge potential that the construction industry in Yemen holds and the need for a partnership to offer the industry not just off the shelf products but total solutions to the various construction problems that are unique to the construction industry in Yemen."

The Al Dar Mimar General Manager Eng. Mohammed Hassan Makki and his team of qualified engineers are perfectly placed to offer these solutions with the constant support of MBT Middle East's Technical Dept. with whom they are continuously linked to offer a 'Solution's Internet link'. MBT have been providing solutions for the problems of industrial construction since the formation of Master

Builders almost 100 years ago, with the development of the first floor hardeners. In the intervening years the company has expanded in size and broadened its expertise alongside the construction industry. MBT companies are credited with the invention of precision metallic grouts in 1933 and the first epoxy grout in 1956, both developed to satisfy the evolving needs in industrial and power construction.

Dubai based MBT Middle East acts as the Regional Headquarters for the greater Middle Eastern, E. African and South Asian markets. The company comprises manufacturing plants for liquid, powder, and resin production for epoxy, polyurethane and polysulphide based systems. An R & D centre, training facility and regional Customer Service Department provide production, technical and marketing support to contractors, specifiers, distributors, and sister companies in India, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran. MBT India additionally maintains group activities in Nepal and Bhutan. Amman based MBT Near East performs a similar function for markets in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Occupied Territories and Iraq.

MBT Middle East is certified to manufacture and distribute to procedures conforming to the ISO 9000 quality management system, environmental standard ISO 14001 and OHSAS

18001. The Company is also a registered GCC manufacturer.

The challenges of today's construction industry increasingly demand materials that ensure a long-term balance between the performance requirements of a structure on the one hand, and economics, quality, safety, aesthetics and the environment on the other. At the core of MBT's business philosophy is development of solutions to improve, protect and repair concrete, whilst maintaining this balance. The primary business of MBT Middle East is the supply of liquid concrete admixtures to readymix and site batching plants, precast yards and shotcrete application companies. MBT supplies over 25 million litres annually to regional concrete producers. In addition to standard superplasticisers and retarders essential for the efficient handling, placing and ultimate performance of concrete, MBT are able to provide unique solutions to enhance the durability of concrete structures and thereby, reduce life cycle costs. Other systems will inhibit corrosion or enable the user to eliminate waste associated with returned concrete and reuse wash-water, providing tangible cost savings and environmental benefits.

Market segments for concrete, concrete repair & CP systems, performance flooring, waterproofing, engineered joints and underground con-

struction receive the focused support of experienced system specialist personnel. Other key areas of activity include solutions for precision load bearing grouts, anchoring, bonding, tile fixing ancillaries, corrosion control coatings, concrete curing and mould

release agents.

The Degussa group has acquired ownership of many of the construction chemical industry's leading brands. From shotcrete pumps, to tiling products, engineered joints to waterproofing and external insulation & finishing systems. It is MBT's goal to introduce the technologies represented by these, the world leading brands to regional markets in the Middle East.

During their visit to a number of projects in Sana'a and Aden last week Mr.

Graham Dean and Paul Lowndes, General Sales Manager, expressed happiness and satisfaction with the development of the business here in the market. On his part, Mr. Makki expressed hopes that with the help and support if MBT the newly produced products here would achieve a good place in the market. To ensure this Mr. Graham stated that his company would soon produce Arabic brochures and pamphlets as to show how use the MBT products properly.



From L to R, Graham Dean, Makki, Paul Lowndes



Mr. Graham Dean shaking hands with Mr. Makki

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1st May: Employees' Demands & Labor Market Problems



**Mahyoub
Al-Kamali**

The observance of International Labor Day is not to celebrate their misery and sufferings. Rather, it is an occasion to reflect on their conditions the protect of their rights from greedy and self-centered employers. In the International Socialist Conference held in Paris on July 1889, the pioneer of socialism Raymoon Lavini called upon the participants to support a proposal to recognize the 1st of May as day to press for reducing working hours.

Urgent Demands of workers:

Since the 1st of May 1890, there has been extensive reports on and ever-increasing demands for improving workers' conditions, increasing their wages, ensuring guarantees necessary for them to earn a living and providing legal protection for those who are vulnerable to injuries or risks in their work. On that day, Europe and USA witnessed massive demonstrations and strikes, which made the industrialized

countries take logistic measures and pass laws to ensure the rights of workers. This included decreased working hours, ensuring health care and social guarantees, creating new job opportunities for the unemployed, etc. In developing countries, Yemen included, syndicate unions for workers have harnessed activities of workers' movements. Despite governments' sanction celebrating the day, syndicates seem to have a very frail impact on government policies. Legislation, on the other hand, restricts strikes and some do not ratify freedom to the syndicate's work.

Labor Forces and Labor Market:

Celebrating the 1st of May could be an opportunity to study problems of labor forces in the labor market, especially as the constitutional and legal legislation endorse the establishment of a workers syndicate framework to organize relations between workers and working sources.

Since the declaration of the unity on May 22 1990, syndicate frameworks were joined into one framework called the "Workers Public Union". This framework was, until 1994, unable to realize its objectives, though some minor achievements were made including endorsing workers' right to go on

peaceful strikes to have decent wages. Of course, political confrontations between the ruling parties: the GPC and YSP, has weakened the syndicate work to address problems of the labor forces as it worsened unemployment. Though, syndicates union remained unified after the YSP lost power, the union became, as viewed by opposition parties, affiliated to the ruling party. It did not achieve any breakthrough for workers except for publishing flabby reports claiming rights of some workers in establishments and companies. Hence, conditions of the labor force in the labor market worsened not because of the weakness of the syndicate activity but for other reasons as well. These reasons can be stated as follows:

- 1- Returning more than 1 million workers from the Gulf countries, which made Yemen lose \$1 million annually, as revenues from immigrants' transfers.
- 2- Slow economic growth. Its average during 90-95 reached 3.2% leading to the slashing of the individual income.
- 3- High population growth from 15.8 million in 1994 to 18 million in 2000, besides the internal immigration from countryside to towns.
- 4- High rate of economic support reached 376.94% in the family survey

of 1998. That is, every member in the labor force was found supporting four individuals beside himself.

5- The government carrying out economic reforms within the privatization program led to laying off many employees in establishments being privatized.

All these factors have led to increase the labor force by 1 million by 2000 and with 5.2% as an annual rate. Studies also show that 3.3 million individuals are working in the different economic sectors. Official statistics also reveal that there are 69% of the labor force working in the agricultural sector, 8% in the industrial and private sectors while 10.5% in the civil service.

Employees' Conditions in the Labor Market:

In the 1970s-80s Yemeni employees moved in great numbers towards the Gulf countries. They were with no qualifications and used to work manual handicrafts. Conditions of the Yemeni employment now are not in position to travel abroad as labor markets in the Gulf countries require highly qualified and professional talents. Studies show that there is 5,500,000

illiterate population who are from ten years and more of age. They are included in the labor force of whom 29.8% male and 70.2% female.

As things stand now, there are not enough job opportunities in towns to contain the unemployment surplus coming from the countryside. Studies of the WB indicate that unemployment rate has reached to 35% of the overall labor force. What makes things worse is the backward social security means in terms of limited and fragile assistance by the government social security network giving rise to the child labor.

Proper Planning is Urgent:

Our celebration of the ILD on 1st May without proposing solutions to all the problems hanging on labor market and ensuring free syndicate work to protect rights, is meaningless.

In conclusion, the trend of proper planning to address employees conditions, improve labor circumstances is the ideal solution on condition that national policies are to be taken to curb the high unemployment rate. Immigrating Yemeni employees is not the solution as this would be a temporary unpractical remedy.

ECONOMY NEWS

Yemen's Loans from Russia on The President's Agenda

During his proposed visit to Russia in May, 2001, President Ali Abdullah Saleh will discuss with his Russian counterpart rescheduling Yemen's loans from Russia which is estimated at US\$ 1.2 billion. Russia has already dropped 80% of the total Yemeni's loans estimated at US\$ 6 billion.

Twenty Million RS Capital of Businesswomen Co.

The total capital of the Yemen Businesswomen Company has reached 20 million rials. The company is a joint venture comprising 25 share-holders who are specialized in different domains. Activities of the company range from foodstuff manufacturing, small enterprises development, marketing products and works for the handicapped, organizing training courses for women in weaving, Embroidery, make up, hair-dressing, etc.

Increasing Taxes & Infrastructure Privatization, Priorities of the Government's Program.

In its new agenda, the government concentrates on giving the private sector a chance to invest in the infrastructure facilities such as electricity, telecommunications, water and roads within the program of privatizing the public organizations.

The program also includes the issuance of the Sales Tax Law, reconsidering the Income Tax Law as well as lifting subsidies on oil products which will lead to a rise in the prices of oil products, gas and diesel.

Future of Investment in Yemen



Dua'a Al-Qaderi

Yemen's most attractive investment opportunities are in the Aden Free Zone. The Zone's development plan includes several infrastructure projects such as harbor, airport, roads, electricity, water and sewage. In addition, there are projects in the fields of industry, tourism, and storage. The plan spans over 25 years and projects are to be achieved in stages with a total estimated cost of six billion dollars. The First Five-Year Plan (1996-2001) foresees total investment of YR817.8 billion to be distributed among private and government investment, foreign loans, and direct foreign investment. The plan mentions major projects in the field of industrial zones, cement, electricity, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and services. As for policies and government meas-

ures to encourage investment, Investment Law no. 22 of 1991 grants investors complete freedom as well as equal rights for local and foreign investors, together with a set of incentives and tax holidays according to the type of project. Also, Free Zones Law no. 4 of 1993 grants further privileges and guarantees to investors. Moreover, while the Government's program has increased capital spending, the Government has also committed itself to review laws and regulations that would provide a more conducive environments for private investment. The Government has started by undertaking the responsibility to amend the Investment Law, unify the exchange rate, liberalize interest rates, issue treasury bills, amend customs tariff and consumption and excise taxes, eliminate import licensing, establish commercial courts, privatize some public enterprises, and reorganize the Free Zones Public Authority. The public sector in Yemen has been introduced through one of the following:

- Projects nationalized or confiscated by the state.
- Public investments provided by the government to establish new projects, in whole or in part, or earmarked to project expansion, replacement or renovation. There are no accurate estimates as to the value of assets pertaining to the public sector, nor for those subjected to nationalization in the southern part of the homeland during the totalitarian regime, or even at the sectoral level in both parts of Yemen. Similarly, there are no precise figures on investments undertaken to add to or replace public sector's capital during the last period. The privatization policy is one of the various economic policies based on market mechanism and on a major role for the private sector in the economy. The policy has been developed and adopted as a direct consequence to the failure of the public ownership model in achieving the desired progress. Implementing privatization has also been triggered by the inefficiency associated with public enterprise activities. Based on the above, the privatization program should incorporate the following elements:

ing elements:

- Determine the overall policies for privatization.
- Specify enterprises and projects to be privatized, starting with designing pilot programs.
- Consider a black list for enterprises that should not be privatized because of their strategic importance.
- Encourage wider ownership for privatized projects through public issue.

Moreover, the privatization program should consider the following regulations and objectives:

- Establishing a financial market.
- Preventing monopoly or control of shareholding and limited liability companies by certain groups.
- Eliciting support from all participants to the program.
- Organizing and preparing special guidelines for foreign participants.
- Legislating anti-trust laws
- Preparing regulations for national, financial institutions to enable them to undertake neutral assessment to evaluation.
- Providing regulations that protect labor rights, since failure to do so would undoubtedly lead to resisting the program by this vital group.

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4. National consultant on Industrial Estates.
5. National consultant on Industrial Human resource development.
6. National consultant on technical skills or Agro-industrial.
7. National consultant in technical skills in Engineering Industries.

Qualification/Experience/Skills requirement:

Applicant should have the following qualifications:

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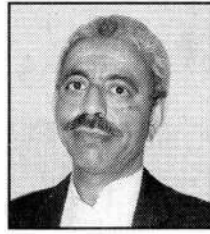
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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Whereas the Arab Summits Fail Iran Tells Them What It Is All About



It is probably inconceivable that we can expect the Arab States as they stand now to face up to a menacing enemy like Israel, in view of their lack of faith, not only in themselves, but in the cause that once gave them greatness. The Al-Mighty has made it clear that they simply have no nerve without. Yes, it is Islam that gave this nation its greatness and made the master of the world and surely it is only Islam that can ever restore its dignity, which it has lost to a Zionist mob that has no ethics, except the ethics of muscle and power. Look at Sharon having a good time in Palestine, and 200,000,000 Arabs are watching their brothers being slaughtered left and right by a cowardly enemy that is begging that its victims stop throwing pebbles at them. What a paradoxical world we live in, as the victim is labeled the terrorist and the butcher is viewed as a defender of its rights and freedom! Israel is celebrating its independence, they say. We ask: independence from what? Or, is it that they have the independence to carry on mercilessly against a people who initially told the early Jewish vagrants (as opposed to migrant), sure you are welcome in the Holy Land, after all it is the land of peace and God's blessed land for three monotheistic faiths. If we assume that the independence was

from the British, then one wonders how ungrateful these vagrants are to their early sponsors and cause d'être, the British, who gave them the foothold they needed to come and cause havoc and disruption to the land of peace by a bloodthirsty menace, who turned the Holy Land into a continuing slaughterhouse for the indigenous population of the Good Earth. So the Arabs were told, if you do not want to be put in the list of unwanted terrorists, you just have to make peace with your new masters in the area. The Arabs gullibly said: "All right, we are ready to make peace, after all peace is a beautiful word and it is what we always greet people by. In fact, our religion insists that if anyone makes peace with you, extend your hand and respond willingly." Yes, we extended both hands and said: "We are willing to make peace with the thieves of our land and the killers of our children, but for heavens sake tell your cronies in the stolen land of Palestine that peace needs some give and take from all sides. You can't steal and be given full amnesty and continue to think that peace is a license to continue to steal forever." They say, "They are not stealing anything new, they are only protecting what they previously stole with our blessing". For God's sake, what does the destruction of the homes of armless

families, and olive trees have to do with protecting stolen land and the safety of thieves? That is the question that is bothering Arabs everywhere from the Atlantic to the Gulf? We see it everyday, tanks followed by wrecking equipment and armed thugs showing off their muscle against helpless old ladies, begging their fellow Arabs to come to their rescue, as is expected from any chivalrous blood brothers. But alas now, neither blood nor chivalry have any meaning in the land of Araby. Years ago, when the women of the land of Araby called out to their brethren to come to their rescue, armies would come from all over the land of Araby heeding the call and letting the enemy know that nobody gets away with the murder and rape of our blood sisters. But unfortunately, today when a Palestinian woman cries out to her brothers to rescue her, instead her fellow Arabs come out with a proposal that will help protect the aggressor and insure that he does not fall victim to the revenge of angry Arabs, who are getting fed up at the lack of manhood in their leaders, who have bled and raped their own people for so many years and made their people fall victim to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund economic policies - policies that have yet to show any success anywhere in the world in relieving the victims of the

corruption of their leaders and a cut-throat enemy like Israel. So, when the world starts hearing what it is really all about out of Teheran, the likes of Sharon start calling wolf and tell their friends, like the united Jewish Appeal, in New York, get America to sound the alarm, the terrorists are coming after us. What happened? Teheran gathered the representatives of the people of some 37 Arab and Moslem nations, who told the world plainly and openly that what ever our "leaders" say, we want this Zionist menace in the Holy Land to be taught a lesson he will never forget. This enemy has far gone beyond what can be stomachied by most of the inhabitants in the area and all God-fearing people, Moslems Christians and Jews, want this debauchery to end if there is ever to be any peace. Of course the resistance in Lebanon, Palestine and anywhere where people are allowed to be slaughtered mercilessly is genuine, legitimate and blessed. There is nothing wrong with people resorting to the defense and liberation of their stolen land. But the United States has been convinced by the United Jewish Appeal and the Anti Defamation League of B'nai Brith that such talk is terrorism and thus what came out of Teheran does not exist in any American or Israeli dictionaries, and must be viewed as unacceptable by people who owe their existence to the robbery of land that belongs to the timid and the weak of the Earth. But, is it not the Lord Al-Mighty, who insists that it is the meek who shall inherit the Earth? Who is right the UJA, the ADBB, Colin Powell or the Lord Al-Mighty? In Teheran, they plainly said that it is the latter who is right. We agree.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

By Sharif Akram

USS COLE: The Investigation Human Rights Why The Americans Still Here?

Sometimes I ask myself, "Am I the only one who sees the wrong things around here?" What is wrong with my people? If they feel the same way that I feel why nobody talks about it? Today I would like to speak out about the USS Cole incident and ask the authorities why we, the people of Yemen is kept away from the results of the investigations? Since the day that the incident happened (12 October 2000) we have been hearing rumors about every kind of involvement to the attack (Osama Bin Laden, Supporters of Sharia, Islamic Jihad, etc.) but on the other hand as far as I know, there is no direct evidence that can prove that these groups or somebody else is responsible for the attack. I can understand that some information is classified for the sake of the investigation, but still don't we deserve any kind of satisfactory explanations that can make us understand what happens in our country. People, who are claimed to be suspects, are being taken into custody since the investigations started and our authorities always claim that the trial will start soon, but nothing happens! How long are those suspects will stay in jail? What is the maximum time that we can keep a person in jail without a court order? Why there has been no case up to now? I understand

that it is rather a complex and a difficult issue, but still it has been more than 6 months since the incident happened, and there is no result yet? I believe that it is about time that our new government should make an announcement and explain the developments about the matter. Our new government is formed by capable people who love their country. I would also like to ask many questions to our human rights and democracy champion friends, the Americans? How long can you hold an American citizen in custody without a trial? Why your internationally accepted human rights are not applied in my country, ain't my people enough human beings as yours? Why the hotel you stay is closed to Yemenis? If one of our government vehicles were attacked in the US, would we have the same immunities to investigate the matter? Could we be able to hold the US citizens 6 months in custody without a court order? What are you doing in Aden and when are you going to leave my country?

Note: Taking this occasion I would like to congratulate all the members of our new cabinet and our wise President appointing all these wonderful people for their posts, moreover I wish all the best in their future work. We really expect a lot from them.

Letters to the Editor

A rejoinder to the Common Sense column "WHAT ZIONISM IS ALL ABOUT"

I like to follow Arabic comments on the political situations. I was amazed to read your article about Zionism. I do honestly wonder, whether you believe in what you are writing, or are you forced to write such nonsense, as you do not live in a country where freedom of expression is respected. Have you ever wondered why is it that Arab countries never rise to accomplish anything noteworthy these days? It is a shame that the Arab world doesn't live up to the respectable culture it basically represents and doesn't contribute to the world's development with some positive input. Instead it is always complaining about Israel, which can in no way be the source of the misery you are living in, especially outside the conflict zone. I would appreciate an answer, but unfortunately, the lack of liberty in your countries makes a response very unlikely.

Joshua Hacohen



Dear Editor,

My name is Hussain Mohammed Ahmad. I am an Ethiopian political refugee registered in the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees. My case No. is 06016/A S.NO.99Y 3556. I have been assaulted several times which I have reported and provided evidences to the UNCHR. However, all my complaints have come to no avail. One month after my arrival in Yemen, and during my stay in the refugee camp, I was attacked by some Ethiopians and Yemenis. I reported it to the camp manager and he advised me to go to Aden. In Aden I was attacked by three Yemenis and an Ethiopian. They tried to kill me. However, I managed to escape. I reported it to the UNCHR sub-office manager Mr. Nabil. However, he said that his office was in a position to provide repatriation only. Then I moved to Sana'a to escape future attacks. However, I was attacked after midnight by three Yemenis. My friends fought and controlled them. We handed them over to the police. However, the police officer was found to be a friend of one of the attackers who happened to be the driver for a minister. So they put me in jail and set him free.

All these calamities and difficulties are shrouding my life here. I went many times to the UNCHR to assert my rights. However, instead of protecting me, the commissioner called the police and sent me to jail. They kept playing tricks on me exposing me to more attacks. I am not a criminal. I am a political refugee. I have nowhere to go except the UNCHR which is supposed to help and protect me. I have the right to be protected and resettled. However, with the constant ignorance of the UNCHR I might be subject to more harassment and ill-treatment. I might be even be killed.

Hussain Mohammed Ahmad

Dear Editor,

I have been reading about Yemen for a long time, especially news related to the oil discoveries and explorations. From time to time, I read about companies coming to Yemen and working on exploring for oil. They seem to have found a lot of oil, gold and gas as well. I visited Yemen recently and I saw a lot of changes. All Yemeni people would love to come back to our home land and settle in Yemen with our families. Our fathers and grandfathers left Yemen's economic problems and due to the difficulty of finding jobs. We left Yemen for the same problem knowing little about the fate of our children. We've been living in the hope that the time to return to our homeland will come, but unfortunately it hasn't come yet. We Yemenis, were refugees in every country in the world. Can the new government do something about this situation? Can they tell us what the future in Yemen is going to? Can we start buying land, building houses and start new lives in our country? Is Yemen going to be stable and strong such as the neighboring gulf countries? We all hope that at least we would hear about something that could make us feel proud of our government in its attempt to work hard for its citizens and for Yemenis everywhere.

Hadi Jumail
hadijumail@eircom.net

A Yemeni Jew Claims: "We are Against Zionism"

As a Jew of Yemeni descent I would like to stress that Shas and Ovadio Yosef's remarks are in no way representative of the views of most Arab Jews. Shas was founded under the patronage of a prominent Lithuanian

Letters to the Editor

Rabbi Eliezer Schach. Thus, despite his claims to represent Jews from the Middle East, he is more a reflection of an Eastern European ideology. Yosef's racist remarks were despicable and should be condemned by the Israeli government if they are truly interested in rapprochement with the Arab world. Most of us are neither religious fanatics nor Zionists. In fact, many of us despise Zionism, both for its merciless oppression of the Palestinian people, and for its discrimination against non-European Jewry. We consider Zionism responsible for the destruction of a Middle Eastern society, which included Arab Jews. Please understand that Rabbi Yosef's statements are evidence of Shas' European origin and do not represent a truly Arab Jewish position.

Ari Ariel
New York City, USA

Dear Editor,

The courage of the Yemen Times staff, both in the field and in management is to be admired. Your stance on freedom of speech and freedom of thought is to be admired. The problem of security, which you must live with on a daily basis, must place a great strain on every aspect of your lives. I was privileged to live in South Yemen many years ago as a member of the previous colonial administration. Although I could have been hated for what I stood for, I found nothing but openness, friendship and sincerity from the local inhabitants. I wish you well for the future. I also hope that I will continue to enjoy reading your excellent publication. Never forget the old saying "The pen is mightier than the sword".

Frank Jackson
jacksonf@onesteel.com

When Will the Bloodshed Stop?

I am really shocked at what's going on in Yemen. Every week I read the YT and many other newspapers writing about the number of people killed every day and my mind becomes distressed. Since I left my homeland in 1985, this type of violence has never been settled and as the world changes towards stronger economies helping create higher standards of living, people are being killed and shot at in the night with their children in Yemen. What has happened to us, the Yemeni peoples? Have we lost our humanity or sense of respect and lost track of what is going on in our homeland. Some Yemenis still cannot solve even the simplest of matters without bloodshed,

explosions, and killings of innocent people. I pray to Almighty Allah that Yemen regains peace just like its neighboring countries, Inshallah.

Moahmed Saleh Hayder
mosaha@yahoo.com

Dear Jamal,

I have just been told that your newspapers are on the way! Thank you for following the news through YT, which is committed to keeping you in touch with your homeland.

—The Editor

Dear Sir,

We, students of the Faculty of education, Amran, represented by those of the English Dept would like to tender our sincere appreciation and deep thankfulness for all Yemen Times staff in general and its Editor-in-Chief in particular for their commendable efforts which aim at pushing ahead our society. This prominent newspaper which has become the most distinguished English newspaper ever found in Yemen, founded by Dr. Al-Sakkaf, martyr of freedom, God's mercy upon his spirit. Personally speaking, I've been one of many admirers and constant readers of your eminent newspaper, which has enriched my knowledge and information about our country and my English too.

Let me reflect some of our problems in the college. One of the commonest deficiencies in our college is the absence of qualified and experienced teachers, especially in the English dept, and a well-equipped library with basic references. Recently, we have been privileged to have a well-known English professor who is visiting us for the first time. Though we didn't meet or see him before, yet he is not new for us. We've known him for about three years. Our knowledge in English has been improving since we came to read his column. "Improve your English." This valuable corner has provided us with a great deal of useful ideas, necessary information, as well as other helpful things. We would like, through Yemen Times, to deeply thank Dr. R. Sahu for his visit to us. We welcome him to our faculty. At last, our sincerest love and best wishes for him, Yemen times as well as for every loyal individual serving this country faithfully.

Akram A. Al-Quhali
English Dept.
Faculty of Education
Amran

Workers' Misery & ILD



Tawfeek al-Sharaabi
Yemen Times

There is no doubt that workers are an important pillar of any society. They play an essential role in the development process. However, their conditions are not as good as the work they do. In our country, workers' conditions have deteriorated remarkably in the past ten years. Due to many external and internal reasons, they have reached terrible condition. External reasons including the returning of 1 million Yemenis from the Gulf countries and ceasing support from many Arab and foreign countries. Internal reasons include the civil war of 1994, a deplorable economy, laying off workers due to privatizing many public establishments, high unemployment rate, corruption, etc. The 1st of May is well-recognized as International Labor Day. All countries are celebrating the day viewing achievements they have accomplished to improve workers' conditions. Moreover, they devise plans and set goals to be achieved in the future. Yemen, too, is going to celebrate as we celebrate other international days. The only difference is that we celebrate for the sake of celebrating, nothing more, nothing less.

Workers' from Pillar to Post:

Workers' conditions have been deteriorating considerably to the extent that most of them can hardly make both ends meet. The deplorable economy and economic reforms, embarked upon by the Yemeni government in collaboration with the IMF and WB since 1995, have increased the number of people below the poverty line. According to official statistics a survey showed the number of people below the poverty line was 30% in 1999, though other sources indicate

that it is far more. Citizens annual income per capita has also decreased to \$342, meaning less than one dollar a day. Job opportunities are limited. Employers, on the other hand, has exploited this situation by offering small wages to their employees. They, furthermore, oppress them and put more restrictions on them. In fact, workers have been going from pillar to post. They are ignored and shrugged off as they are the weak section of the society. Who will claim their rights? It is true that Yemen is a signatory of many international treaties and conventions that proclaim and emphasize their rights. However, these remains nothing but rhetoric far from reality. Conditions of these illiterate who take to manual handicrafts or labor are the most heartbreaking. They, from early hours in the morning, gather in common markets and streets looking for anything to do to obtain living. Marks of weakness, humiliation and indignity are clearly seen on their faces. They may find work for one day and remain unemployed the rest of the week. This happens at a lamentable absence of syndicates that claim their rights, nor can they themselves be able to form any groups to ask for them. Should we celebrate that they have no rights to call for, no hopes to cherish and no dreams to realize. As things stand now, it seems that their suffering will be intensified, especially as the government is determined to go on with the economic reforms that have their greatest impact on them. Moreover, policies and strategies adopted to help relieve side effects of these reforms have come out as utter failures. Mainly because they were not sincere and did not directly target them. The new government has to take this issue seriously and leash tangible efforts and policies to relieve them of their misery. They have a responsibility to do that. It is not just what they want or need. It is their responsibility.

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Women Prisoners Conditions, Harsh & Distressing

Tawfeek al-Sharaabi
Yemen Times

Following unity in 1990, women's issues were stressed as a direct result of the new democratic system adopted. Consequently, Yemeni women came to realize more about their rights and roles in the development process of the country. Societies supporting women's issues started to be set up, though with no strong basis to ensure their development and prosperity. Due to many deep rooted traditional, cultural factors and stock social conventions, women prisoners remain ostracized and shunned by society. The society's attitude is rigid in this regard. The time a woman comes to law enforcing authorities, she is stigmatized by the whole society. The society does not savor the idea that women can take to crime. The society is still looking at them from the traditional point of

view. However, due to the social changes and economic hardships that have befallen the people of the society, women started going out looking for jobs to help the menfolk meet the difficulties of life. As a result they became more vulnerable to crime.

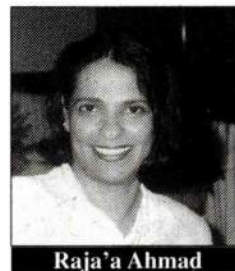
However, the negative attitude of the society on women prisoners has reflected itself on all the circumstances surrounding them. This includes attitudes of those in law enforcing authorities, pending investigation offices, courts, etc. Women are convicted even if there is not strong proof of guilt. Moreover, they are ostracized, shunned or may even be killed by their families. While in prison they are disconnected with the outside world. Their families never contact them. Obviously, this creates serious physiological problems for them. The weak medical, physical, and educational attention in prisons tend to affect them considerably. After finishing their jail sentence, they are not out until their families come to take

them. Most of these families do not come. On the other hand, women prisoners prefer to stay in prison lest they are killed by their families.

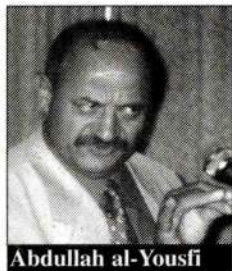
"Women Conditions in Prisons" was the topic of discussion in a seminar held in al-Afif Cultural Corporation. A paper was presented by Mrs. Shatha Nasser, lawyer and activist on women issues. The paper was on women prisoners' conditions, based on a survey conducted in Sana'a Central Prison. The seminar was attended by Abdullah Mahyoob al-Usfi, representative of the attorney general, Lieutenant Fawziyah Hassan, in charge of women prisoners in the Sana'a Central Prison, many representatives from NGOs, people interested in women's issues and the media. Mrs. Shatha Nasser gave a detailed account of the miserable and distressed conditions of women prisoners in the prison and said "Sana'a Central Prison was established in 1977 and is divided into three sections: one for men, one for women and one for juveniles. The women's section contains nine rooms, 6 bathrooms and one kitchen. Rooms are not well ventilated. Each room is 3.65m X 4.5m. There are between 12-14 prisoners in each room. Women prisoners are ranging between 77-80, and 25 children. There is no telephone inside the prison to contact the administration in case of any emergency. Of the nine rooms one is specified for Somali women prisoners with their kids. There are two AIDS cases from al-Habasha kept in another room. The other 80 women prisoners with some kids are distributed in seven

rooms. The women's section contains nine rooms, 6 bathrooms and one kitchen. Rooms are not well ventilated. Each room is 3.65m X 4.5m. There are between 12-14 prisoners in each room. Women prisoners are ranging between 77-80, and 25 children.

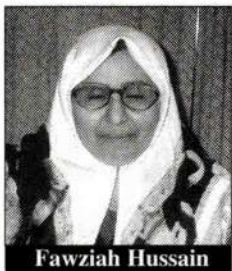
There is no telephone inside the prison to contact the administration in case of any emergency. Of the nine rooms one is specified for Somali women prisoners with their kids. There are two AIDS cases from al-Habasha kept in another room. The other 80 women prisoners with some kids are distributed in seven



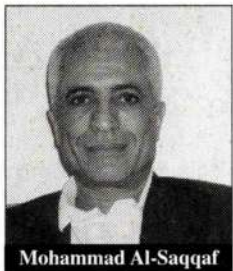
Raja'a Ahmad



Abdullah al-Yousfi



Fawziyah Hussain



Mohammad Al-Saqqa



Sameerah Haidar

rooms.

Prison Structure:

Rooms lack any furniture. Six filthy bathrooms. There are no siphons and heaters. Water is scarce and there are no lights in the kitchen.

The prison campus is a hell and heaven for women prisoners. It is a heaven as they come out of their constricted and unventilated rooms to smell some air and to hang washing. It is also hell as this ground turns into a swamped and diseased area due to stagnant rain water.

In the prison campus there are also three 1X1.5 m cells with no bathroom or electricity. These are used for women troublemakers. The administration said "They are kept only for 30 minutes."

Rooms are not furnished. Whatever they have, including clothes, kitchen tools, food, etc. are kept in sacks.

Cleanliness is very important, especially for women. The prison administration says that there is a well inside the prison and that water is always available. However, prisoners say that water is scarce and that it is only available three days a week. The school at the prison is in need of support. There is only one female teacher who is teaching 40 female students. She is teaching them all subjects. She is also teaching illiterate women prisoners and level one of the preparatory school.

She stated that she is doing her best, though, students lack all the basic needs including schools' uniforms, shoes, books, notebooks, pens, pencils, sharpeners, etc. All these prerequisites are not there. The administration of the prison and Interior Ministry seem to be unaware of all these issues viewing them as unnecessary.

No Proper Medical Care for Women Prisoners:

The medical assistant in the prison said women were in need of a women specialist doctor, physical examination room and fully equipped delivery room. Women giving births have no facilities and no access to medical services in hospitals except for difficult delivery cases. However, there is no ambulance at the prison.

Many diseases are spread in the prison including skin diseases, diarrhea and malaria. Despite the statements of the administration of the prison that medicine is available, doctors in prison contended there is a lack of medicine and medical tools. The mosque in the prison is nothing but 4X5 m yard covered with cement.

Most of the supervisors of women prisoners are not qualified and are illiterate, except for two cases who have primary and preparatory education.

The bad psychological situation of women in the prison made them suffer from dyspepsia, hair falling out, and panghah. The administration of the prison contended that they have been calling for help and sending petitions to all the authorities concerned including the Health Ministry, Interior Ministry, etc. However, all to no avail.

Foreign Women Prisoners:

Some women prisoners are from the African Horn, and are serving jail sentences in Sana'a Central Prison. According to the international conventions they have to be expatriated and handed over to authorities concerned in their homelands.

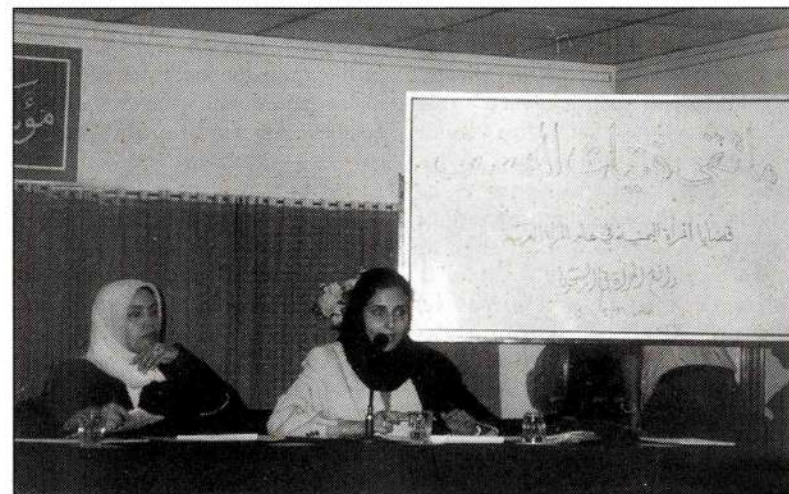
However, the administration contended that they can hardly do anything as the Passport Authority and Interior Ministry do not respond positively to their requests.

Research Doctors Requests:

Research doctors in the Central Prison said "We are doing our best to help prisoners out of their depression. We lack many means of importance to

la'a crime" meaning a girl found in the company of a man in public place or in a park. What is the basis for this procedure? What is its legal reference?"

She highlighted the commendable projects of the International Committee for Red Cross, National Society for Women Protection and Rights Care and Youths Development Center funded by the Denmark government to improve conditions of women prisoners.



prisoners. For example, we want to keep an application and a file for every prisoner. We have been asking the administration to provide us with them. On its part, the administration issued a memo to the authority concerned. However, so far we have received no reply. We have worked in the prison for a year. Prisons Authority and Interior Ministry did not bother to meet our demands."

Women Prisoners' Classification:

Age of women prisoners is ranging between 15-60 years. They are all mixed together. According to the administration of the prison, crimes vary between stealing, adultery and murders. Most of women prisoners belong to the poor section of the society. This makes it evident that poverty, and hard economic conditions are the main factors behind women's crime.

Mothers & their Children in Prison:

There are about 25 children with their mothers behind bars. Most of the mothers want to study, learn any crafts or be involved in any kind of activity. However, there is no one to attend to their children while they are studying or working.

Prison: No Reformatory House

If women lack the basic needs for a living including good food, medical care, water, mosque and education, let alone other facilities. There is nothing that women can do to pass their time. There is no library, no books, no newspapers, no magazines, no TV, etc. So as to pass their time they chew Qat and smoke cigarettes.

Food Served:

Four "kudams" meaning hard bread is served on a daily basis with a big bowl of rice. Meat and chickens are served once a week. Chopped meat is served for the rest of the week. These meals are badly cooked and can hardly be eaten by prisoners. Women prisoners said that they do cook themselves inside the prison using old instruments as access to gas working tools is restricted.

Women Prisoners, "We Have no Rights.":

Some spoke about their situation and said "We have nothing so as to ask for other things. We have no right to ask. We lack all the basic needs for living. We lack good food, medical care, blankets, sheets, education, clean cells and campus, water, training, cleaning tools, etc. Our children are hungry, no clothes to wear and protect them from the heat and the cold, no centers to teach them, no toys to play, just nothing."

** Balqis al-Lahabi, al-Fif Girls Forum, said "Many women are sent to prison after being accused of 'al-ekhte-

** Raja'a Ahmad Abdullah, vice chairman of Arab Sisters Forum and in charge of promoting awareness on women prisoners' rights, said "We are going to launch a project to promote awareness on women prisoners' rights in Sana'a soon. We also have a program on relieving the violence on women which we are working on with 10 NGOs and National Women Committee (NWC) as a governmental organization and in collaboration with the OXFAM as an international committee. Every organization is going to work on specific stages so activities are not repeated and wasted. We work on three dimensions; developing awareness of the society, of those in charge of prisons and on the basis of prisoners. Each organization will be a complementary to the other.

Rights of women prisoners' are trampled and obliterated the time they enter the prison. As prisons are punishment establishments, they are reformatory establishments too. If a person commits a crime and was sent to prison as punishment, do we have to make him more corrupt and perverted or help him to become a good person again?!"

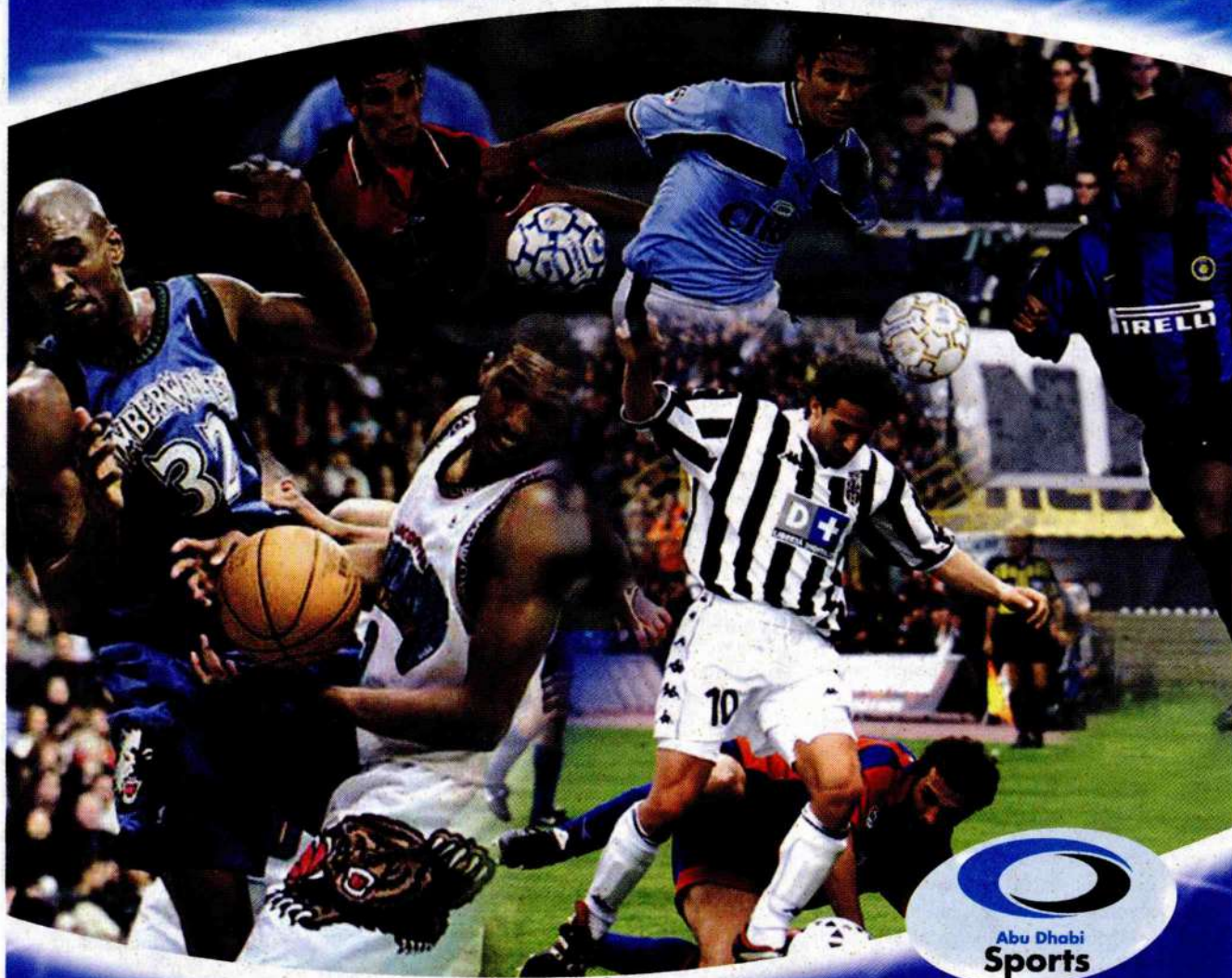
** Soha Mohammed said "Civil society establishments have to do a great deal in relieving this suffering. There are many NGOs working in the field of providing free medical care. Why not specifying some days to enter these prisons and do some work there?

In the educational field there are about 8 organizations. They can specify some of their programs for women prisoners. By this the burden on the government will be relieved and women inside prison will be more connected to the society outside prison."

** Abdulhakim al-Sharjabi, working on a study on conditions of women prisoners for the Women National Committee, said "I conducted the study in 20 governorates. I beg to disagree with some of those who stated requests to improve conditions of women prisoners. I am not as ambitious as they are. I have a small ambition. It is that there should be prisons for women accused of crimes in governorates. There are nine governorates in the Republic where no prisons are established for women. Instead they are imprisoned in the Sheikh's or Security Directors' houses.

Another important issue is the integration of women into the society after they go out of prisons. This does not mean that their conditions inside prisons are not important. On the contrary they do lack lots of important things. One of these things which agitate women is the lack of sanitary napkins."

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Continued on page 18

Refugees' Tragedies & Continues Sufferings Constitute A Real Challenge to Human Rights & Dignity



Prepared by
**Abdulkadir M.
Al-Ariki**
Environment /
Development
Specialist

There is every likelihood that one day any of us could face the tragedy of being a refugee/forced immigrant, since nowadays no one has immunity against it, finding oneself without a home, a country and without dignity. This is the reality that millions and millions of human beings are facing today. The plight of being transformed into refugee/displaced persons who depend totally on others benevolence/charity offerings for their day to day survival/livelihood. Why does this happened in the so called civilized world? This is occurring due to many factors such as the followings:

- Living in a world of inequality which continuously generates more and more poverty and poor people amidst overgrowing wealth and opulence for few groups/individuals. A few nations are controlling more than 80% of the world's productive resources and assets. This is a world of unequals: 20% extraordinary very rich in contrast with 20% totally deprived people living under abject poverty conditions compelled to live in hunger, fear of starvation, social injustice, discrimination, lack of access to assets, to opportunity of socio-economic justice or lack of protection from unexpected events and disasters. Most are man-made, plus fear of wars and of persecution. Such world naturally produces a large number of forced immigrants, and refugees/displaced persons each year. Hence, without taking an effective global/national/regional actions to

alleviate or reduce the above mentioned factors and others, it will be impossible to avoid the forced immigrants, refugees or displaced persons. Accordingly, all nations, mainly the developed countries and empowered rich people have to seriously, address this real human rights challenge and violations by adopting measures and actions necessary for realizing a balanced development. This should be directed at empowering the poor people and nations through a pro-poor, sustainable development policy. This would include a real and balanced implementation of the Universal Human Rights, Laws, Conventions and Declarations before, during and after the human tragedy. Accordingly, there is an increasing need to review the definitions of: a refugee, a displaced Person, or a Forced Immigrant.

- Key players are UNHCR, country of origin, host country and the refugees. Since the mid of 1990, a strong pressure and support groups have been coordinating the aid/assistance to refugees and displaced persons. They have targeted poor people in the process of management and evaluation of humanitarian aid/assistance. And it is in this context that UNHCR presented itself as one of the excellent organizations committed to accelerating such participation processes. (See "Participatory Evaluation of the Humanitarian Aids" and "UNHCR opens up its evaluation reports to public scrutiny and invites NGO participation in evaluation missions", 1999). These have to be based on real transparency and accountability of managing the humanitarian aid, which will be verified practically by the new unit established in 1999, which is the "Evaluation and Policy Analysis Section, directly accountable to High Commissioner of Refugee Affairs

Assistant". Accordingly, we hope that the process of humanitarian and relief assistance should be assessed more than merely by focusing on the amount of aid given to the powerless refugees, specially for those pouring into poor developing countries. Secondly, the refugees have to be given the right of participation in articulating and managing their needs. This gives the impact of aid more importance rather than focusing on its superficial results or contents. Thirdly, we must always remember that we are talking about people...individuals who, given the chance, have the potential to make significant contributions to the world around them. But in order to achieve their potential, they need and deserve to live a decent life as human beings. They need to have all of the rights, dignity and aspirations, including their protection from aggressive attitude and actions mainly from assistance/aid providers and host countries. Particularly the managers of health care providers should exhibit decency, sensibility and public relation skills in terms of human rights, dignity. They should also have substantial awareness in respect of refugees' socio-economic, psychological, emotional and mental conditions. All parties concerned have to fight the atrocities inflicted on the refugees in the context of their total dependence on charity and outsiders for their daily basic needs. Every one should realize that this type of life is poisonous and will lead to creating and developing what is known as "dependence culture". In other words, they will become less motivated and continuously expect others to provide for them all the basic needs to survive a decent livelihood as respected human beings, including the right to work and health services.

- Refugees/Displaced Persons in least Developed Countries: These countries,

such as Yemen, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Sudan are bearing much socio-cultural burden and they cannot afford to fulfill all duties and responsibilities required from host countries of refugees. This is because they themselves are suffering from acute poverty and unemployment to the tune of 50%, 60%. Hence, the refugees are facing further hardships ranging from access to appropriate health services, malnutrition, and overcrowded housing to lack of education and income-generating opportunities. As the director of Sana'a Refugee Health Center (ICD) stated recently (YT march 19, 2001), refugees need jobs, good housing, food, education, security and empowerment in order to attain good health. This is not easy in Yemen because so many Yemenis are poor themselves. However, she didn't offer any suggestions or solutions to ease/solve urban refugees suffering in Yemen. Further more it is not totally true that the RHC (ICD) people are offering fair health services to every one, irrespective of their ethnic background. At least for cancerogenic, cardiac and other similar patients who need continuous treatment and costly medicines. If the urban patient doesn't have the refugee card and if he/she is a Somali of Yemeni origin the problem is still more serious. Some staff of UNHCR office in Sana'a justified the ICD refusal to treat refugee patients without a card even if they have been registered officially for more than three years. Most of them are women and children who stand waiting in front of the UNHCR office daily. This creates despair and more sufferings, specially for refugee women who keep hoping that the program of issuing their identification card will start soon as assured by the UNHCR resident representative in Yemen, (YT - February 5th 2001). More than 77% of the registered refugees constitute Urban Refugee



about 55% of whom are living in Sana'a, excluding another 100,000 of them who are still unregistered. Most of these are the newly arrived Somali refugees. Truly speaking, the Yemen people and government generously hosted the Somali refugees and are bearing a substantial socio-cultural costs on account of them without receiving appropriate aid and assistance as has been promised by regional and international organizations.

In order to alleviate the above-mentioned problems and suffering of refugees living in least developed countries, such as Yemen, the following actions and alternatives maybe taken:

- The international agencies concerned have to provide urgently, the necessary technical, financial, socio-economic aid and assistance to help poor and least developed countries in order to cope with these huge number of refugees pouring mainly into Yemen and surrounding neighboring countries.

- More qualified, special health centers, run by local, regional and international NGOs are needed. The refugees should be encouraged to participate actively in the process of management and evaluation of humanitarian assistance operations as has been affirmed and encouraged by all donors and concerned organizations including UNHCR.
- The donors, the agencies and humanitarian organization concerned have to assist the refugees, mainly urban ones, in providing income-generating micro credit facilities necessary for financing small enterprises/works for improving their precarious standard of living.
- Alternatively, in order to alleviate the socio-economic burdens of the poor countries caused by hosting these huge number of refugees, the majority of whom are vulnerable groups being victims of war (mostly Somalis), they should have the right to be resettled in the developed countries. Presently the origin countries such as Somalia are still unstable and suffering.

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Folklore in Our Lives

By Nabil Mustafa Mahdi
Manager of Information
Department
Aden University

A group of scientists in London agreed on founding a word representing the science of traditional popular customs and arts. The new word that was officially added to English language is 'folklore', which has later been translated to all languages in the world, including Arabic to the 'science of traditional popular customs and arts'. During the mid 19th century, this word started to gain popularity and helped drive attention and improve popular traditions everywhere in the world. The word had become a major branch of science in itself. It had its own theories, researchers, and categories. This science gained more popularity as time passed until it has become one of the major topics in many international conferences and seminars all over the globe. In the Arab world, efforts have been exerted to establish institutions and centers dealing with Arabic folklore. Tens of Arab printing and distribution houses started the distribution of university research and scientific papers along with hundreds of books on Arab proverbs, stories, and lyrics about specialized folklore related topics. The significance and attention paid to folklore and the efforts to develop and discuss folklore material raise an important key question: Why is such importance given to those inherited arts and traditions?

The importance of the glorious folklore of the past becomes evident when seeing the great importance developed industrial nations gave to

this particular science. These nations, which were the pioneers in discovering outer space and created the most advanced technologies couldn't have done so if they hadn't studied and appreciated folklore of their own and of other nations. Those developed countries had built folklore museums and translated thousands of publications explaining the folklore of many nations of the world.

When the United Nations founded its cultural committees, it made sure that the study of world nations' folklore is given the share it deserves by forming the International Folklore Committee (IFC). After World War II, the International Culture Organization started sponsoring the activities of the Paris-based IFC. Hence, it is clear that the developed world does understand the importance of folklore not only of their nations, but of all countries in the world. The study of the different prospects of folklore values and literature represents another way of looking into the unwritten history of the human race through many generations and many eras. And knowing that history is a vital scientific branch, which if studied well would serve as a basis for future planning and development. This is why studying folklore (as in studying history) has been a main factor behind the progress and evolution of the developed world.

However, those old traditions and arts are slowly moving towards extinction due to the tremendous global changes that are affecting people everywhere. The industrial revolution and globalization are participating to erase the links and bonds to old inherited traditions and arts of

older generations.

The gap between the traditions of the past and the style of life of today is widening by the day. Younger generations tend to abandon their fathers and forefathers traditions, which they consider as 'old' and 'outdated'. Many folklore scientists have been urging many countries of the world to double their efforts to limit the effects of the current styles of life in schools and colleges on those countries' respected folklore.

To combat this wave of change that is slowly extinguishing folklore, scientists have started discussing the different options and possibilities to help in reviving folklore and limiting the effects on it by the changes taking place in the world.

The first option was to expand the folklore science to cover more areas. In the past, folklore has only been dealing with popular literature in the form of story telling and certain traditional customs, etc. The scientists are calling to include every single popular custom and art that are still present today in many nations, either in cities and industrial regions, or in remote villages any where in the world.

The other option is to merge folklore with the social sciences and the human culture related sciences, which will give folklore a matched importance as any other social science and prevent it from dying further as a science.

Finally, it is important to stress that as Arabs our folklore is among the most vulnerable to the effects of globalization and the New World Order. We need to participate effectively in keeping our folklore and the study the folklore of different nations of the world alive. Along with developing our countries culturally, technologically and in all aspects. We need a balance between what is original and what is new in our daily attitudes, and in our arts, sciences and customs. The different sciences, old and new, must be given great attention without neglecting any of them because they enrich our lives in many ways. Among those important sciences that we should always pay attention to is no doubt, the science of folklore.

Independence of Judiciary & Journalism

Mr. Michael E. Hartmann, Judicial System Officer, Regional Coordinator, Bkro region, UNMIBH Judicial System Assessment program was delegated by the UN to various countries including Yemen. Mr. Michael delivered a lecture on the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) on the Independence of Judiciary and its Impact on Freedom of the Press". Mr. Mahboob Ali delivered a speech welcoming the guest and appreciating his long experience. The lecture was attended by many members of the media who contributed and voiced the worries and concerns of journalists.

Mr. Michael indicated that different countries have different levels of freedom for the press. He said "In Yemen, based on your constitution and on the international treaty, the International Covenant for Protection of Civil and Political Rights of 1966 which Yemen signed, you have the freedom of expression and the freedom to seek information of all kinds. There are limitations to this freedom. It is not absolute. The limitation is that the rights are limited in that you must have respect for the rights and reputation of others, for the protection of national security, public order and morals.

Article 20 also provides another limitation. That is expressing hatred which incites discrimination or violence can be prohibited by law."

As for the Yemeni Penal Law, he said "I am struck by article 197 of your Penal Law that stipulates "Whoever insult the president of the state in public in order to offend him, or whoever criticizes the ruler of a foreign country due to matters pertaining to that position, or whoever insults the presidency of the country, or the leadership of other countries, has violated a penal code." I, personally, disagree with this. Because only through criticism can one cause change. One of the basis principles of the United States was summarized by a great jurist when he said "The freedom of speech meant that any idea, even one that was totally wrong, has the right to be stated, because only if ideas are exposed to the market place, of the market place of ideas, can they be looked at in comparison with others and shown to be false." Of course, we have limits too. Thus, I am personally against the over wide-ranging concept in article 197 of the penal code.

I believe law No 25 of 1990 of the Press and Publication Law at article 103 is also a violation of the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights. In article No 103 subdivisions "c" and "e" stipulates "Anything

which might spread a descent and division among the people". This should not be interpreted as including criticism which does not cause a danger of violence. It is a very broad term since proper speech and proper criticism not only may spread dissent among the people, or cause a division of opinions, but many times the only way to have change is to bring a new idea to the people. Let's say to change the law. This needs some people to adopt it. This then will cause a division of opinion which you can call dissent. Ideas will fight instead of people fighting. This is something not to be criminalized. This is something to be encouraged and welcomed. So descent and division in itself is good. I hope and I urge the courts and the prosecutors to never use this law or make it prevalent."

On how to ensure the independence of the judiciary, he said "I have been made aware as others told me including lawyers, judges and prosecutors that one of the problems of the judiciary here is that arrest and prosecutions are made for people who should not be prosecuted. Moreover, there are people who are powerful or who have protection due to their connections and money, and are not prosecuted when they should. To guarantee the independence of the judiciary, first you need to have a professional judiciary with its own ethical code. A written code of conduct which it enforces upon its members. This means that if the Supreme Judiciary Council receives a complaint that one of the judges or prosecutors has taken a bribe, or he is not doing his job, the council investigates, calls witnesses, allows the accused to defend himself and when found in violation of the rules be disciplined including dismissal. I emphasize that mere transferring of an individual from one place to another is not enough. If the person is in violation of people's rights, which is part of the penal code, he should be prosecuted. The judiciary must also have decent pay and be free from the fear that they will lose their jobs if they make some decisions to the disapproval of some influential people."

On the role of the press, he said "The press is an essential part of this. The press can trumpet issues of violation by publicizing things far and wide in Yemen, and spur the government to take action. Because it is the only thorough publicity, through making people aware that the law is not enforced equally, you can press the government to correct things. Without that you won't have a truly independent judiciary. And press in cooperation with other groups in society are part of



the civil society which can put pressure on the government to change laws. These should be the laws that do not allow the prosecution of the police and judiciary officials unless someone agrees it may happen." He also stressed the importance of the press being responsible and said "Privilege and protection of the right of free speech and expression requires responsibility which includes not just an ethical code and disciplining of the judiciary but of the press as well. Every newspaper should have a copy not only of the press and publication law but also of the penal law and other laws. Before thinking of criticizing the judiciary which violates the independence of the courts they better know what the facts are. Otherwise this would not be a responsible journalism and would deserve punishment. I suggest that the syndicate should have a written ethical role, should have a place where any person can complain about the press. If you want the protection of the press you should be responsible. Do you convene a small group and investigate the complaints? Have you ever announced or publicly reprimanded a member of the press for not doing his job? If not, you've failed.

Last, the journalist and the media just like judges and prosecutors should never take money. Taking money destroys independence. Article 158 of the penal law refers to bribing employees of the private sector. It states that if you as reporters take money without knowledge and approval of your employer, you may have up to 2 years in prison. I disagree with article 158 because I don't think it is strong enough. I think it should be changed. I think it should say if employees take bribes for performing a duty they otherwise do not perform, they should be penalized even if their employer approves. If you take a bribe to cover an event, the fact that you give half to your publisher does not make it a good act. It makes it even worse."

Tawfeek al-Sharaabi
Yemen Times

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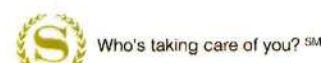


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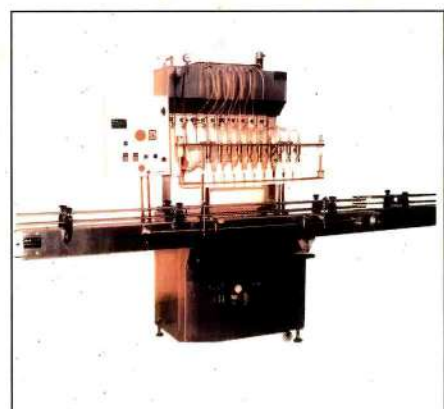
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Dr. Al-Rasheed to YT:

"We believe that anything that will help the educational development in Yemen should be our priority."

The Saudi Minister of Education, Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Rasheed came on a visit to Yemen last week and met with his Yemeni counterpart, Dr. Fadhl Abu Ghanem. During his visit he held talks with President Saleh along with several prominent officials in the field of education. Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief Ridwan Al-Saqqa and Abdulwahid Ahmed Saleh of Al-Jumhuriya had the privilege to meet Dr. Al-Rasheed during his visit to Aden and filed the following interview.

Q: Could your brief us on the results of your current visit to Yemen?

A: The relationship between the two countries in the field of education is strong and is full of rich possibilities. As you may know, there are more than 150,000 Yemeni students studying in Saudi Arabia. My discussion with Yemeni Minister of Education Dr. Fadhl Abu Ghanem focused on several issues including sending some of our Saudi teachers to teach in Yemen. Another agreement related to give opportunities to Yemeni students to study in the teacher training colleges of the Saudi Ministry of Education leading to Bachelor degrees to become efficient teachers in their country. We have also agreed on reviewing the



States to follow suit and revitalize their cooperation with Yemen in the field of education?

A: There is a special organization to coordinate educational activities for the Gulf Cooperation Council. I want to assure you that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will do its best to consolidate the steps taken so far to cement the commitment of both leaderships towards cooperation. We hope that this will

encourage other states to do the same. We have started our cooperative endeavor which others may emulate. I had the honor to meet H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He stressed the importance of education to promote national and Arab values that would serve in the long-run to promote better understanding between the coming generations among the Arab countries. Hence, this will not only serve to strengthen Yemeni-Saudi relations, it will serve to promote Yemeni-Arab relations as well.

Q: You have mentioned that you aim at starting some sort of partnership in education. Could you explain this further?

A: We are seeking a common ground in education to remove all major differences in the issues related to the academic curricula. We have agreed to start partnerships in the form of coordinating the different educational activities similar to what international and Arab educational organizations do. We have also agreed to identify organize seminars and conferences that

would help promote and enhance educational training. This extends to any conference or seminar we hold in Saudi Arabia. We will invite our fellow Yemeni colleagues to these forums. Similarly when Yemen holds conferences or seminars they will invite us. This can be considered a beginning, and efforts to increase cooperation and partnerships will continue after.

Q: You may have noticed Yemen's efforts in the field of vocational and technical training. How can the KSA support Yemen in this respect?

A: Through the cooperation between the Saudi and Yemeni ministries of higher education, technical training, and education, we can support Yemen in its efforts in many ways. President Saleh seemed to give much emphasis to this issue. We also are eager to give this issue the importance it deserves. Only, theoretical studies are not enough. I am confident that the ministers of vocational training in the two countries will rise to the occasion and extend their cooperation further in this regard.

Q: There are several projects that were financed by the KSA. Many of them were completed while others were not. An example is one of the schools in Taiz City. Is there any hope of having these suspended projects completed? And what are the new projects the KSA is going to carry out?

A: As you know, the cooperation between the two countries started a long time ago. We used to send Arab teachers to Yemen to help it recover from the shortage in this regard. However, today, we have many Saudi teachers instead of Arab teachers to be sent to Yemen to help the educational process in the country.

As for the projects you mentioned, I believe the Saudi Development Fund is the authority concerned. I remember

that a delegation visited Yemen recently and assessed the situation. It concluded that there indeed is great need for educational and health projects in the country. Such projects were administered by the past by the ministries concerned, but today

all projects are administered by the Saudi Development Fund.

I would like to point out that we have been given clear orders to cooperate in all possible ways with the Republic of Yemen. Hence, we believe that anything that will help the educational development in Yemen should be our priority.

Q: During your visit to Aden University, you openly stated that you are keen to promote the exchange of academic expertise between the two countries. Could we expect solid steps to be taken in this direction soon?

A: During my visit to Aden University I met with its rector, Mr. Saleh Ali Basurrah. We explained to him that we need the list of instructors who are currently unemployed to look after their needs and treat them in the same way their brothers are treated in the kingdom.

Q: How do you evaluate the level of education in Yemen?

A: Openly speaking, neither of the two countries satisfied with the level of education. Hence, it is important that we exert more efforts to enhance the level of education. As the Ministry of Education we have our own agency that is responsible for drafting plans to improve education. I believe the same applies to our brothers in Yemen. I was



glad to know that there are more than 3.65 million students in Yemen, which marks a significant increase over the years. However, with the increase in number, the increase in quality was also evident, particularly during the last 10 years.

Q: What are your impressions about your first visit to Aden? Don't you feel it could be a potential tourist destination for Saudis in the future?

A: Indeed, this is my first ever visit to Aden. From what I have seen so far, I believe that Aden is qualified to become a major investment and tourism destination. There is also a great potential for fishing and many businesses in this beautiful coastal city. In brief, Aden seems to have all the factors of success as a tourist and investment destination.

Q: Can we consider your last sentence an open invitation for Saudi businessmen and citizens to invest and pay visits to Aden?

A: Already, I learned from the Aden Governor that a Saudi businessmen delegation visited Aden recently and expressed interest in investment in the city. I was delighted to know that one of the Saudi investors has already started the procedures to invest in Aden. I do recommend all businessmen to head for Aden and discover the potential in investment in all fields.



set curricula to make the content relevant to the socio-academic need of our countries. There was a consensus on restructuring our books with topics to include values based on the Arab nationalism and stress on the importance of the brotherly relationship we enjoy with Yemen. We also agreed on having frequent visits of students, managers, and instructors to discuss possible future cooperation in the field of education. We are looking forward to receiving Yemen Minister of Education in Saudi Arabia as we believe his visit will further enhance our relationship and cooperation and create meaningful partnership between our two countries in education.

Q: Do you believe that the strong influence of Saudi Arabia in the region will encourage other Gulf

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Qat and Our Students

Ali Kaheli

A fif cultural organization is nearly the only private organization that seriously works to create a Yemeni generation without qat. It regularly holds meetings, gives lectures, issues leaflets and posters etc. Two months ago I attended Afif's second meeting for school representatives. In the meeting qat was put in a guilt cage and was sentenced to death during the course of the coming ten years. Though we felt that the actual carrying out of this verdict was impossible, yet we realized that building the coming Yemeni generations without qat was possible. I was strongly shocked to read the statistics presented in the meetings:

- Qat water consumption is 60 million while the people's water consumption is 30 million.
- Qat covers 100,000 hicks which is

the three fold of coffee farms. The following chart shows Qat in comparison with other crops:

Corps	W.B studies
Corn	845,000 tons
Vegetables	25,000 tons
Fruit	14,000 tons
Qat	35 million bonds

In addition to that, specialized studies say that qat revenues reached 63,360 dollars while the revenues of other crops are as follows:
81,702 dollars for grape
50,505 dollars for coffee
36,640 dollars for orange
3,334 dollars for bananas

There were also terrible facts about health damage caused by qat. For example, a medical study done by Dr. Adeel Al-Emad revealed that 21% of cancer cases were caused by qat and that Yemen was threatened with cancer explosion as the number of cancer cases in Yemen has reached 6000 cases

annually.

Petrified by these awe-inspired facts I put all of them to of my students. To know the result I finally made the following questionnaire in Hussein Schools:
In this questionnaire I found that 10% chew qat as a habit; 30% don't chew qat but they think that it is not so bad a habit although it deserves fighting; 50% believe that it's a bad habit that should be given up. I have pleasure to brief you on what students between 11-18 years say:

Hamza Al-Sarsoor: 10th year student, said that qat causes many diseases like cancer and headaches. He thought that Yemenis ought to stop chewing it.

Heba Shalloom, 8th year student, said that qat had negative influence on our society. She stated that qat had the following effects:

- A- Economic effects:
a. The length of qat session (4-6)

hours, which is usually followed by (6-8) hours of worrying and absent mindedness, bears no fruit.

- b. Qat farms covers vast portions of our agricultural land.
c. The individual pays daily a big sum of money for qat as compared to his income.

B. Social effects:

1. Absence of parents from home causes indiscipline among the children.
2. Qat corrupts. Many employees can be bribed by a bond of qat.

C. Psychological effects:

1. Chewers of qat are always nervous and absent-minded.
2. Qat causes cancer and other disease that lead to psychological disappointment.

Mohammed Hamed Anbol, 10th year student, stated that the reason behind the wide spread of qat was people's ignorance of its bad effects. He said that Yemeni people should be aware of the social damages caused by qat. He also thought that the only solution was forbidding the buying of qat.

Naema Sami, 8th year student thought that qat was detrimental to health. She also considered it a useless item which has to be given up.

Thamir Jamil Shalloom, 10th year student said that qat was highly appreciated by those who chew it. They thought that it gave them hours of fun and pleasure. He explained that such ideas about qat contradicted the truth that qat causes the loss of money and health. He added that qat ruined our ethical and religious principles. Qat chewing men became careless about their prayers and their bad health does not enable them to meet the responsibilities of their jobs.

I don't know how I should end my article, but I think we must be hopeful. It is a positive sign that there is at least one charitable organization that fights qat. I wonder if we will see our Yemen without qat one day.



OPHTHALMIC EDUCATION VISION 2020

The Right To Sight – PART 1

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Every 5 seconds one person in the world goes blind and a child goes blind every minute. If national and international efforts to avert blindness are not intensified, the number of people with severe visual disability will double by the year 2020.

The mission of Vision 2020 is to eliminate the main causes of blindness in order to give all peoples of the world, particularly the millions of needlessly blind, the right to sight.

Vision 2020: The Right to Sight is designed to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020. The program will enable all parties and individuals involved in combating blindness to work in a focused and coordinated way to achieve the common goal of eliminating preventable and treatable blindness. Vision 2020, in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO), is a global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness, which will take on the following responsibilities:

- Increase awareness of blindness as a major public health issue
- Control the major causes of blindness
- Train ophthalmologists and other personnel to provide eye care
- Create an infrastructure to manage the problem
- Develop appropriate technology

Vision 2020 involves the active participation of UN agencies, governments, eye care organizations, health professionals, philanthropic institutions and individuals working together in a global partnership to accomplish this goal by the year 2020.

DID YOU KNOW

- 80% of the world's blindness is avoidable.
- There are 45 million blind people and 135 million with low vision, comprising a total of nearly 180 million people with some degree of visual impairment
- 90% of the world's blind people live in developing countries
- There are least 9 million blind people in India, 6 million in China, and 7 Million in Africa – together this constitutes half of the global burden of blindness
- People who live in the developing world are 10 times more likely to go blind than people who live in highly industrialized countries
- The main priorities for eliminating avoidable blindness are cataract (an eye disease of ageing), eye infections (trachoma and onchocerciasis), and visual loss in children
- It is estimated that at least 7 million people become blind each year
- The treatments available for the prevention and cure of blindness are among the most successful and cost-effective of all health interventions

Vision 2020 aims to prevent an additional 100 million men, women and children from becoming blind by the year 2020.

Reference: WHO launches Vision 2020 to combat avoidable blindness. Public Health Rep. 1999

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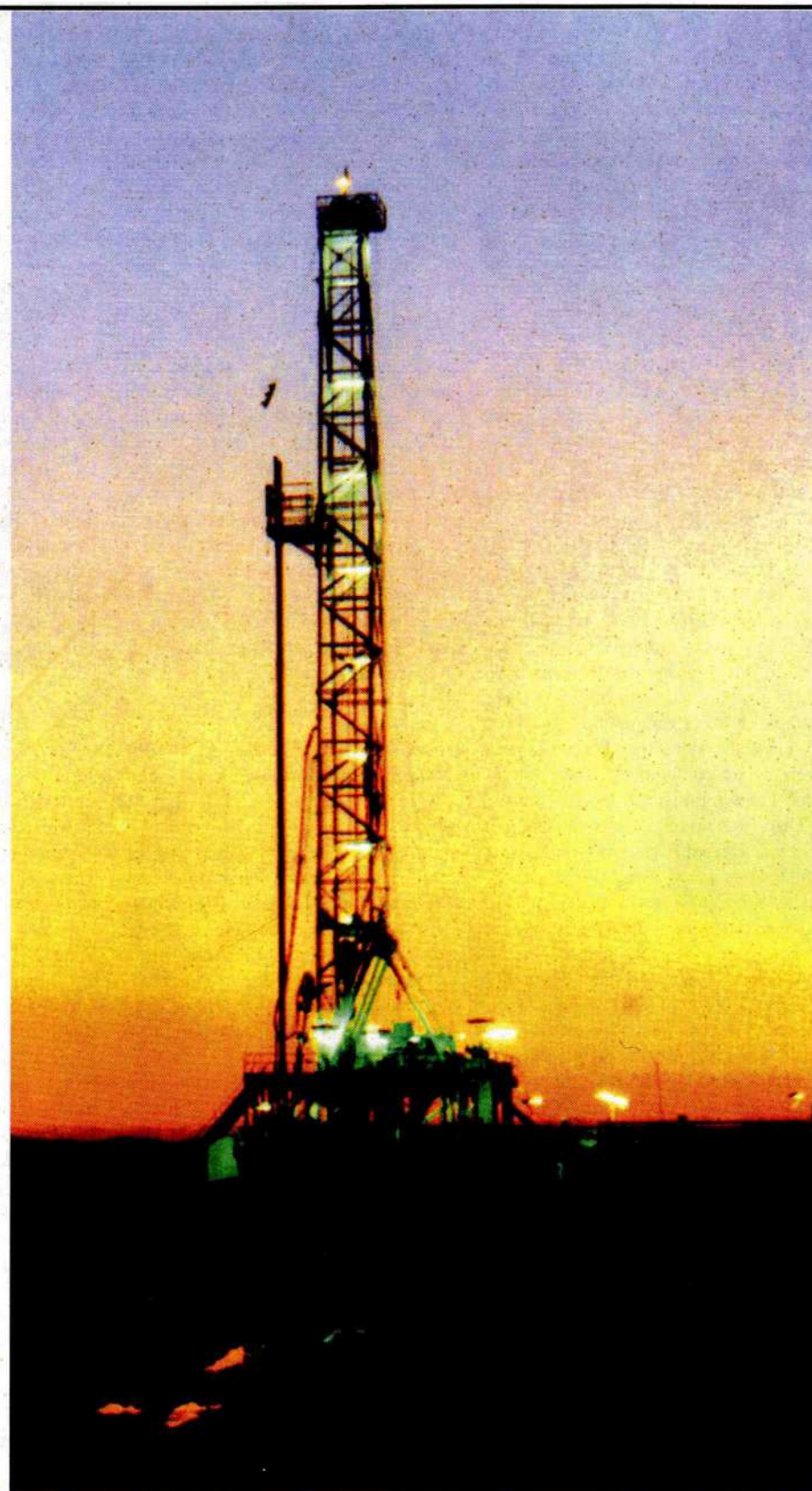
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South Yemen's Sheikhs and Sultans: Looking Back to The Future!

What happened to the sheikhs and sultans of south Yemen? Ahmed Al Fadhli was expelled from his country by the British. After spending 27 years in exile he returned home to his old farm which is now producing 40,000 kilos of bananas a month. Sheikh Ahmed bin Thaleb lost all his land but stayed in Hadramaut during the communist era. Today he is dedicated to synthesizing tribal values and 21st century life. They talk to Karen Dabrowska of the Yemen Times about their lives, hopes and dreams.

Ahmed Al Fadhli: "Investment means investing in people!"

On August 23rd, 1994 Ahmed Al Fadhli returned to Yemen after 27 years in exile. His farm in Abyan was without a single tree. Today the farm produces 40,000 kilos of bananas a month. Other crops include chives, okra, ladies finger, aborigines and papaya. Al Fadhli would also like to develop the government hotel on the Aden-Sukria Road. But he emphasizes that the most important thing is investing in people.

In the plush offices of Saudi-based MBI International & Partners in central London, Fadhli looked like a fish out of water. He was always immaculately dressed in an expertly tailored suit, fluent in business jargon and a public relations wizard. But there was a sadness in his eyes, money did not bring happiness and he never adjusted to life outside Yemen.

Today, surrounded by his workers, seventy five people in total, of whom 25 are women, who are treated more like family and friends than employees, Fadhli insists there is no place he would rather be. Visiting London would be more of a duty than a pleasure. He is a man with a mission: an unquenchable desire to see Yemen flourish.

"If it flourishes, I will flourish", he says with a glint in his eye like a businessman who has just clinched a deal. "And we will flourish. First of all Aden will flourish, then Abyan, Lahj and Taiz. The Port of Hodeidah will provide a back up for Aden port which will be an obvious stopping point for container ships of 7000 units and above traveling 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, Pakistan, India, Iran and Iraq. I was hoping the Hong Kong people would come last year but they did not due to our stupidity. A small clerk can stop the directive of the President regarding investment".

Al Fadhli was a victim of British colonial politics. "On August 23rd, 1967 the British kicked us out and I returned on August 23rd, 1994, he told the Yemen Times, emphasizing that the date of his return was coincidental. He settled on his old farm in 1995. There is a lot of nostalgia about the good old days of the sultanate, disappointment verging on contempt for the communists! and optimism about the future.

"There was no feudal system. The sultan was elected from seven families. If the tenants were given land which was cleared and easy to farm they had to give up one third of the crop, if the land had to be cleared they had to give up one fifth. If the tenant died, his family inherited the land. In 1948 education for boys was compulsory till primary school and in the 1950s there was compulsory education for girls. But in 2001 education is not compulsory! One percent from each pound of cotton sold was put aside for education and in 1960 there were 45 students at university because of this one cent. The Batias Dam was completed in 1965 and the loan the Abyan Board received from the British was repaid with interest in 1965.

"The communists had good ideas but the implementation was terrible. When I returned to my farm it was without a single tree. We had 17 white horses and the communists killed them and fed the meat to the animals in the zoo", Fadhli laments.

But he gives the communists the credit

for sending people overseas for training even though the left destroyed the social structure and the region became more tribal. "Tribal communism was worse than tribalism and the people became trigger happy. Now they carry guns like the people in London carry umbrellas".

Fadhli is concerned that the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) is trying to bring the socialists to back Abyan to show Yemen is a democratic country. He points out that they ruled the south with disastrous results and have now joined the GPC in large numbers. "There is no need for me to break with the GPC but I will tell them what I think about this. I will! start an opposition from within". Five Fadhli families once owned a quarter of the Abyan Delta. All the land confiscated during the communist era has not been returned to them after unity. "But at least we are here and will get it back eventually", Al Fadhli says convinced he will succeed even if it takes a long time.

After returning to the farm Fadhli brought back the old system: the land belongs to the tenants and they are only kicked out if they abuse it.

He has only one business philosophy: investment in people. "If I don't have money there is no problem. But if I have money I have to give it away", he says resigned to his generosity. He finances the workers weekly 'qat rations', he is supporting five students and he takes a personal interest in the welfare of his workers.

"I want to improve education and health standards. The first thing to do is to improve the people's standard of living. If you do that even in a very small way you have achieved something". The philosophy seems to be the key to the farm's success. If a buyer turns up on Thursday afternoon the workers gladly give up their weekend to harvest the bananas.

Looking back to the future seems to be the latest game in Abyan and the rest of Yemen. While Fadhli has reintroduced the land tenancy system of the days of the sultanate, the sheikh institution has been updated. It is possible to get a letter of appointment as a working sheikh after gaining the support of the locals and registering in Sana'a. Fadhli got his letter on 27th January. He is a sheikh with democracy at the top of his agenda. Although supportive of local elections in principle he points out that if the governor is not elected you cannot have a local election. The recent local elections were tailored for the GPC to rule.

"I am angry when somebody says we are not ready for democracy. The person who says 'the Yemenis are not ready for the democracy' is really saying he is not ready. Nobody can give us anything. If we want our country to flourish we have to make it flourish. And we will. By 2005 we will see definite changes", Fadhli says with an unshakable confidence.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Thalib: "Synthesizing traditional values and 21st century life"

When asked about tribal conflict in south Yemen and the kidnapping of foreigners, Hadrami Sheikh Ahmed bin Thalib replies with a satisfied smile: "The tribes in the south have good relations with one another and they exchange ideas. If there is a problem between them it is solved through the mediation of another tribe before anything bad happens".

Sheikh Thalib emphasized that this is a tradition from ancient times. "Traditions provide the right guidelines on how to live. If these traditions are adhered to there will not be any problems. The loss of tradition causes problems".

Unlike their counterparts in North Yemen, the Hadrami tribes have never kidnapped foreigners for use as bargaining chips in their disputes with the central government. "Tourists have never been kidnapped in Hadramaut", the sheikh says proudly. "Cars have been taken but people have never been kidnapped".

Sheikh Ahmed bin Thalib from the Al-Kathiri tribe part of the Shenafir

Confederation, the biggest tribal grouping in Hadramaut, Yemen's largest governorate, is a man of peace for whom development and co-operation between all social sectors is a priority.

He lives in Al Hauta, a town 15kms west of Seyun where the local people have built their own hospital. The sheikh takes a personal interest in the work of the Al Hauta Charitable Association, which runs the hospital dismayed that the government is keen to cash in on a successful venture without playing a role in its development.

"The Health Minister wants everything to belong to them. We had a contract with the Social Development Fund (set up by the World Bank in conjunction with the Yemeni government) and the Ministry of Health to run the hospital. There were no problems with the fund but the Health Ministry did not provide doctors". Even the midwives trained at the association's expense were transferred to Shibam under the pretext that the hospital in Al Huata, which serves 36,000 people was just a small center "not really in need of their services". The sheikh's words about reconciliation and co-operation between tribes and classes have a special poignancy when viewed against the backdrop of Hadramaut's troubled history.

The Kathiris, a Sana'a tribe, conquered Hadramaut in 1488 and eventually settled permanently in the wadi. The Kathiri Sultanate was founded in the eastern part of the wadi, first with Tarim and subsequently with Seyun as its capital.

In the 16th century the western part of the wadi fell under the rule of the Qu'aytis, a Yafi tribe originally brought to the region as paid soldiers to resolve disputes between the Kathiri brothers. The mercenaries soon became as powerful as their paymasters, set up the Qu'ayti Sultanate and made the town of Al-Qatn their capital. The constant warring between the rival tribes greatly reduced the wadi's agricultural output resulting in famines.

A century-long period of hostilities between the Qu'aytis and the Kathiris started in 1830 over who would rule the town of Shibam, located between Al Qatn and Seyun, the capitals of the sultanates. Twenty-seven years of war left the impoverished city, previously under the joint rule of the two sultans, in the hands of the Qu'aytis.

Wadi Hadramaut remained thus divided with the border between the Qu'ayti and Kathiri sultanates drawn to the east of Shibam, for almost a century. The colonial power of Great Britain was slow to extend its rule in the hinterlands. Hadramaut and Al-Mahra formed the so-called Eastern Aden Protectorate and the British ruled through protection treaties with the local sultans. In 1888 one such treaty was signed with the Qu'ayti Sultan in Al-Mukalla, but the Kathiris did not follow suit until 1918. It was only in 1934 that the British finally extended their control to Wadi Hadramaut, mediating between the warring tribes and signing hundreds of treaties with them as well as half a dozen or so with the most important sultans.

The 1967 revolution resolved the disputes by removing antagonists. The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDYR) was set up and most of the sultans, including the Qu'ayti sultan, fled to Saudi Arabia. But Sheikh Ahmed bin Thalib stayed in Yemen. "The socialists took everything: land, houses, animals", he recalls with a remarkable absence of bitterness. "I stayed in Hadramaut even though I did not agree with the policies and procedures of the socialists".

The sheikh lost all his land and could not continue trading, but the people still respected him and his family, which was active in famine relief 70 years ago. The wheel of fortune turned in his favor again when the Yemeni Republic and the PDYR united to form one country in 1990. The land was returned to its previous owners and those who fled returned.

Continued on page 18

Yahya Al Shou'aiter to YT:

"I feel that my drawings are mainly influenced by the art of Islamic calligraphy"

Yahya Al Shou'aiter is a new discovery for the artistic world in Yemen. Apart from being an artist, he was the Manager of Cultural affairs in Ibb for the governorate and the deputy manager of the Yemeni Cultural Center of Ibb.

Yahya has participated in three collective exhibitions, one in 1991 for the celebration of the unification, at the Arab cultural center in Sana'a, one in Ibb in 1998 which was inaugurated by the vice president and the last at Dia (French N.G.O) in Sana'a during its Open-Door day.

Today he has come to organize his first solo exhibition at Dia's Gallery in Sana'a. It will continue until the 30th of April 2001.

Yahya was first discovered by several renowned artists during the workshop "Across the Lines" which was held at the French Cultural Center in collaboration with both ICBL and Dia in February 2001. It was on this occasion that Dia made the decision to support him by organizing an exhibition of his most original works. During the workshop "Across the Lines" George Gittoes, an Australian artist, marked his exceptional talent and contemporary style, evaluating his work to be a perfect representation of modern Islamic art.

Excerpts from the Interview:

Q: What are the materials you use?

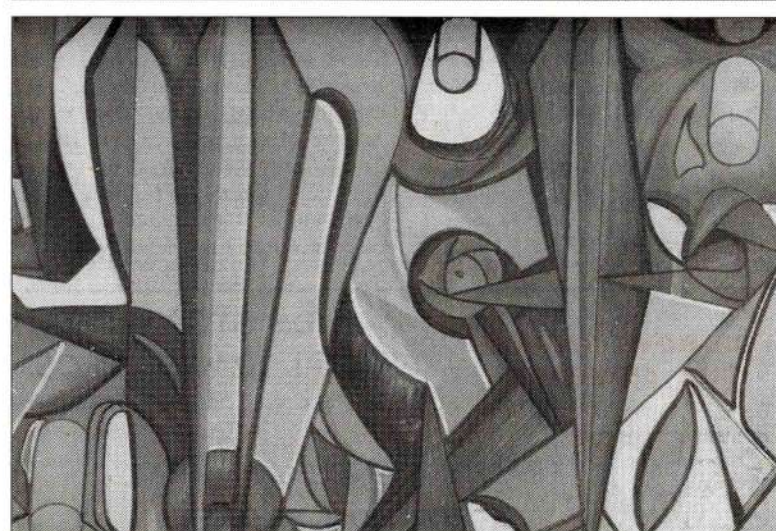
A: 'I work mainly with colored felt pens and collage paper. When I first started painting, I brought some material from the United States because it is not easy to find the proper material in Yemen. However, for the time being I work with whatever material I have at hand'

Q: How long have you been painting?

A: Since 1986.

Q: It seems that you come from an artistic family, your brother also paints, doesn't he?

A: 'No, we are actually a family consisting of several magistrates. I myself am an autodidact when it comes to the art works. We have no artists in the past generation of the family. But it is true that my brother, who has traveled to several foreign countries has helped me through his advice on the basis of what he sees during his travels outside of Yemen. He gives me a briefing of what is going on elsewhere, and this helps a lot in my work. He himself is



actually a doctor. My brother is actually a very talented calligraphist more than he is a painter.'

Q: During the opening of your exhibition you were surrounded by quite a group of people who seemed to be from your family. How does your family respond to your artistic work?

A: 'My family respects my work and supports me for continuing on that path.'

Q: What do you have to say about your drawings?

A: 'I feel that my drawings are mainly influenced by the art of Islamic calligraphy, which I feel is the metaphor of a flowing river, never-ending and everlasting.'

Q: One renowned artist said that your work is like a pre-sculpture, the step one takes just before achieving a sculpture. Is this true to you?

A: 'Yes, I admit that I find myself often imagining forms when I work, however this is not a conscious thought. I actually let things come as they do. I don't aim at a sculptural form as the final goal.'

Q: Your work is very linear and as you said yourself, there is a touch of calligraphy to a lot of your work.

Have you been influenced by someone or by a technique?

A: 'No, I do feel inspired by calligraphy but what concerns my style is that it is a very personal expression that you see in my drawings. I don't feel that I have copied someone.'

Q: You say that you are an autodidact artist. Since when did you start drawing?

A: 'I started it during the leisure moments in my life. As a child I was not able to study. I was very ambitious and one of my greatest aims was to become a journalist. To be one of those who make history, who help make changes in the society. I felt like wanting to be part of those who build a bridge between the people and the intellectual milieu. Because I was not able to educate myself as I wanted in order to become a journalist, I utilized the free time that life offered, that is how I started drawing, to fill-up time.'

We hope that Yahya will be given the honor he deserves as an artist and that there will be a follow-up exhibition of his work in the near future. This artist should be given the support those who are proud of their culture and traditions. Yahya has all it needs to make his work truly international. It is our hope that his latest exhibition would be the starting point of a new artistic movement.

French Musical Nostalgia in Yemen

The French Cultural Center (FCC) is holding its annual French Music and Food Festival in the first week of May. This year, the FCC has invited the French band DUO MALINES, who are going to perform for the first time in Yemen.

This group will hold 4 concerts in Yemen between the 2nd and 6th of May. In Sana'a, they will give a free concert in the FCC on the 2nd of May at 8.00 pm in the Arthur Rimbaud Hall, on the 2nd Floor of the FCC.

The two other concerts in Sana'a will take place at the Taj Sheba Hotel, along with a dinner service. Reservations must be made through the Taj Sheba Hotel, and tickets are on sale for \$35 dollars.

There will also be a French Cultural Week in Taiz on the 2nd and 3rd of May, which will include a concert in the closing ceremony. The French department of the University of Taiz will organize the events, which will include poetry reading, art exhibitions and musical talent. These events will mainly take place in the university, and the free concert will be held in the As Saeed Theatre.

The French artistic duo Aline and Michel Fournier, known as 'Duo Malines', will give performances of their concert: Edith Piaf in Black and



White. These two artists will sing the repertoire of the great singer Edith Piaf, who is one of the most well known figures in French music. Born in the 1920s, this popular performer started singing in the street at the age of fifteen. Piaf led a difficult life full of tribulations, and armed with her experiences, she expressed with her strong, simple voice the tragedy of everyday life. She sang about the reality of love and the human condition. Internationally known as the "mome Piaf", the Kid Piaf, this woman has and will remain a strong presence in

the collective memory of French culture.

The repertoire of this profound artist is a difficult one to deliver, but the Duo Malines have established a reputation in France and abroad as being able to give Piaf's musical heritage a personal and contemporary touch. Each song has been originalized, with Aline singing in her strong and contrasted voice and warm intonation, and Michel accompanying her on guitar. Their repertoire contains 24 songs written for Piaf by different composers, spanning seventeen years of Piaf's illustrious career. The setting will be sober and efficient, and Aline will recreate the image of Piaf in a series of attitudes and gestures.

The FCC chose to include these two artists in the French Cultural Festival for their talent to recreate a definite French atmosphere in their different places of performance. The Fourniers have performed all around the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iraq. They will also embark on another artistic tour in the region after their shows in Yemen. They will next perform 'Edith Piaf in Black and White' in Iraq and in Bahrain.

The FCC invites all to attend the free events during this week and to enjoy the culture of France.

Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet

I. What to say

Recollection about school days

- Sultan:** Asalamu Alaikum, Mutee. Why are you running. We have enough time before the lecture begins.
- Mutee:** Wa'alikum Asalam. Nice to have company. I hate walking alone.
- Sultan:** Last year when I was in secondary school in our village, I didn't have to walk much because it was very close to our house.
- Mutee:** You seem to be missing your school days because you mention your school every now and then.
- Sultan:** Yes, indeed. I can't forget my school days.
- Mutee:** Tell me about your school days.
- Sultan:** Well, I started going to school from the age of seven. Our school had both preparatory and secondary sections. So after completing the preparatory level, I remained in the same school for my secondary level education.
- Mutee:** Was it a boys' school or a mixed school?
- Sultan:** It was a coeducation school. But there was a separate girls' section in it.
- Mutee:** Did you have a headmaster or a headmistress?
- Sultan:** We had a headmaster. He was a very strict person. We were scared of him. At the same time we loved him and greatly respected him for his love of learning.
- Mutee:** Which were your favorite subjects?
- Sultan:** Mathematics, Science, History and English. But I loved English most, although I was equally good at other subjects.
- Mutee:** It's rather unusual to see someone who is basically interested in science, but has cultivated an equal level of interest in Humanities subjects, especially English.
- Sultan:** We had an excellent teacher in English who inspired and encouraged us to do well in English. It is his pleasant personality that attracted me to him and to the subject that he taught, that is, English.
- Mutee:** That explains your love for the English language. Lucky you. Did you have a school uniform?
- Sultan:** No uniform. Students used to put on anything they liked. Now it's your turn. Tell me about your school experience.
- Mutee:** Well, I was sent to a boarding school. My parents wanted me to be self-dependent and learn how to adjust myself with others. I returned home only during holidays.
- Sultan:** How was your school? Did you like it?
- Mutee:** I had mixed feelings. I liked the lessons, but hated tests. Some teachers were exemplary. But a few were not so active.
- Sultan:** How about friends? Did you have a best friend?
- Mutee:** Yes. My room mate was my closest friend. He is now a student of Medicine in Aden university.
- Sultan:** What did you like best in school?

Mutee: Holidays. Holidays were the best.

II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

1. You may not go there personally, just send someone.
2. Should you care for a glass of milk?
3. You should not go to college today. The teachers are on strike.
4. I went to him so that I should warn him of the danger.
5. We eat so that we should live.

Answers to last week's questions

1. I **struck** him on the head.
2. One **ought** to serve one's country.
3. He **need not** hurry, there is plenty of time.
4. The patient's condition is serious, you **ought to** consult a good doctor.
5. When I was young I **used to** work for twelve hours.

III. How to express it in one word

1. Lowest part of anything, inside or outside.
2. Large piece of rock that has been rounded by water or weather.
3. A line that marks a limit.
4. Bunch of flower carried in the hand.
5. Persons of the middle class of the society.

Answers to last week's questions

1. Science of life and living things: biology
2. Cut or divide into two parts: bisect
3. Large fire made out of door to celebrate some event: bonfire
4. A person who is very fond of reading books: bookworm
5. Science of the structure of plants: botany

IV. Match the two halves, (a) and (b)

(a)	(b)
A chemist	writes books
A nurse	designs machines
A mechanic	sells medicines
An Engineer	takes care of boons
An author	looks after sick people
A farmer	grows crops
A pilot	repairs machines

Answers to last week's questions

1. His brother has been convicted of theft.
2. If he **works** hard, he **will** do well in life.
3. I couldn't **make out** what he was saying.
4. Please remind me **to send** the letter tomorrow.
5. The boys are **going to start** a new project soon.

V. Words of wisdom

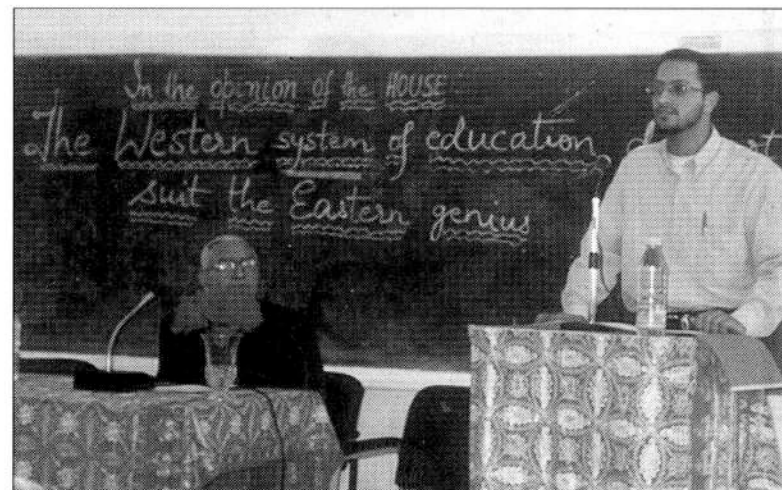
Dignity consists not in possessing honors, but in the consciousness that we deserve them

—Aristotle

Literary Competitions in English At Sana'a University

Hisham Al-Qubati
Yemen Times

Under the auspices of the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University, two literary competitions in English—a Recitation competition of speeches from Shakespeare's plays and a Debate competition—were held on Wednesday, 25th April. The competitors of the Recitation competition rendered some of the famous, rhetorical speeches from plays like 'Othello', 'Macbeth', 'The Merchant of Venice', and 'Julius Caesar' which cast a spell on the audience. The topic for the debate competition was "The Western System of Education Does Not Suit the Eastern Genius". The Participants engaged



themselves in a lively battle of wit, passionately pleading in support of and against the motion of the house. At the end of the glittering event, certificates of merit and prizes were dis-

tributed among the outstanding participants.

Dr. Damodar Thakur, Professor and Chairman, Department of English and the chief organizer of the event, in his concluding remarks hoped that such competitions would inculcate among the students a sparkling brilliance of oratorical skills and inspire them to be outstanding public speakers of national and international recognition. A day may come when one of the students is invited to make a speech at the United Nations Organization (UNO) to the thundering applause of the distinguished audience who unequivocally acclaim, "Here is an outstanding speaker of exceptional caliber".

The event was attended among others by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the Director of the British Council and a large number of students.

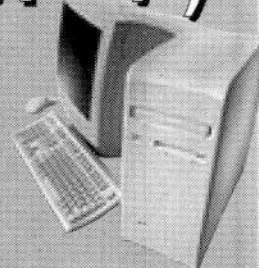


Let's Learn Computer (7)



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APTECH
COMPUTER EDUCATION
<http://www.aptech-globaltraining.com>



Memory - Hard Disk

In this lesson we are going to talk about an important part of the memory system: that is Permanent memory. In the last lesson we talked about ROMs, which are capable of storing the data permanently. But we cannot use ROM to store our data on a day-to-day basis. The reason is that a complicated method is involved to write or store something in ROM. Also capacity wise it would not be sufficient keeping the volume of the data we deal with in our day to day work. Besides, if we go for EEPROM for this purpose (assuming that EEPROM would be the most suitable storage medium if we decide to use ROMs for storing our day to day data.), then it will cost a fortune. Hence though ROMs belong to permanent storage category, we have to think of some other storage medium for this purpose (i.e. to store data permanently), which would be inexpensive and easy to use. Of course, we have a range of permanent storage mediums like tapes, disks etc.

The tapes and disks differ in one respect only. That relates to how data is retrieved from these storage mediums. So it seems pertinent for us to know various ways of retrieval mechanisms. What is more important is to consider the time it takes to retrieve the data from the storage medium.

There are two ways of retrieval of data in a storage medium. One is Sequential access and another one is Direct or Random access. The best example of Sequential access we can have is that of Audio Cassette. The songs are recorded sequentially. So in case you want to listen to 2nd song then you have to play the first song or at best you have to fast forward that. You cannot skip first song. Either way you have to go through the first song. The same concept applies in case of magnetic tapes used to store data in computers. It was in use for storing data in earlier days when the concept of disk was not available for the purpose. The difficulty was, as discussed

above, in retrieving the data following sequential accessing. The magnetic tape used to store the data is logically divided into blocks. Each block is separated by IBG (Inter Block Gap). So if you are in need of data stored in a block other than the first block, then you have to start with the first block of the tape.

But that difficulty has been removed by the introduction of Disk Drives. The concept of its operation is similar to that of the Gramophone records we used to have earlier. In case of Gramophone it is possible to play any song without going through other song(s). The same concept is used in Disks meant to store the computer data. This Disk Drive is a logical collection of basically two components i.e. Hard Disk and Disk Controller. Inside the hard disk drive, there are individual platters covered on both sides with a special magnetic material. Drives work by writing small magnetic charges onto the surface of the platter. And there is a Head to access each surface of the platter. That means for each platter there are two Heads, one for top of the Platter and another one for the bottom of the Platter. Between these heads platters spin at thousands of Revolution per Minute (RPM) just like Gramophone records. In Gramophone records the head remains fixed under which the record moves. Each Platter is divided in to thousands of Tracks (i.e. concentric circles) and each track into Sectors. It is the sectors, which actually holds the data. Each track is numbered starting from zero for outermost track. Normally each sector stores 512 bytes of data.



YOUTH FORUM



True Love

If I was the rain
And you were the Sun
Then our love would be the rain-
bow
Which shows we are one

The key to my life
Has always been yours
The smile on your face
Has opened all doors

The tears that might fall
From us being apart
Will drown all my dreams
And with it my heart

I never believed in love
Until it was too late
But now let me explain
Why I think love is great

Love is the purest thing that you
can feel
Love is when the whole world
becomes real
Love is when you put your heart to
the test
Love is when you stay up all night
and never rest
Love is an endless maze that will
never end
Love is an open wound that will
never mend

Love is when you can't live with-
out the one you desire
Love is what turns the spark in
your heart into fire
Love is when you are willing to
die for the one you love
And believe me, that is the least I
would do for you, my love

Rayan Moustafa Bahran,

Sana'a
The Curse of Silence

A wolf sat on a large rock. It was dark and he was very hungry. He could not see anything to offer for his young sons. He could not even see anything to eat himself, because the land, which he lives in, was going through famine. The wolf was so unhappy. Then he heard about another land where an old man was living with his daughter. The old man had some sheep, and according to the rumor, the old man used to keep a milk goat hidden in his house. The wolf decided to steal the goat rather than any of other sheep. He walked to the green land and stood on a rock near the old man's house. He knew that the old man's daughter goes out to collect some green grass for the sheeps. The wolf jumped off the rock disguised as a small shepherd and waited. When

the girl arrived where he was, she was amazed to see this small shepherd boy. She took him to the house. As soon as the old man saw the little boy he liked him a lot. "We don't know where this boy came from, but we must take care of him," he told his daughter. "From now on, he is a part of our family," the old man said.

As days passed by, the boy grew up and the old man loved him all the more. He gave him everything he needed and allowed him to care for the goats as well. One day, the shepherd wanted to graze the goat that was kept in the house. At first, the old man disagreed, but when the boy insisted in anger, the old man gave in and allowed the shepherd to take the milk goat out. Immediately, the wolf transformed again to his real self and ran out of the house with the goat in his mouth. The rest of the sheep fled away. The dogs chased him and made him drop the goat which fell into pieces to the ground and all the milk splashed on the ground. The wolf snatched the biggest piece of the goat and the dogs went with the rest. There the milk goat vanished as the old man and his daughter were watching.

Fuad Thumran

Mr. Tim Thomas,
President & General Manager

&

Mr. Ali M. Sohaiki
Executive Director

and the staff of

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen

present their heartiest congratulations to

H.E. President/ Ali Abdullah Saleh

and all the laborers in the Republic on the "International Labor Day", May 1st. The company also extends its thanks to all its Yemeni outstanding employees and wishes them more progress and prosperity



محمد أحمد ناصر النسي
Mohammed A. Nasser
مستشار أول للعلاقات العامة
- صنعاء



عبد الرزاق الشرفي
Abdul Razak A. Al-Sharafi
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مستشار عمليات إكمال
الحفر - المسيلة



محمد مبروك الأرضي
Mohammed M. Lardhy
إداري موقع - المسيلة



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عادل جعفر عبد الله
Adel Jafar Abdulla
مستشار خدمات تقنية
ومواصلات - صنعاء



شاطر إسماعيل شاطر
Shater I. Shater
محاسب - صنعاء



عبد الرحمن عبد الصمد
Abdul Rahman Samad
عامل لحام - المسيلة

يتقدم كل من:

السيد / تيم توماس - الرئيس المدير العام و السيد / علي محمد السحيقي - المدير التنفيذي

وكافة منتسبي شركة

كنديان نكسن بتروليم يمن

إدارة عليا، مهندسين، موظفين، وعمال

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

رئيس الجمهورية

بأحر التهاني القلبية الى فخامة الرئيس /

وإلى كافة عمال الجمهورية بمناسبة «عيد العمال العالمي» في الأول من شهر مايو.

كما يسرنا أن نتقدم بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى موظفي وعمال الشركة اليمنيين والمكرمين في هذه المناسبة متمنين لهم المزيد من التقدم والنجاح شاكرين لهم جهودهم الكبيرة في إنجاح سير أعمال الشركة.



شركة صناعات الدباغة والجلود

SHAMMAKH TANNING & LEATHER IND. CO. LTD

Ahmed Shammakh

Mr. Ahmed Shammakh is among the few businessmen deeply involved in the leather industry in Yemen. After Mr. Shammakh completed his secondary studies, he studied in the Aden College until A-level in 1967. He then started working with his father Sheikh Salem Shammakh in the department of import, export, external relations, and banking transactions of the Shammakh Trading Company. He contributed to establish the investment department of the company in 1987. Mr. Ahmed Shammakh started the first industrial line of the company by establishing the factory of leather, shoes, and other leather goods. He is

currently the chairman of the Industrial Committee of the Hodeidah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Besides that, he is also the chairman of the Local Council for Vocational and Technical Education and Training in Hodeidah. Shammakh is also a prominent member of the International Leather Chamber and the Chairman of the SMS group in Malaysia and Singapore.



Present and Future of the Leather Industry in Yemen

About the present and future of the leather industry in Yemen, Mr. Ahmed Shammakh said, "The leather industry in Yemen is currently suffering severely from the low quality material and competition of neighboring countries that import the raw material from Yemen for use in their highly advanced factories. This results in a low capacity and quality production of leather factories in Yemen. This competition results in less profit from leather manufacturing in Yemen, preventing further investment and development of the available factories. Despite all that, the future of leather

industry is promising if efforts are to be exerted to develop this important industrial sector, especially because it does not require qualified labor and uses more employment. This is quite suitable for Yemen if little training is given to its available workforce. However, if the slaughtering of female and young livestock continues, the future may become uncertain because the number of livestock is dropping dramatically. Due to want of statistics, our estimate is that the number of livestock has dropped around 25% of what it used to be 10 years ago, and the number is still declining.

The idea of expanding the business of the Shammakh Trade House to include leather industries started 40 years ago. The project was to start using local raw material to participate in the development of the country's economy and help in producing new industrial goods using the products of the tannery. This was intended to create a trade balance between the imports and exports and

provide Yemen with income in hard currency.

Current Products

The factory's current products are: Pickled / Wetblue / Crust Sheepskins and Goatskins, Pickled / WetBlue Calfskins and Cattle Hides, Vegetable Tanned Goatskins, Sheepskins and Hides

Invested Capital

The invested capital in this particular company exceeded YR 900 million. It employs about 350 Yemeni employees. The production capacity is around 10,000 piece of sheep skin daily. Currently it works with 70% of its minimum capacity. The cattle hide tanning line has the installed capacity of producing 300 pieces of cattle skin daily but it is currently not operational because of the lack of raw material. These hides are usually exported to Syria and Saudi Arabia as raw products.

Exports

The exports of the company constitutes of 85% to 90% of its production amounting to a total ranging from USD 5.5 to 7.0 million annually. The production can be tripled if more attentioneis given to the livestock resources and if female and young livestock animals are not slaughtered carelessly. The media awareness and training of butchers using right methods of flaying the skin without damaging it is also of great importance. The company's products are exported mainly to Italy, UK, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Czech Republic, Poland, and Spain.

Obstacles

As many other factories all over the country, we suffer from the instability in the economic situation. We also suffer from: 1- Neglect of the authorities concerned in terms of spreading awareness to citizens to preserve the livestock resources and take care of them. This can be done through TV and other media organs and also by giving a larger role to the slaughterhouse establishment, ministry of agriculture in this prospect. 2- Forbidding of the export of raw skin. Export of skins leather should be permitted so as to encourage investors to start their businesses in the field of tanning and development of leather industries. 3- Current investment laws do not take into consideration the specialty of such industries. They are equated with enter-

tainment projects.

4- Difficulty in dealing with the law of recovering raw material fees used during exports.

5- High indirect costs of production, such as fuel, transportation, electricity, medicine, etc.

6- Official and nonofficial smuggling, which resulted in the closure of many factories, threatening to close our shoe producing factories. Instead of getting the attention to our problems, we realize that we only receive more taxation apparently as a result of the authorities' stubbornness and conspiracy.

7- Due to the lack of specialized institutions in the field of leather industries in the Arab world, we find it very difficult to improve our human resources technically. We cannot send our employees

abroad because of the language barrier.

Contributions to the Society

1- The company is contributing in building schools, mosques, medical center, and water projects for the neighboring villages.

2- It participates in training the local workforce as there are no institutes or training centers for this particular industry, neither locally and nor regionally.

3- It participates in developing and encouraging traditional handcraft productions by providing what is needed of leather with competitive prices that do not exceed 75% of the cost of production, implying 25% loss for the company for this material.

4- It participates in providing the artifi-

cial limbs and natural medication center in Sana'a with its needs in leather according to available raw material and with costs that do not exceed 60% of the cost of production.

Future Plans

The factory has several plans to start derivative industries from the leather industry such as the gelatin production factory if the appropriate conditions exist. The feasibility study is still being done. The expected cost of establishing this factory is around USD 4 million. There are also plans to develop leather tanning to advanced stages as we have indeed obtained investment permission to do so. The production based on this development, may with God's will, start soon.

Stages of Leather Manufacturing



1) Receiving the raw material in the form of livestock untreated skin



2) Sorting and distinguishing the different types of skin



3. Dying leather



4. Leather ready to be exported or used to produce leather products



5. Transforming leather into leather products

Some of the company's products



Shammakh Tanning & Leather Industries Co. Ltd.

P. O. Box 3372, Hodeidah - Republic of Yemen • Tel: (967-3) 217685, 830268 • Fax: (967-3) 830267 • Mobile: (967-7) 913900 • Tlx: 5534 Shamak ye • Email: SHAMMAK@y.net.ye



Press Scanner

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

The main front-page news stories of Yemeni newspapers this week are focusing on the Saudi-Yemeni contacts before and after president Ali Abdullah Saleh recent visit to Eritrea, the draft program of the new government, the visit of a Kuwaiti delegation led by Sheikh Ali Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, governor of Jahraa city, and the visit of the Qatari minister of energy and minerals.

In addition; there is a host of other important local issues and events to be reviewed in headlines.

Review of the major news stories as published on front pages of Yemeni newspapers this week.

- President Saleh Issues a Decree on Forming a 111-member Shoura Council
- Prime Minister Bajammal Presents Program of His Government
- Council of Ministers Approves Draft of the General Program of the Government before Referring it to Parliament
- Yemen Calls on UN Security Council to Protect Palestinian Civilians and Salvage Peace Process.
- At Tehran Conference on Support of the Palestinian Intifada, Yemen's Parliament Speaker Sheikh Al-Ahmar Calls for Practical Stands to Support the Palestinians
- Abuhamza Al-Masri's Sons Learn Arabic Language in Yemen
- Legal Affairs Ministry Prepares for Amendment of a Number of Laws and Regulations
- The Deaf Care Society Appeals to Social Affairs Minister to Implement the Ten-Institute Project
- Islah Party Paves the way for Fresh Alliance with the GPC
- Islah Congregation Rejects Women Recruitment in Armed Forces
- Four Teachers from Jarda School, Dares Salam Sanhan area Came Under Attack
- Sheep Smuggling into Hadramaut Raises Fears of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
- Member in the Parliament Industry Committee Denies Justifications for Privatization of Cement Factories
- Gunmen Kill a Citizen in the Capital
- RAY Discloses Syllabuses of the Coming "Dose"
- British Ambassador: Democracy A

Condition of Yemen's Commonwealth Membership.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC party April 23, 2001.

In his article on the results of Amman summit, Dr Abdulaziz Al-Maqleh said that some days after concluding his first tour of some Arab countries, the U.S secretary of state Colin Powell said he did not find any of the Arab leaders telling him "...that our policy is not correct."

Dr Almaqaleh comments that he does not think that the US Secretary of State was telling lies about what our leaders have said. The writer maintains that a number of Arab leaders, when they meet their visitors, especially from the United State, would not submit issues bothering their peoples. Those leaders would, in the best of cases, talk about some of their own countries concerns and issues without touching on the Arab issues in general.

The writer assumes that this has been evident with regard to the surprise visit by the U.S. Secretary of State Powell. He clearly said that he came to convey to the Arab leaders definite directives from the American Administration and not to receive advices and directives. This may clearly explain what happened at the Arab summit held in late March and confirm the impact left by Powell's surprise visit on results of the summit.



RAY weekly, organ of Sons of Yemen League party, April 24, 2001.

The weekly editorial says there are

many opinions now submitted classifying the new government as one meant for the economic question. These opinions see that the government came for targeting and drawing up practical solutions for the economic situation and creating a qualitative change in this respect.

RAY editorial maintains that despite the significance of the economic and security files any effort exerted would fall short of what is targeted unless it has been preceded with preparation of a correct environment and solid ground. Such ground could not be prepared but through taking the initiative to effect political reform, creating a fertile climate so that all such efforts of reform would yield their fruit in various areas, at the top of which is economic reform.

The editorial infers that the major inlet for success of the change and helping the nation out of the crisis bottle-neck is that of political reform. It is the one guaranteeing the creation of the best conditions for joining the national effort for development. Through political reform, bridges of confidence are buttressed, whether between the authority and opposition or with partners of development both regionally and internationally.



Al-Balagh weekly, April 24, 2001.

Columnist Nouridin Qassem has written an article on orientation of local parties saying that recently many voices are being raised from within a number of political parties thinking it is necessary to create certain coordination to come out with a clear vision. This versus all the variables that have come to surface after local elections and formation of the new government as well as appointments of some new governors.

The GPC's domination over authority has been the biggest indicator for the rest of political parties for submitting the question of coordination as an urgent necessity especially after the GPC's most recent announcement that it has no commitments towards its long-time ally, the Islah party.

At this stage, it seems, that the parties are still undecided with regard to coordination. Each party claims to itself the call for it and at the same time denies existence of any coordination. All the parties propose the idea and each puts a condition that it should be in accordance with its visions and ideas. This situation reflects an important matter, i.e. that these political parties are still dealing among themselves in a kind of non-confidence. No party dared, not up till now, that it would disclaim its former coordinations in case of their being contradicted with any new ones.



Ath-Thawri weekly, organ of Yemen Socialist Party, 26 April 2001.

The weekly's editorial is devoted to remembering the 8th anniversary of April 27. April 27, 1993 marks the day when the people of Yemen laid the foundation of democracy in the country. The editorial says we have the right to observe this day with due respect and with sadness as well. It maintains that the day represents the most important achievement of the 22 May peace-

ful Unification. The editorial adds that despite the attempts of retraction and outflanking its content, we will continue celebrating it because it marks the day when our people have been able to celebrate the Yemeni Unity that used democracy as a condition for it.

The weekly editorial has also said that no sooner the unity was established and elections of April 27, 1993 succeeded that the attempts began by those who have been harmed by it to undermine the great gain. Those attempts were represented by assassinating leaders from the YSP to lay siege to the unity.



26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 26 April 2001.

The weekly's editorial said that it is really perplexed that the UN Security Council, under the American unjustifiable bias, is incapable of taking even one step in response to the Arab repeated calls for providing protection to the Palestinian civilians and saving the peace process by sending an international force to Palestine. The international force is intended to help stop the

Israeli massacres and the war of annihilation against the Palestinians. All international laws and norms are applicable to the conditions in Palestine, including the International Humanitarian Law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Geneva's Fourth Convention of 1949.

This UN Security Council incapacity portrays the need to reconsider the veto system and in administration of the international organization that has become completely under the US hegemony, and its performance is characterized by failure, selectivity and absence of justice in dealing with international parties.

In order to save the Palestinian people from the ordeal they are leading, that both at Arab and international levels should not suffice themselves to attitudes of condemnation and protest and to shift to using all means of pressure, including the economic relations and interests, especially with regard to the United States of America. The aim should be forcing Israel to abide by the international will and recognise the legitimate human rights of the Palestinian people.

Continued from page 8

Women Prisoners Conditions, Harsh & Distressing

** Fawziah Hussain, lieutenant, and in charge of women prison at Central Prison in Sana'a, said "We do want the humanitarian and charitable NGOs to come to the prison to see the problems, difficulties and help solve them. Talking from their ivory towers does not make a difference. They have to practice what they preach!

There are not places with negative aspects. There are merits and demerits in the prison which exist due to the limitation of resources. If these organizations do their share, things will improve.

I want to stress a point, especially as there is a representative from the prosecution. If there is a young girl who for the first time makes a mistake, the prosecution should contact her family. However, the first action the prosecution does is to send her to the central prison. In the prison there are lots of women accused of different crimes. So what happens is that this young girl enters prison with a small crime. Later on, she may show recidivist tendencies. There are no classification of crimes inside the prison mainly because of the limited resources available."

** Dr. Mohammed al-Saqqaf, said "What is the role of the government if every thing will be done by the NGOs and civil society establishments. The government has to take care of every thing otherwise what its use is. The problem should be looked at seriously and thoughtfully. Everybody has

to look at it as if it is his own concern so as to exercise pressure to find solutions."

** Mr. Abdullah Mahyoob al-Yousfi, attorney general representative, said "There are four new pending investigation offices. These will be used for keeping whoever has not yet been sentenced to jail terms. The Labor and Social Affairs is now working to establish a house for perverted females which will host all women whose families renounce them. In this house they will be trained and qualified to be able to depend on themselves for a living."

** Mrs. Sameerah Haidar, chairman of Camal Corporation for the Development of Children, expressed the establishment's willingness to provide some toys and games for children in women's prison."

The discussion session came out with the following recommendations to all the authorities, particularly, the Prisons Authority and Interior Ministry:

- 1- Urging the Interior Ministry to establish special police to look into the issue of attack against women within the family and propose solutions for these problems.
- 2- Urging the Interior Ministry and Prisons Authority to establish good prisons ensuring their basic needs of living including food, clothes, medical care, education, and other cultural tools.

3- Asking all the centers and universities to conduct studies and researches on women prisoners conditions and include this within the work of graduate studies program.

4- Calling all the NGOs to work in cooperation to conduct training programs and ensure the protection of their rights.

5- Urging the Interior Ministry to employ qualified women cadre in women prison to improve their conditions.

6- Urging all lawyers and scholars to study the condition of women prisoners, conducting promotion awareness programs inside prisons, calling women who have been exposed to violence in any form to produce their witnesses.

7- Establishing special buildings for pending investigation offices.

8- Urging the Interior, Social Security, and Education Ministries to provide women prisoners with education and training to qualify them and integrate them into the society after getting out of prison.

9- Calling the national capital to establish projects for women prisoners.

10- Calling women activists and administration of the prison to listen to worries of women prisoner trying to help integrate those whose jail sentences are about to end, into society.

11- establishing a school or a teaching center for children living with their mums inside the prison.

Continued from page 14

South Yemen's Sheikhs and Sultans: Looking Back to The Future!

The sheikh is adamant that unity means democracy and elections and is grateful to President Ali Abdullah Saleh for the return of his property.

But the legacy of the socialist era still haunts the people of Hadramaut where many of the disputes are about the re-allocation of land. "The land was turned into collective farms and the lines of demarcation between properties were lost", the sheikh explained. "Now there are disputes over the demarcation lines".

The legacy of class hatred is another bug bearer of the socialist era which the sheikh is eager to erase. Hadrami society is made up of sayyids who claim descent from Prophet Mohammed and qadis, another segment of the ruling class, not from the prophet's family. They often act as judges. Next come the tribesmen (qabilis) and peasants (fellahin). Before the socialist era, relations between the classes were amicable. "If you were a landowner you needed people to work on the land", the sheikh recalls. "There were certain agreements between the landlord and the farmers regarding the division of

income from the land. If there was a problem, a judge from the farmers was called in to resolve the dispute. And his decision was final. Each town had its own council with people from every class. They solved problems through discussions and they made plans for the town".

Today the sheikh is eager to restore cooperation. The Al Kathiri tribe has a high council made up of the president and three deputies. "We have to make friends between the members of society and forget what happened during the socialist period. We have to help the people to work together".

Sheikh Ahmed bin Thalib would like to see Hadramaut divided into two governorates. He argues that an area of 155,376 sq kms extending from the Arabian Sea to the Ar-Ruba al-Al Khali with a population of more than one million cannot be administered efficiently.

The tribes can play a role in the administration of the governorate and in national politics. "Sheikh Al Ahmar is head of all the Yemeni tribes and he is in government. But now well qualified people are needed and the tribal leaders

are promoting their sons. It is the time of education and learning. Just being a sheikh is not enough", bin Thalib emphasizes. He has asked one of his friends to explore computer technology. The Al Kathiris would like their own website. For Sheikh Ahmed bin Thalib a synthesis of traditional values, modern state institutions, and 21st century technology is a reality: "mediation in tribal conflicts can be speeded up through the use of mobile phones.

The UNDP echoes his views: "Tribal traditions do not constitute an obstacle to development which is aimed at achieving economic and social change such as education, health, water, roads and other projects. Moreover there are indications that tribes in Yemen are generally characterized by receptiveness to what is new and they are eager to adapt to changes. It is possible to conciliate between the social development role of the tribe and the path of state institutions. This can be achieved through consolidating the concepts of the modern state and of the institutions of civil society".

By: Karen Dabrowska

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Egyptian, Saudi Air Forces Hold Joint Exercises

CAIRO_ Egyptian and Saudi Air Forces are scheduled to hold joint military exercises code-named "Faisal-2" in the Gulf kingdom on Sunday, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

The Egyptian Air Force will send an unspecified number of fighters to take part in the maneuver, held for the second consecutive year "with the aim of exchanging expertise and promoting the two countries' air skills," MENA said.

Khaled Ben Sultan Ben Abdel Aziz, Saudi assistant minister of defense and aviation, termed as "important" the Saudi-Egyptian drills, which will last for "several days," the news agency

added.

"The exercises will help Saudi Arabia promote its air skills and capabilities," Aziz said, quoted by MENA.

Last June, the two countries launched the first joint air maneuver called "Faisal-1" in Egypt, during which fighter jets, multi-task jets and early-warning planes carried out exercises for offensive operations and troop transportation.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia then decided to hold such exercises alternately, early each summer.

The two countries have strong and long-standing relations, enabling them to cooperate at bilateral and regional levels.

—Xinhua

Developing Countries Start Discussion on Global Economic Prospects

WASHINGTON—Top finance officials from 24 developing countries began their discussions here Saturday on prospects for global economic growth and the impact of a worldwide economic slowdown on their own nations.

The Group of 24 consists of an important cross section of countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Since its establishment in 1972, the G-24 has become the primary institutional mechanism for the coordination of developing country positions on monetary affairs. The meeting of G-24 finance officials is expected to produce a statement to be considered by the policy-making bodies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which meet here Sunday and Monday.

The discussions are taking place against a backdrop of weakening worldwide economic momentum, notably in the United States, Japan and

Europe, that according to the IMF will have a punishing effect on the poorer nations.

The officials will also focus on lingering trade barriers, which according to the IMF discriminate against goods from poor countries, and efforts by the IMF and the World Bank to ease the debt burden carried by the poorest nations. The G-24 meets twice a year at the deputy and the ministerial level and makes proposals to the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the IMF and the Development Committee of the Board of Governors of the World Bank.

The group comprises Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad-Tobago, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

—Xinhua

Iraqis Killed in U.S. Air Raids on South Iraq

BAGHDAD_ U.S. and British warplanes on Saturday launched air strikes against Najaf city, 170 kilometers southwest of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, killing several Iraqi civilians, Iraqi sources told Xinhua. No details were available. But the sources, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Iraqi

defense forces spokesman will comment on the air strikes in a military statement to be issued later on. Iraq's Ministry of Information is to arrange a tour for foreign correspondents to Najaf city Sunday morning to "see the new U.S. crime against the Iraqi people."

—Xinhua

China Urges Developed Countries to Open Markets to Developing Nations

WASHINGTON_ China urged all developed countries here Saturday to reduce their trade barriers and open markets to developing nations.

The appeal was made by Jin Lique, Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance, at the 65th Meeting of the Ministers of the Intergovernmental Group of 24.

"The most fundamental reason why developing countries have for long not been able to merge themselves into the international trade system is that, apart from their own economic capability and conditions, they are not placed on the equal footing as their developed counterparts in such a process," Jin said.

Developing countries, he said, are speeding up the reform of their trade policy and system, and it is self-evident that they are facing tremendous challenges. "We strongly appeals to all developed countries here Saturday to honor their commitments under the Uruguay Round Agreement, lift

various restrictions on trade and further open their markets with a view to promoting development and achieving common prosperity," Jin said. Top finance officials from 24 developing countries began their discussions here Saturday on prospects for global economic growth and the impact of a worldwide slowdown on their own nations.

The meeting of G-24 finance officials is expected to produce a statement to be considered by the policy-making bodies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which meet here Sunday and Monday. The group comprises Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad-Tobago, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

—Xinhua

Palestinian Leaders Call for Uniform Mechanism to Stop Israeli Aggression

GAZA_ The Palestinians have warned against the peril of the ongoing Israeli military escalation and its closure on the Palestinian territories, calling for setting up a uniform action mechanism to stop Israel's aggression against the Palestinians.

This was underlined in a statement released by the Palestinian leadership following a routine weekly meeting chaired by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank City of Ramallah, Thursday evening.

The statement said that the Israeli government has not changed its policy and its military escalation is still going on. The statements made by the Israeli government on easing the closure and siege on the Palestinian territories and its promises made at security meetings

are "just attempts to cover up the true image of the ongoing aggression," it added.

The Palestinian people will never yield to the Israeli arrogance and might, the statement said, stressing that they will continue to fight for their rights in the face of the Israeli aggression till their occupied territories are liberated and the independent Palestinian statehood with Jerusalem as its capital is declared.

There is a need of a uniform action mechanism to stop the Israeli aggression in recent intensive international efforts, the leadership said, adding that such a mechanism should be based on the international legitimacy to protect the Palestinians.

—Xinhua

Israeli Killed by Palestinians in Shoot-out: Official

JERUSALEM_ An Israeli was killed and another wounded by Palestinian gunmen in a shooting incident near the northern Israeli city of Umm-el-Fahm Sunday night, some 80 kilometers north of Jerusalem, an Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) official said.

Qatar's Al-Jazeera television station reported earlier that the slain Israeli was an Israeli soldier, but the IDF official said that the killed might be an Israeli civilian.

The incident, along with Saturdays mortar attacks from the Palestinian-controlled areas on a Jewish settlement in southern Gaza, came after the two sides re-established security coordination.

The mortar attacks wounded at least

five Jewish settlers, some of them seriously. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held the Palestinian National Authority responsible for the shelling and the IDF sealed off the strip once again Saturday night.

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian near the entrance to the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Saturday.

The 34-year-old was driving his car when Israeli soldiers opened fire, which also injured two other people, including his five-year-old son.

More than 470 people, most of them Palestinians, have been killed since the outbreak of bloody clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians last September.

—Xinhua

Mubarak Returns to Cairo After European Tour

CAIRO—Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak returned to Cairo Saturday after concluding his three-nation European tour, the state-run Middle East News Agency reported. During his five-day trip to Germany, Romania and Russia, Mubarak discussed with leaders of the three countries the latest developments in the Mideast and ways of resuming the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, as well as the issue of promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields. Egyptian Minister of Information Safwat El-Sharif termed Mubarak's visit as "successful" by all standards, adding that the president's efforts to push forward the Mideast peace process were "highly" appreciated by the three nations. "President Mubarak was keen to sound the alarm and to stress that the region is facing dangers now more than ever before," said El-Sharif, who accompanied Mubarak on the tour. Mubarak underlined the need to adopt necessary

measures and to encourage all initiatives aimed at having concerned parties return to the negotiating table, he added. Mubarak is expected to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Cairo on Sunday to discuss an Egyptian-Jordanian peace initiative, which calls for quelling the Palestinian-Israeli bloody clashes and clearing the way for bringing the peace process back on track. The Mideast peace process has been stalled since the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, triggered by Israeli violation of an Islamic holy site in East Jerusalem on September 28. The ongoing violence has so far left more than 470 people dead, most of them Palestinians, and thousands more injured. Egypt, the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel, has been playing a key mediating role in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

—Xinhua



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (L) speaks before his talk with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (R) in Berlin, April 24, 2001. Mubarak is on an official visit to Germany.

XINHUA PHOTO BY GUO YONG (WT)

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The General Director of Al-Farouk institute of languages & computer headquarters in Sana'a, the manager of Al-Farouk Aden Branch in Aden as well as the intermediate students are expressing their great appreciation for her excellency Ms. Frances Gay, the Ambassador of the Great Britain for her warm welcome to the institute delegation.

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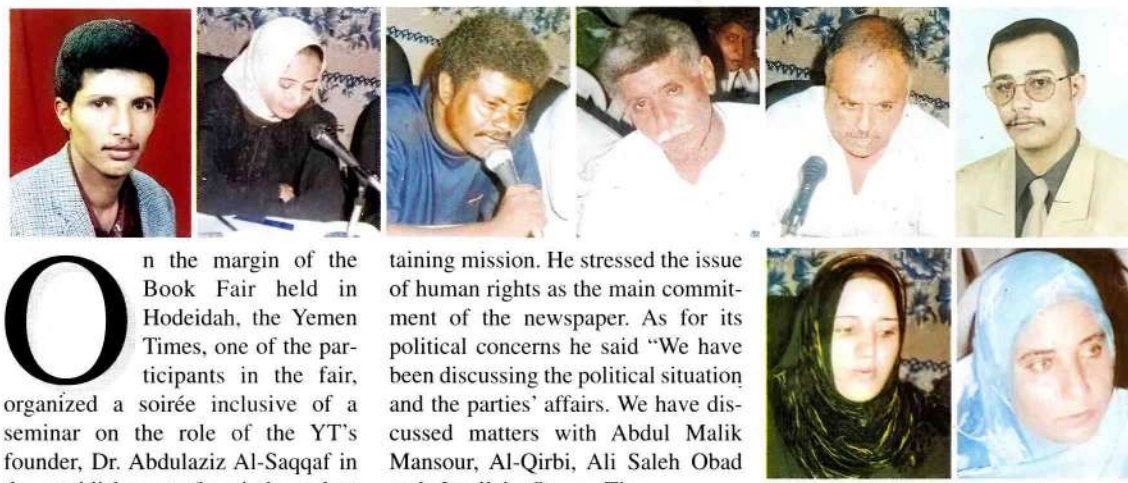
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Modest Proposals Reconsidered

In his essay titled "Moderate Proposal", Jonathan Swift, the famous Anglo-Irish writer and outstanding prose satirist, of the 18th century, drew some salient social and economic proposals. He was, of course, not aware of how his proposal might be relevant nowadays! Swift sympathetically considered his Irish society's miserable living conditions. He had described how street-passers used to feel broken-hearted to see gatherings of beggars, especially females, standing helplessly with their children on shoulders and others in their arms; while others sat at the mother's feet wearing torn clothing. Some of them found a way out to chase tourists. Deeply distressed by the scene, Swift found that there were no source of income for the women. The state, no doubt, was unable to offer any. The plight of children, was really pitiable. They managed to make less money than their expenses required. A child less than twelve, would certainly fail to hold up a few pounds of weight. They, therefore, were not recruited by employers, and if recruited were paid very little. Swift had to be honest in offering a national solution. He suggested for poor families, especially for those compelled to stand in streets and beg, to sell their children to the country's slaughterhouse. Yes, these children would provide the markets with huge quantities of fresh meat; rich housewives would easily purchase soft meat especially those of infants; and hence would show off of preparing palatable dishes for their invited guests. Moreover, meat professionals could debate on the 'qualities'! Swift also had to consider the VIPs affairs and indicated how fortunate they would be to have shoes made out of easy-wearing real leather. In addition Swift had to care how the government would benefit and obtain revenue for the state budget. The commodity was local and its exportation was possible, too!

Yemen Times Organizes A Soirée



On the margin of the Book Fair held in Hodeidah, the Yemen Times, one of the participants in the fair, organized a soirée inclusive of a seminar on the role of the YT's founder, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf in the establishment of an independent press.

As the seminar commenced, Farouq Al-Kamali briefed the participants on the life of Dr. Al-Saqqaf followed by a speech by YT Bureau Chief, Imad Al-Saqqaf in which he gave a brief account of the Yemen Times and its informative, educational and enter-

taining mission. He stressed the issue of human rights as the main commitment of the newspaper. As for its political concerns he said "We have been discussing the political situation and the parties' affairs. We have discussed matters with Abdul Malik Mansour, Al-Qirbi, Ali Saleh Obad and Jarallah Omar. The Yemen Times is still a platform for serious dialogue presenting a true and impartial picture of Yemeni politics and politicians to the world." And about its cultural role he said "The Yemen Times has been presenting the Yemeni civilization and tradition to the world. It has so far written about the Great Mosque of Sana'a, the Yemeni architecture, Al-Mudhaffar and Al-Ashrafiah Mosques, Al-Qahirah Fortress, Djabal Saber, Sirah Fortress, Zabid City, Hud Shrine, Soqutra, Al-Makha, etc.

In his paper about the role of Dr. Al-Saqqaf in highlighting the issue of freedoms and human rights, Ali Al-Saqqaf, Managing Editor of Al-Wahdawi hailed the efforts of Dr. Al-Saqqaf to unveil corruption, defend freedom and protect human rights. "He devoted himself to

the freedom of press and human rights," he said. "He wasn't running after establishing a political party nor was he blindly siding with a party against the other," he added, commenting on the political role of the founder. The paper also dealt with the founder's activities in the field of NGOs and charitable societies.

Following the seminar, short-story writer Bushra Al-Maqtry delivered a lecture about the Yemeni culture, the reasons for its stagnancy as well as the role of the press in presenting the works of Yemeni authors to readers. Then a number of Yemeni poets, namely, Jaber Al-Shwafi, Vice Chairman of the Yemeni Authors Union in Hodeidah, Fare Al-Shaibani, Abdulrahman Ghailan, Nabil Moqbel, Ali Ibrahim, Thanaa Salah, Abeer Mohammed and Abdu Obeid enchanted the audiences with their lyrical compositions. The special night did not end with this. It was only a beginning for a prolonged evening of colorful events. Hodeidah's most popular comedians Ali Al-Gandfadi and Fatimah Al-Khalidy made the spectators burst into laughter as they presented the issue of the immigration of Yemen intellectuals and artists to the Gulf and other countries in a very interesting format. After that it was the turn of girl students of the Adhban School to organize a marvelous show of traditional Yemeni dresses and a impressive performance of Yemeni dances. As the event was approaching its end, singers Essam Assad and Moamer Hussein performed a number of songs that won the applause of the participants. At the end, Mr. Imad Al-Saqqaf honored a number of authors and artists as a token of appreciation for their contribution to the general development of the cultural movement.

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شركة اليمن الخضراء للأدوية والمستلزمات الطبية: الوكالة الوحيد لشركة (جروسمان) السويسرية، ومن منتجاتها (انكوربراميل)، صنعاء، جوار فندق تاج سبا، ت: ٢٨١٩٠٠، فاكس: ٢٨١٩٠٠

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مطابخ

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A Weekly Entertainment, Technology, Cultural, & Commercial Supplement

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Mohammed Khidhr
Yemen Times

Yemen Times readers are accustomed every now and then to be presented with new ideas and new sections aimed at offering them the best service it can in all areas.

For some time we have been thinking of introducing our readers an entertaining and informative supplement. We are intent on choosing a variety of topics having nothing to do with politics and too serious subjects. They are meant to be light news items but rather having useful information, helpful scientific and technological information as well as pictures depicting various subjects or events occurring in different walks of life.

The supplement in question is characteristic of a kaleidoscopic anthology containing a miscellany of entertainment and information. It could be likened to a very delicious dish served in the weekend.

Ideas in our minds on contents of this supplement are very many but we don't want to impose them on our dear readers. Our readers for this reason are kindly invited to send us their remarks and suggestions pertaining to contents of this supplement and their contributions in materials on different subjects are very much a welcome to this newly born child of Yemen Times.

Also there is in this supplement a good space and opportunity for advertisers to publish their ads for the purpose of publicizing their products among the largest segment of Yemen Times readers. Your cooperation is appreciable.

We are looking forward to receiving our readers' remarks, suggestions and above all, their encouragement.

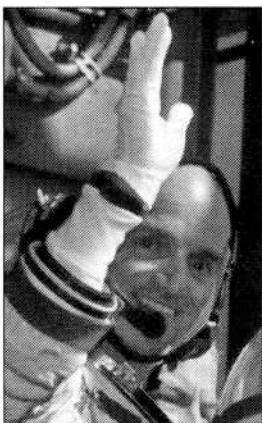
First Space Tourist Blasts Off as Scheduled

The world's first space tourist, businessman Dennis Tito, lasted off for the International Space Station (ISS) as scheduled at 11:37 Moscow time (0737 GMT) Saturday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. A CNN live broadcast showed the Russian Soyuz TM-32 spacecraft, with Tito and two Russian cosmonauts — mission commander Tlgat Musabayev and flight engineer Yuri Baturin — on board, was soaring up from the launching pad with a flaring tail and disappeared in the remote space several minutes later.

Tito, who is in a white space suit and sits between his two Russian partners, looks relaxed.

Russia's ground control announced the Soyuz TM-32 spacecraft separated from the Soyuz rocket and entered the calculated orbit at 11:46 Moscow time (0946 GMT). According to the ground control, crew commander Musabayev said they are all right and every on-board system is working smoothly.

And the first word Tito said five minutes after the launch was the Russian version of "good." Xinhua



Sting Continues Middle East Tour

British rock singer Sting continued his Middle East leg of his world "Brand New Day" that he started in 19 April in Dubai. Sting traveled next to Amman, Jordan, where he held a successful concert on April 22, and continued his tour in Cairo, Egypt, where he made an appearance at the pyramids. According to Reuters, the rock star Sting had to face the rage of Egyptian star Hakim and a burst of anti-Western fervor at a rock concert at Egypt's Giza Pyramids on the night of Wednesday April 25.

During the Cairo concert, the organizers introduced Sting after a break of 90 minutes in the program, to the irritation of a crowd at the ancient resting place of the Pharaohs who had been expecting to see their local hero take the stage an hour earlier.

Hakim promptly burst onto the set, protesting loudly that it was his turn to sing, but the organizers would not let him. As parts of the audience responded to his suggestion that local talent was being scorned in favor of big foreign names, chanting "Hakim! Hakim!", the concert ground to a halt once more amid feverish backstage negotiations.

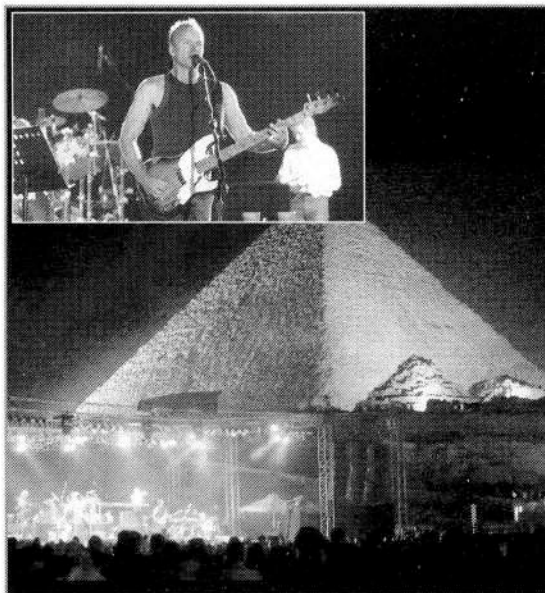
Only when the organizers finally explained that Hakim had failed to turn up on time for his allotted slot did the crowd calm down.

Finally Sting, promoting his latest album, "Brand New Day," did get an enthusiastic reception for a set including his global hit "Desert Rose," performed with Algerian Rai star Cheb Mami.

Organizers said 10 percent of ticket receipts would go to the British charity Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Interestingly enough, archaeologists have in the past complained that musical performances, particularly rock concerts, may damage the 4,600-year-old pyramids.

He is set to return to the region in July to play during the international Ba'labak music festival in Lebanon.



British rock star Sting's concert near Giza pyramid in Cairo April 25, 2001 - Xinhua

Micheal Jackson Joins 'Anti-Slavery' Movement

Pop icon Michael Jackson says he's joining with controversial crusader the US Rev. Al Sharpton in calling for an end to modern-day slavery. The announcement was made in the wake of revelations about a so-called "slave ship" full of children discovered off the coast of Africa. The New York Post says that Jackson is quoted as calling for an "end to slavery, now and forever." Jackson says that he was behind Sharpton 100 percent during the pastor's meeting Friday with US State Department officials in Washington.



Outrageous Photo of the Week



WHAT'S THE MATTER?

Haven't you seen a portable computer before?

If you have a photo that you think might qualify to be placed here, deliver it to Yemen Times premises on Haddah Street or send it to our address (P.O. Box 2579 - Sanaa) and win great publicity!

NOW THAT IS BIZARRE!

(A weekly column for bizarre stories and news)

British Flying Saucer Bureau Says UF-uh-oh!

LONDON, England - Quetzal must be keeping to himself these days. The British Flying Saucer Bureau is closing after chronicling UFO activities for nearly 50 years -- because of a sharp decline in the number of reported sightings. The group used to receive at least 30 reports a week of sightings of unidentified flying objects and had approximately 1,500 members worldwide. Now, the sightings have virtually dried up. According to Denis Plunkett, who founded the bureau in 1953 with his late father Edgar, there may be a rational explanation for the decline in sightings. Perhaps alien visitors had completed a survey of the earth.

Scientists Create Robo-Fish?!

CHICAGO - Actual Cyborgs are one step closer with the creation of a robot that is controlled by a fish brain. According to this week's New Scientist, scientists at Northwestern University in Chicago, along with colleagues at the University of Genoa in Italy, built the creature while exploring how brain cells adapt to changing stimuli. They attached the brain cells from a sea lamprey to a small, commercially available robot.

Using light, the scientists can stimulate the brain cells to move the robot around. The lamprey ordinarily uses this mechanism for balance -- to keep itself centered and upright in the water. As a result, the animal's brain will seek equilibrium, and in most cases the robot will turn to the light and run toward it.

Bizarre 911-Calls

* A thirty-year-old Maryland man called 911 and reported, "You gotta put out the fire, man. My marijuana plants are burning." When the fire-fighters team arrived they found the man sitting in his kitchen, in the dark, strumming his guitar.

* A man in La Vergne, Tennessee, called emergency 911 to report that he and his wife had had a fight and he needed police to come to his house and stop her from pouring out all his beer.

* Velma Ann Wantlin of Houma, Louisiana was issued a citation for improper use of the 911 emergency line. Wantlin called 911 to report her husband for preventing her from watching the season finale of Knots Landing.

Every week Yemen Times Light will bring its readers through this page a weekly survey on political, cultural, scientific, and other issues of interest to the public. The survey results are intended to present the opinion of the portion of the public that agreed to answer the questions of the survey. It is also supposed to give an idea of what the man in the street thinks about the various issues and happenings in Yemen. A weekly opinion poll chart will also be published to briefly describe the different stands of the people interviewed.

What People Said About Bajammal's Government



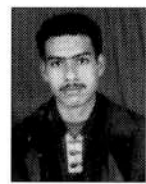
Yasser Mohamed Ahmed
Yemen Times

The new cabinet of 35 ministers, 22 of them new faces was announced on the fourth of April 2001 in an unexpected manner. This cabinet reshuffle is considered the first of its kind, and of particular significance because the once powerful politicians whose removal was thought to be impossible were easily removed. The government is also unique for having the first ever woman minister.

The different reactions to the new government ranged from anger to delight, and from optimism to total disappointment and hopelessness. Opposition parties, as expected expressed their dissatisfaction with the reshuffle, while GPC affiliates welcomed it. However, even though political entities and social groups stated their positions openly, no one really knew the reactions of the common man in the street.

As an independent newspaper seeking the truth and working on delivering it in a truthful and honest manner, Yemen Times interviewed a number of ordinary citizens to know their viewpoints regarding the new government. A survey covering hundreds of citizens that took two weeks to complete was also carried out and revealed statistics representing the opinion of the portion of the public interviewed.

Here we publish the results of the survey along with a portion of the responses of the people interviewed.



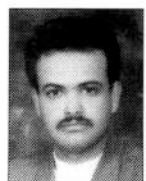
Mahfouth Al-Buhairi, an Assistant in Aden University said, "I felt optimistic when the cabinet was announced because it included a radical change of many ministers. I hope that

the agenda of the government concentrates on the issues of education and updating the currently prescribed university text books to cope with the new era."



Mustafa Al-Shar'abi, a journalist said, "I believe we should not prejudge the government, but we should rather wait and see what the government will achieve for the country and Yemeni

citizens. We should keep a close eye on the steps the new government takes. Especially as it includes young and active ministers who could usher in a great deal of change. However, those ministers should be given a free hand in decision making. Otherwise, the conditions will stay as they are."



Abdulhakim Al-Qubati, a computer engineer opines that, "the new government warrants no optimism because of the huge gap between the poor and rich classes of society due to the

deplorable economic conditions. How can a government salvage a situation that has reached the level it is in today after years of deterioration? I do hope that the government will reverse the process of deterioration, which will indeed be a difficult task. I also hope the government will turn to the issue of education, which has reached a rock bottom level in Yemen's history. We are passing through a time in which private sector education has surpassed in quality public schools and universities."

Taher Al-Mayyasi, a Master's student at the Police Academy, said that he is "optimistic about the new government which epitomizes sincerity in the actions of H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He has fulfilled his promises to give qualified young individuals the chance to take over key posts in the government. In our view the choice of Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi, who is an individual with an academic background, as Minister of Interior was a right one. I consider this as a positive step in revamping this sensitive ministry. I hope that the government's program will give the issue of human resource development the share it deserves, in view of the fact that we are living in a democratic country, which depends on spreading awareness to the members of the security forces to cope with democracy."



Hassan Abdullah, an unemployed, says, "I am not optimistic whatsoever. How can the corruption that has accumulated during long years disappear in a year or two? But at least, I hope the new government will commit itself to fighting the evil of corruption and to curb it."

Captain Mutahhar Al-Adhri, sports trainer, says, "I am optimistic because the new government seems to be eager in modernizing its services. It also seems to be interested in employing qualified young individuals. Hence, I hope that the government gives the youth greater importance to play a role in building a modern country. The government should help the youth in all aspects to reduce the phenomena of crime and unemployment."



Abdullah Al-Himyari, cart salesman, said, "First of all let me get something straight here. All I think of as a cart salesman, is that I am interested in making ends meet. I have dedicated

all of my time towards this goal. I have no time to look after government changes and reshuffles and I cannot say whether I am optimistic or not. If me and my family's economic conditions get better, than I can say that the government is good, otherwise it is not. In other words, from my layman's point

of view, if the prices get lower, then I can say the government is successful; but if prices continue to rise and the government does not take good care of the people's needs as they do today. If that happens then I have every right to say that this government is just another failure."



Hamood Al-Bukhaiti, Chairman of the Consumer Protection Committee said, "The new government will probably be working in a better environment compared to earlier govern-

ments. This is because it has no border disputes since borders have already been drawn. Hence, it only needs to concentrate on enforcing law and order to secure people a peaceful and happy life. I hope that the government gives the issue of smuggling the attention it deserves, as smuggling is one of the key factors that causes the economy to deteriorate. We as the Consumer Protection Committee are ready to provide a complete plan to the government to combat smuggling."

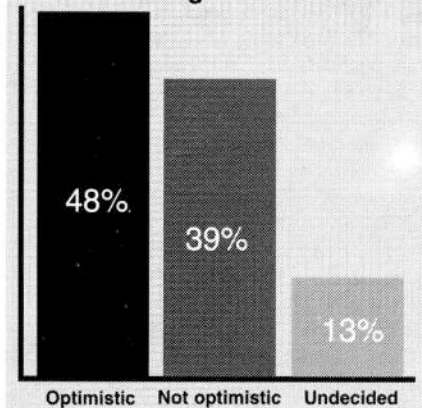
Mr. K.T.S, an unemployed, said, "I am certainly not optimistic because the challenges the new government will be facing are enormous. These challenges constitute piles and piles of accumulated problems, which need to give full authority in the hands of the new ministers, a thing that the new government cannot make happen. This will definitely lead to unchanged conditions. If there are no changes in the corrupt individuals in each ministry, then I don't think that the conditions will get any better."



Da'ood Al-Raimi, dealer, "I am illiterate. I cannot read or write, but I can tell you that the new government will achieve a lot if it creates better conditions for us, the common citizens,

and if it provides decent jobs for us to make a living. During the last few years, we failed to find ourselves a decent means for making a living. If the government fails in providing better economic conditions to the citizens, then it will be considered an inefficient government. We also hope the government

Are you optimistic about the new government?



would take care of the judicial system and administration of justice in this country."



Mohamed Al-Sayyid, journalist, said, "The new cabinet reshuffle, no doubt, does bring optimism, especially in view of the fact that this is the first time our country witnessed such a

drastic change in the structure of the government. We used to see ministers jump from one post to another to be assigned as ministers in new ministries. So change was never achieved. The new government includes young and active members that could bring about possible change. We the journalists, are optimistic because two active qualified, young individuals with key posts related to journalism have been appointed into the ministries of information and culture.

Hence, we need not prejudge the government which is less than 1 month old."



Ali Al-Matheel, an employee in the private sector, says, "I am optimistic because there is always light at the end of the tunnel. After the tough times, the good times will be coming.

This is the wheel of time. We have suffered in the past many miseries and troubles. We should not prejudge the government and consider it as the previous ones, especially as the structure of the new government is different in all ways and at all levels."

أطيب التهاني القلبية وأزكى التبريكات نهديها الى لأستاذ / محمد احمد ناصر الحسني

بمناسبة تكريمه واعتباره من الموظفين المبرزين والمثاليين في

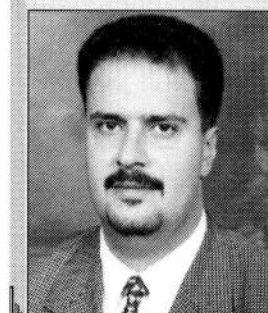
شركة كنديان نكسن بتروليم يمن.

متمنين له مزيداً من التقدم والنجاح..

المهنتون:

طاقم صحيفة «يمن تايمز»

عنهم: وليد عبد العزيز السقاف



PlayStation 2 IT'S NO GAME

When Sony first introduced its original PlayStation system back in 1991, the gaming world looked on in awe as a new revolution began. Those of us who had become accustomed to the 8-bit processing power of the gaming consoles of the time were suddenly treated to a 4-fold increase in processing power. PlayStation's 32-bit processor and built-in CD-ROM drive allowed game developers to create a rich multimedia experience for gamers, replete with crisp graphics and high-fidelity sound. The fact that the unit's CD-ROM could also be used to play music CD's was a bonus selling point of the unit. The bar has been raised once again. The launch of Sony's PlayStation 2 unit on October 26, 2000, marked the beginning of a new era in home entertainment, and rekindled the long-stagnant state of the video-gaming industry. With quadruple the processing power of the original PlayStation, the 128-bit PlayStation 2 console drew an enormous amount of attention, and many have anxiously seen what game developers had come up with. Sony has enjoyed massive sales of the unit, and this will likely be one of their biggest successes in history.

A major selling point of the PlayStation 2 is that it can also be used as a DVD player for movies. Sales of DVD players are expected to skyrocket this holiday season, so Sony's timing of this launch couldn't have been better. Many PlayStation 2 games will use DVD technology for the vast amount of data they can store. A DVD disc can hold up to 7.95 gigabytes of data on a single side, whereas CD-ROM discs only have a maximum storage capacity of 0.65 gigabytes. In addition to DVD discs, the PlayStation 2 can also play music CDs, CD-ROM discs, and even original PlayStation games.

And as if this wasn't enough, Sony will soon be setting up a broadband network to allow PlayStation 2 gamers to play interactive games over the Internet. This should help prevent some of the lagging problems, which currently plague many PC gamers (PC gamers can't always rely on other players to have good systems or fast connection speeds). Sony has also added a drive bay to the North American model of the PlayStation 2, for a future 3.5 inch hard drive. The decision to add this feature was likely in response to the announcement that Microsoft would be including an 8 gigabyte

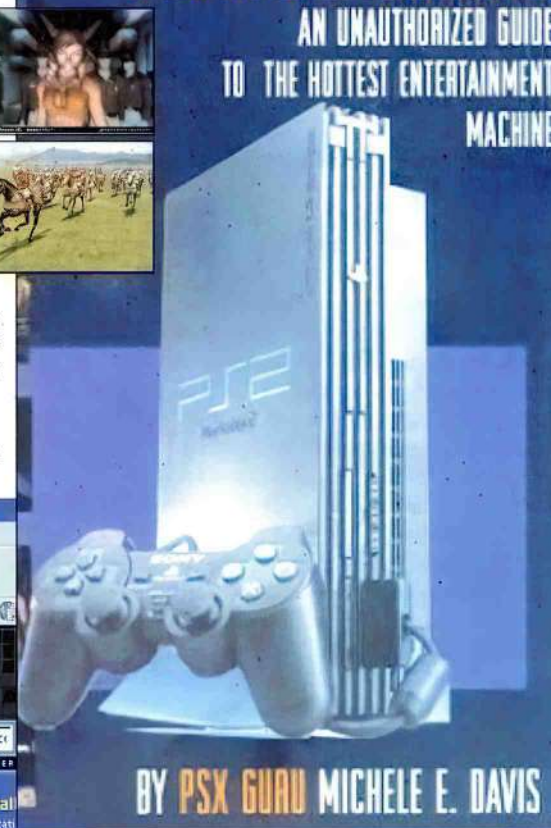
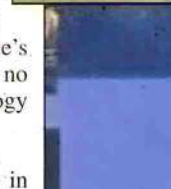
hard drive in its X-box console, which is due to be released in late 2001. In the interim, PlayStation 2 users can use memory cards to store game information.

One of the most interesting features of the PlayStation 2 is its two USB (Universal Serial Bus) ports. USB ports, a standard now widely used on many different system platforms, allow users to connect electronic devices such as digital cameras, microphones and MP3 players to the unit. This might mean that gamers could watch and talk to each other while playing, or even digitize their faces and have them placed on digital players within their games. Such peripherals have started coming this year.

In brief, PS 2 provides the following:

few retail chains made what little stock they got available on a "first-come, first-served" basis. The PlayStation 2, priced at \$299, is more than just a game console. With its current offerings, as well as those that will become available in the coming year/s, the PlayStation 2 is better likened as an entertainment hub for one's living room. It is simply no game, it is a new technology miracle.

There are tens of stores in



Sanaa where you could purchase Playstation 2. Prices range from \$350 to \$500. The number of Playstation 2 games however is quite low and they are mostly expensive and concentrated in only a few stores scattered here and there. A good place to start with may be the Sanaa Trade Center. You may also try to go to the Street of Sanaa University, where there are several software stores you could purchase Playstation games at.

*Sources: Sympatico-Lycos & Net4TV

Smallest Digital Camera in the World

Canon PowerShot S100 is very tiny and compact – it fits in the palm of your hand. The camera is light-weight and perfect for traveling and business.

It is considerably smaller than the Canon S20, yet it offers a high resolution for large pictures. The camera is ideal for taking web photos, e-mail photos and printing pictures. You can print a 5"x7" and even an 8"x10" enlargement. Both offer sharp resolution.

The unit comes with a 8MB CompactFlash card. It uses a special rechargeable Li-Ion battery pack, the NB-1L. By using the optional ACK300 AC adapter kit, the camera can be powered from AC power.



Key Points to Remember

- Incredibly tiny Digital Camera (Size of a Credit Card)
- Very easy to use
- Great Image Quality
- 35-70mm Optical Zoom
- 2x Digital Zoom
- USB Port for PC Transfer
- Compact Flash Storage
- PC Photo Editing Software
- 2.11 million pixels
- 10 second self-timer
- Shoots approximately two images per second
- Rugged Brushed Stainless Steel Body



وبفضل مستوى بعد هذه التقنية، هل ان الأوان لكي يتخلص كل مدير من سكرتيرته لا سيما اللاتي يكثرن من الغياب والإهمال أم ستطور السكرتيرات البشرية من أدائهن لأن مميزات (المكرتيرة الإلكترونية) كثيرة منها، مقدرتها على حفظ الأرقام والبيانات وترتيب الأولويات، وبهذا تنتهي مشاكل السكرتيرة البشرية التي تنقل كامل الشركة نتيجة حديثها الطويل عبر الهاتف بأمور خاصة (ليست المقصودة هنا سكرتيرتنا فاطمة).

ولكن هناك أشياء كثيرة لا تقوم بها إلا السكرتيرة البشرية لهذا فلتطمئن كل سكرتيرة على وظيفتها.

*محرر الصفحة

سكرتيرة العصر

رائد السقاف *



هل انتهى عصر السكرتيرة البشرية؟

■ المدير العام - لسكرتيرته: أرجو أن تحولي جميع المكالمات التلفونية الخاصة بي إلى الهاتف السيار.

■ السكرتيرة: حسناً.

■ المدير: ماهي رسائل البريد الإلكتروني التي تلقتها منذ الآن؟

هذا الحوار تم بين مدير شركة وسكرتيرته ليلى، وليلى هذه المرة ليست إلا (وكيل حاسوبي) يقوم بدور السكرتيرة.

هذا ما توصل إليه علماء الحاسوب حيث طوروا وسيلة تواصل الإنسان بالحاسوب إلى أن جعلوا من الحاسوب سكرتيرة تؤدي الكثير من وظيفتها



مواقع عربية متميزة

مواقع عربية متخصصة

- دليل الخيول العربية الدولي www.ezy.be/horses
- النادي الملكي لسباق السيارات - الأردن www.racj.com
- التزلج في لبنان www.skileb.com
- المكتبة الإسلامية www.sharaaz.com
- الدار العربية للعلوم www.asp.com



طريقة البحث: نستطيع البحث باللغة العربية أما عن الكتاب الذي نريده مباشرة. من خلال اسم الكتاب أو مؤلفه أو المفاتيح Keywords، أو من خلال الفئة (إسلاميات، كمبيوتر، علوم، سياسة...).

ويوفر الموقع أيضاً صورة لغلاف الكتاب ونبرة عن المؤلف والناشر والحجم والسعر والخصومات والموضوع.

فضلاً عن طريقة الدفع وهي إما بواسطة بطاقة الائتمان الشخصية أو التحويل المصرفي. ومن ثم يرسل الكتاب إلى المشتري بواسطة البريد السريع أو البريد المسجل من أي مكان في العالم.

ويعرض الموقع بعض الخدمات لزواره من بينها كشف باكثر الكتب مبيعاً في العالم خلال كل شهر.

مكتبة (النيل والفرات)

(www.neelwafurat.com)

هناك الكثير من المكتبات الإلكترونية العالمية مثل مكتبة أمازون، ومكتبة أوبرانز أند نوبل. ولم يكن للمكتبات العربية أي ظهور في فضاء الإنترنت. حتى أطلقت علينا مكتبة (النيل والفرات) بمستوى عالمي متميز. حيث تضم أكثر من ستين ألف كتاب، تغطي شتى صنوف المعرفة من علوم واجتماع وأدب وسياسة واقتصاد وكمبيوتر.

آلية البيع:

من المكتبة فوراً عبر الإنترنت بواسطة بطاقة الائتمان الشخصية، أو الوسائل المالية الأخرى.



وليد عكاوي - مدير التسويق لشركة سبيستل يمن لـ يمن تايمز:

(قريباً جداً سيتم تغطية المكلا، زنجبار، سيئون، ذمار، يريم ومعبر).

■ يتسأل الجمهور حول جوهره مميزات الـ GSM عن النقال التقليدي؟

- قبل كل شيء، يجب التذكير بأن الـ GSM نظام عالمي للاتصالات المتنقلة وهذا بعد ذاته يعني بأنه يمكنك التواصل من أي مكان في العالم تتوفر فيه خدمة الـ GSM وهذه الميزة غير متوفرة في نظام النقال التقليدي، بالإضافة إلى أن الـ GSM نظام رقمي بمعنى قوة الصوت ووضوحه وسريته على خلاف النظام التقليدي للنقال، وكذلك توفر الكثير الكثير من الخدمات غير المتاحة في النقال التقليدي مثل خدمة الرسائل القصيرة SMS والفاكس FAX وخدمة الانترنت WAP وحجب الرقم CLIR، ومن الجدير ذكره أيضاً عدم توفر خدمة التجوال الدولي Roaming إطلاقاً لدى النقال التقليدي حيث أن الـ GSM يوفر خدمة التجوال الدولي والتي تعني أنه يمكنك بنفس رقمك الذي تملكه في شبكة الـ GSM الاتصال أو الاستقبال بنفس الرقم من أي مكان في العالم كأنك في وطنك الأم مع فارق الأسعار طبعاً، المهم أنه يمكن التحدث فيه من أي مكان في العالم يتوفر فيه خدمة الـ GSM التي تتواجد في أكثر من 145 دولة في مختلف قارات العالم.

■ بدأ البعض يشكو من عدم نجاح بعض المكالمات هل يمكن أن توضحوا سبب ذلك؟

- من البديهي جداً أن تكون في بداية أي نجاح أو إنطلاقة جديدة لأي خدمة من سبلات ولكن هذا لا يعني عدم تداركها والسيطرة عليها بفعالية وكفاءة مالم ستكون العواقب وخيمة على مقدم الخدمة، لذا نحن كشركة سبيستل يمن نحسب أن نتقدم إلى عملائنا الكرام بالاعتذار عن أي مساوئ حصلت في بداية انطلاقتنا ونعدهم بأننا سنكون وسنظل خيارهم الأول لخدمة GSM وقد لاحظوا بأنه هناك فارق كبير عما كنا فيه قبل شهر والآن بالإضافة إلى الفرق بيننا وبين الشركات المنافسة وندع الحكم لهم، وإننا إذ نوه بأن خدمة الـ GSM من حيث التغطية الكاملة في جميع أنحاء العالم حتى أوروبا بدأت بمشاكل تغطية ومانتزال، فعلى سبيل المثال حتى الآن يمكنك أن تجد بعض المواقع في فرنسا غير مغطاه، فالمسألة مسألة وقت لتحسين الشبكة والتغطية، ولا يخفى على الجميع أن اليمن واسع الأطراف ذو سلاسل جبلية وعرة تعيق سرعة التغطية، وبالرغم من كل هذا فإنه لم يمنعنا من التواجد في مناطق متأثرة الأطراف في مدة قياسية. ونجاحنا هذا إنما هو بتعاون مع فريق سبيستل والجدير بالذكر وزارة المواصلات والمؤسسة العامة للاتصالات وجميع الأخوة المعنيين في هذا المشروع العملاق.

ومن خلال هذا الحوار الهادف إلى تسليط الأضواء على مميزات وعيوب الـ GSM،



تواصلنا مع قراننا في طرح قضية التلفون النقال GSM من حيث الخدمة ومدى إستفادة الجمهور من تطبيقات GSM.

أجربنا هذا الحوار مع مدير تسويق شركة «سبيستل يمن» فإلى الحوار:

■ أين وصلتكم في تقديم خدمة التلفون النقال جغرافياً؟

- تم تغطية المدن التالية حتى الآن وهي: صنعاء وعدن في ٢٨/٢/٢٠٠١ م، حجة في ١/٣/٢٠٠١ م، تعز في ٦/٣/٢٠٠١ م، اب والحوطة في ١٥/٣/٢٠٠١ م، الحديدة في ٢٤/٣/٢٠٠١ م. وهذه المدن السبع كما تلاحظون قد تم تغطيتها في أقل من شهر وتعتبر مدة زمنية قياسية. وقريباً جداً سيتم تغطية المكلا، زنجبار، سيئون، ذمار، يريم ومعبر.

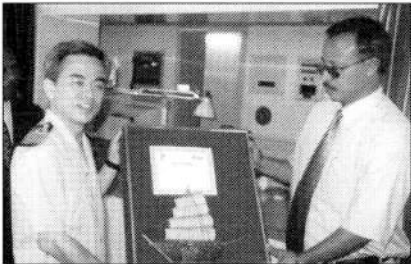


Field Visits of the Saudi Information Minister



Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf
Aden Bureau Chief
Yemen Times

Mr. Mohammed Ahmad al-Rashid, Saudi Information Minister, paid a visit to Aden governorate and met with officials of the governorate headed by Mr. Taha Ahmad Ghanem, Aden governor, Dr. Saleh Ba Surah, Aden University Dean, and Mr.



Derhem Abdu Noman, Free Zone chairman. The Saudi Minister visited the free zone, Aden university, and Public Organization for Furniture and Accessories (POFA). In the Free Zone project Mr. Derhem gave



detailed account of the project. He said "Work is in full swing to prepare the light industries area and to attract local, Arab as well as foreign investments in the area. Investors can benefit from the facilities ensured in the Investment Law."

Mr. Derhim indicated that there had been 773 investment requests presented by many countries in different fields. He said "Containers terminal employs 600 employees; 89% Yemenis. We have a strategic



objective to create 20,000 job opportunities in the future. The 16m deep terminal can receive the most gigantic ships as it is one of the deepest ports in the region. There is also intentions to make it 18m deep in the near future."



The new marine line, UNIGLORY, was also inaugurated by Dr. Abdulaziz bin Habtoor, vice education minister, and Mr. Derhem as the UNIASSURE anchored in Aden with 1165 containers on board from Singapore. The new marine line will launch four trips monthly.

Mr. MMJ Subramaniam President, Chief Executive Officer, said

President of Yeminvest and MD of Yemen LLCs speech at the maiden voyage ceremony of Uni Assure held at ACT on 26 April 2001.

Your Excellency, Mr. Abdul Aziz Hbtoor, Deputy Minister of Education, Yemen, distinguished guests and fellow colleagues. Good Morning.

On behalf of Yeminvest and Aden Container Terminal I would like to extend a warm welcome to the good ship the Unit Assure and all crew on board on her maiden voyage to the Port of Aden and Aden Container Terminal today. The maiden voyage of this ship to ACT has special significance to us. Uniglory is a major operator. It's a subsidiary of Evergreen a major international shipping company well known in the world. Uniglory had many port choices to locate their business in this region. As Cpt Lee of Uniglory mentioned during our negotiations. It was a tough decision for them. We are indeed honored and grateful to Uniglory for their decision in selecting the Port of Aden and Aden Container Terminal in this region. We will work with the Port Authority to provide your vessels a seamless operation from their arrival to departure at this port We will make every effort to provide you with the best services you are accustomed to at other ports in the same league. You will also be pleased to know that we have appointed an accounts manager to look after your requirements and to also discuss with you any improvements required or shortcomings we may have to remedy. He will be calling on Uniglory shortly. I am sure the other supporting govt agencies will work with us to ensure that your vessels calls at the Port of Aden run smoothly and their services match with that provided by other international ports.

In order to ensure that Shipping Lines who are calling at Aden Container Terminal continue to enjoy the best services despite the sharp increase in our throughput from 80,000 TEUs in 1999 to 250,000 TEUs in 2000 and the forecast figure of some 350,000 TEUs this year we are pleased to announce that we will be spending another

US\$16.5 million this year and in 2002 to increase Aden Container Terminals capacity ahead of demand. It will be used to increase our yard space for containers and to purchase additional equipment. We will be adding one more Quay Crane to bring the total of 5.5 more RTGs, and a host of other supporting equipment.

You Excellency and distinguished guests, to mark this special occasion and the maiden voyage of Uni Assure to Aden Container Terminal we like to present a memento to the ship. I would like to call upon his Excellency the Deputy Minister of Education, to do us the honor of presenting it to Capt Chang who will receive it on behalf Uni Assure.

Information Minister has also visited Aden university and met with Dr. Saleh Ba Surah who talked about the educational and scientific development the university has witnessed since its establishment, 25 years ago.



Then, the Saudi Minister visited the Public Organization for Furniture and Accessories. He was welcomed by Mr. Fadl Haitham al-Helali, the organization GM.

The Saudi Minister was accompanied by Dr. Abdulaziz bin Habtoor, Education Minister Vice, Abdulkarim al-Bandari, Education Ministry Deputy, Fadl Haitham, POFA GM, Mohammed bin Merdass, Saudi Ambassador to Yemen, Sulaiman Ahmad al-Akil, Saudi General Counselor in Aden. A lunch was served by the POFA in honor of the Saudi Information Minister and his accompanying delegation.



SABAFON Signs a Contract with HERTZ Rent A Car

سبافون توقع عقداً مع هيرتز لتأجير السيارات

إفتتاح معرض شركة يالتا YALTA

في محكم تنزيله:

٩ (وجعلنا من الماء كل شيء حي) صرّ (لله العظم)

ولذلك فإنه من الضروري جداً التصدي لمشاكل تلوث المياه وقد تنبّهت كثير من الدول لهذه المشكلة وقامت باتخاذ عدة إجراءات وآليات للحصول على مياه نقية وصحية تلبي الاستخدام البشري المباشر المتمثل في مياه الشرب والطعام والغسيل والاستحمام وغيره وكذلك الإستخدامات غير المباشرة والمتمثلة في الزراعة والصناعة وغيرها.

ومن ضمن معالجات المياه للاستخدام البشري المباشرة أنتجت المصانع الأمريكية والأوروبية والكندية محطات وأجهزة معالجة المياه والتي اعتمدت تقنية (OSMOSES) (REVERSE) والأوزون OZON والمنعومات SPFTING وقد حصلت شركة يالتا على وكالات من كل تلك المصانع المتعددة المنشأ؛ لتوفر للمستهلك اليمني والأجنبي هذه التقنية المتطورة.

إن استخدام أجهزة معالجة المياه للتخفيف والتعقيم والتنعيم وفر وسيلة جيدة للحصول على مياه صحية، تجنب المستهلك الكثير من المشاكل الصحية والمادية التي تسببها المياه غير المعالجة، ولذلك فهي توفر الكثير من الأموال التي تنفق في معالجة الأمراض الناتجة عن ذلك، وتلك التي تنفق لتحديث شبكات المياه في المنازل والشركات والمصانع والمجمعات السكنية وغيرها.

٩٩ تقنية معالجة المياه (أمريكية - أوروبية - كندية)

أول شركة في الجمهورية اليمنية متخصصة في معالجة المياه، تم إفتتاح معرض شركة يالتا للتجارة العامة والتوكيلات، وهي شركة متخصصة في بيع أجهزة معالجة المياه من حيث التحلية والتقنية والتعقيم والتنعيم (TING-SOF)، لكل الإستخدامات ويسعات مختلفة تبدأ من واحد لتر وحتى مليون لتر. من الإستخدام في المنزل والمكتب مروراً بالمدارس والمجمعات السكنية وصولاً للقرى والمصانع.

ولكن لماذا تقنية معالجة المياه؟

معلوم أن العالم بأسره اليوم يعاني من التلوث الذي أصبح يهدد الكرة الأرضية، وفي كل نواحي الحياة، أصبحت المشاكل البيئية تؤرق البشرية على كافة المستويات. وتلوث البيئة يعد أخطر أنواع التلوث البيئي على الإطلاق وذلك لأن الحياة تقوم أساساً على الماء، كما قال الله تعالى





Ray weekly

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20,000

جائزة
18,000 ريال
لتفانز
2,000 ريال
للمكتبة الفائزة



الفائزون في العديدين السابقين



الفائز في العدد قبل الماضي الأخ: محمد صابر



الفائز في العدد الماضي الأخ: جمال السلف

الإجابات الصحيحة لمسابقة العدد قبل الماضي
١- د. وهبة فارح
٢- في ٢٠٠١/٤/١٠م
بعد فرز الكوبونات الصحيحة للمشاركة بمسابقة العدد (١٤) تم إجراء القرعة وكانت من نصيب الأخ:
أحمد عبده محمد الحمادي - صنعاء
المكتبة الفائزة: مكتبة الشروق - صنعاء
زيد القديسي
ألف مديوك
للأخ أحمد
وحظا أوفر
لبقية المتسابقين..

مسابقة العدد (١٨) ٣٠ أبريل ٢٠٠١م

سؤال ١: عين الأستاذ/ عبد العزيز عبد الغني - مؤخرًا - رئيساً لمجلس الشورى. كم يبلغ عدد أعضاء مجلس الشورى؟
الإجابة: ٢٠
سؤال ٢: مكتبة «النيل والفرات» من المكتبات الإلكترونية العالمية. كم كتاباً تحتويه هذه المكتبة؟ (إقرأ تكنولوجيا يمن تايمز، سؤال ١٨) (أغنياتي): باختصار.. ما هو العمود أو الصفحة التي تعجبك في صحيفة «يمن تايمز»؟
الإجابة: _____
الاسم: _____
التلفون: _____
رقم البطاقة: _____
هل أنت مشترك في الصحيفة؟ _____
المدينة (مكان تواجدك): _____
وإذا كان الاشتراك لمؤسسة أو وزارة يرجى كتابة اسمها: _____
بيانات إضافية وضرورية لغير المشتركين في الصحيفة:
اسم المكتبة أو الجهة التي اشترت منها النسخة: _____
عنوانها: _____
اسم وتوقيع مسؤول المكتبة: _____

يمن تايمز

لعدد ٢٠٠١/١٨

ملحق إعلاني، ثقافي، تكنولوجي، ترفيهي، عام

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في هذا العدد

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مع أجمل صحتكم وسعادتكم

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