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The US Dollar Exchange Rate Takes Another Dip: ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE GROWS

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

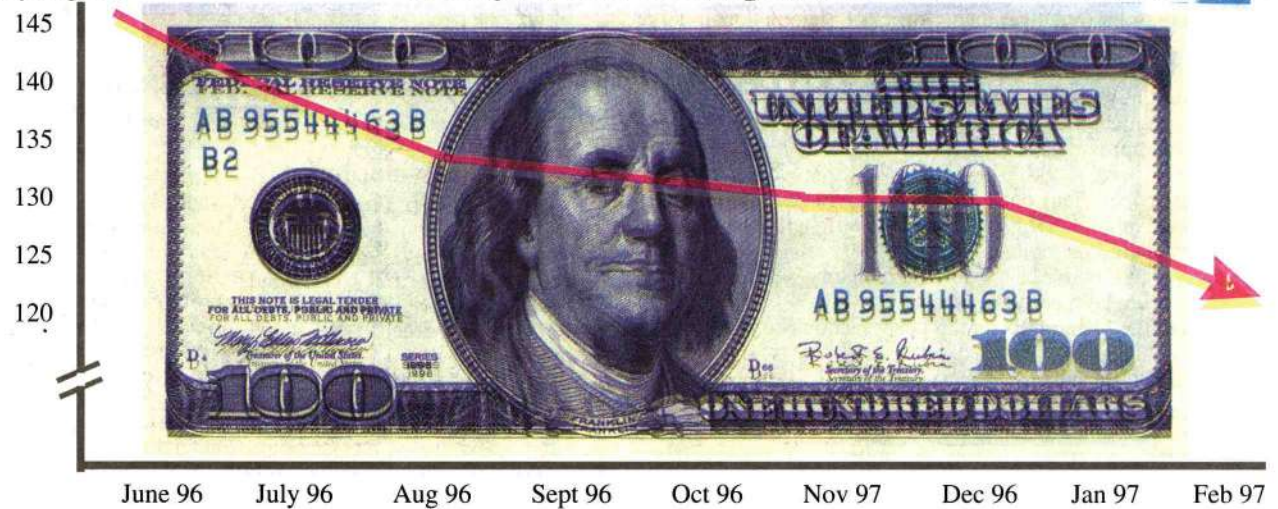
There is no doubt about it. There is an optimistic mood regarding the economic performance of Yemen.

Last week, the Riyal/Dollar exchange rate took another dip. By Friday, February 14th, the dollar was selling at 120 Riyals at the open market, its lowest in over a year. This happens at a time when the dollar was registering big gains worldwide.

Since the middle of 1996, the Riyal/Dollar exchange rate has been on a downward trend, albeit a gradual one. The riyal gained more than 30% in its US dollar exchange rate over the last eight months.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni Government was acting boldly in the world scene. Starting from December 10th, 1996, the Government has accepted the obligations of Article VIII of the IMF Articles of Agreement. By acceding to this agreement (text of it is on page 7), Yemen undertook to

Riyals per \$



refrain from imposing restrictions on making payments and transfers for current international transactions, or from engaging in discriminatory currency arrangements or multiple currency exchange rate practices.

The total value of projects under consideration for implementation by local and international private investors as of 1/1/1997 was put at YR 52 billion. The Supreme Investment Authority processed, over the last six months, 84 investment

projects, many of which are joint ventures between local and international companies. So do we have an economic turn-around? Maybe. But much will depend on what happens in 1997.

YSP Negotiates with PGC & Islah on Participation in Elections

The Yemeni Socialist Party's Political Bureau authorized its Secretary-General, Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, and a team of senior members to engage the

People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) - the two ruling parties - in talks regarding the conditions

that need to be met for the YSP to participate in the elections. The talks focus on two issues - the properties of the YSP confiscated during the 1994 civil war, and the coordination among the three parties in fielding candidates in the various constituencies.

UN Allocates US\$ 100 mn to Yemen

The various UN organizations have set aside some US\$ 100 million for disbursement to Yemen in the form of grants over the next five years. "This is only the allocation of one of four organizations - the UNDP, WFP, FAO and ... Other organizations like Unicef, WHO, etc., have additional allocations," explained Mr. Onder Yucer, Resident Representative of the UNDP and Coordinator of the UN Organizations in the Republic of Yemen. In an extended interview with the Yemen Times, Mr. Yucer indicated that future cooperation will not be based on projects, but rather on programs.



Full text of interview on page 3

SEC Tries to Rectify Bias in Official Media Coverage:

2 Months to Go for Elections

The Supreme Elections Committee is gearing up for the Herculean task ahead of it. In just about two months, some 4 million registered voters are expected to head for the polls. But there is still a lot of preparation to be done on the road. "We have met with officials of the Ministry of Information in order to see how the official media will work according to the requirements of the law."

That is what a troubled Saeed Al-Hakeemi of the SEC told the Yemen Times. The law requires that the official media remain neutral in the competition among the various political parties. So far, however, the government media coverage has been serving the People's General Congress. It is this bias that Mr. Al-Hakeemi and his colleagues in the SEC will try to rectify.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Cursed Dip of the "JAY" Curve

Yemenis, especially intellectuals, face an apparent contradiction between what they actually see in reality in terms of the standard of living of the general public, and between what they are told by government officials, international donor agencies, and experts regarding how well the Yemeni economy is doing. What is clearly visible on the ground is a deteriorating economic condition - people are getting poorer and more miserable. What they are told is that the economy is really improving.

General conclusion: one side must be wrong, or even lying. And the overall belief is that the side claiming improvement is the one not telling the facts.

Now, is it possible the two contradictory versions on the economy are both correct?

Yes, and the blame falls on the phenomenon economists refer to as the "J" curve.

So, what on earth is the "J" curve, anyway?

Whenever a country embarks on a reform program, thereby implementing corrective measures to reduce distortions in the economy, the overall economic conditions worsen for a short-while before they improve. In other words, the curve representing economic growth dips further, before it starts to take an upward direction.

Take an example. Mismanaged government companies are put up for sale (known as privatization) in the reform process. The immediate result of this could be more unemployment, and a possible fall in the total production of the companies in question. With time, as the private sector takes better hold, more employment is generated, and more output is achieved. So, there actually is a temporary deterioration in conditions due to the corrective measures before things improve.

Take another example. Liberalization of the economy is an important component of reforms. This means opening up the local economy to foreign competition and cooperation. Due to foreign competition, inefficient local industry, which used to enjoy excessive protection, could suffer. This may lead to closing down of certain enterprises and lay-offs. With time, however, local resources are channeled to more efficient uses in fields in which the country enjoys better comparative advantage. International cooperation (joint investments, trade, etc.) could also lead to more business opportunities. So, there actually is a temporary deterioration in conditions due to the corrective measures before things improve.

One can go on and give numerous other examples. The point is that Yemen's economic reforms are necessary, and they seem to be working, even if the majority of the public - at this moment - does not see the benefits. The hope is that the living conditions of more and more Yemenis will improve with time.

The Publisher
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Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf**

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Political Parties Choose Symbols for Elections

As called for in the elections law, more and more political parties have decided on the symbol to represent their party's candidates. The People's General Congress has chosen the Arabian horse, while the Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Asha'aby Annasari has chosen the crescent. Others are about to decide.

The symbol representing the party will be printed on the ballot card next to the candidate representing it. This symbol system is used because a large percentage of the voters are illiterate. Therefore, they can tick next to the symbol even if they can't read the name.

Large Credits to Implementation Development Projects in Hodeida

The overall value of financial credits allocated for service and development projects in Hodeida for 1997 has reached YR 4,409 million.

According to the Planning and Development Bureau in the governorate, projects that will benefit from this generous allocation are in the sectors of sanitation, university and lower education, agriculture, sea ports, roads, fisheries, marine environment, health, and many others.

Repairing and Maintaining 15 Dams in Lahaj

Maintenance work is underway at the governorate of Lahaj on 15 main and smaller dams. The work aims to replace the flood-gates and clear water channels of weeds and earth. This process will help in better controlling the dams, and allowing farmers to regulate irrigation of their lands. The total cost of this project is US\$ 25 million, to be provided by the World Bank. The governorates of Lahaj, Abyan, Shabwa and Hadhramaut will benefit from this project.

Yemeni Children Participate in Sharjah Exhibition.

Scheduled to be held from 11th to 21st March, the Sharjah Exhibition for Children's Drawings will display 75 drawings by Yemeni children. This is the first time Yemen takes part in this exhibition which is held every two years at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. Successful children will be presented with certificates of appreciation, their paintings will be published in a special booklet and displayed for sale. A workshop about children's art will also be held alongside the exhibition with the participation of many specialists.

Parliament Reconvenes on Monday

Parliament will start its sessions for the third part of the second period for the fourth and last annual assembly on Monday 17 February. Headed by the parliamentary speaker sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmer, the people's representatives will discuss and address a number of vital issues on their agenda. Many developmental issues directly related to the citizens lives will also be discussed.

Massive Funds for Projects in Aden

Financial allocations for investment and developmental projects in Aden during 1997 have been set at YR. 12,540 million. This sum represents about 15% of the

overall amount invested in Yemen which reached YR. 81,282 million. The number of projects scheduled to be executed in Aden during this year is 146 most prominent of which are those related to Aden's Free Zone. These projects will include constructing new port platforms, dredging and deepening existing ports and constructing the essential infrastructure for the intended free zone. The electricity and communication grids will be modernized, and a new sewer system will be constructed. The proportion of foreign contributions to these ambitious projects will constitute about 54% of the total allocations.

Reviewing Secessionists Case is Postponed

In a court session held on Saturday 15 February to review the case of Ali Salim Al-Biedh and the other secessionists, the North Sana'a court decided to postpone the hearings for one week.

The court had previously asked the Lawyers' Syndicate to come up with a comprehensive lawyers' register to choose defending lawyers from it.

The Jules Verne Docks at Aden

A French ship, the Jules Verne, is at the Port of Aden in a 3-day friendly visit. The ship had, during the last two years visited a number of Yemeni ports and the Island of Socotra. The captain and crew of the ship were met by the governor of Aden, and were informed about the progress being made regarding the development of the Aden Free Zone. Marine and navigation issues between France and Yemen were also discussed.

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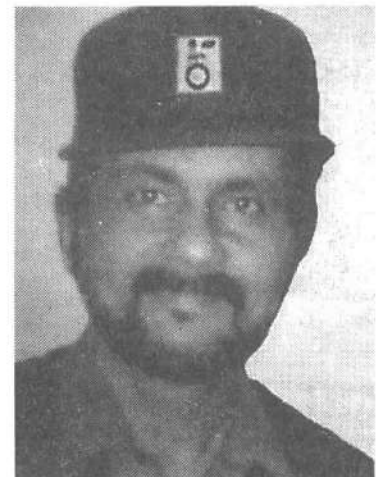
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The UNDP ResRep:

“I can say the Yemeni economy is breathing again. It is out of the suffocation stage.”

The United Nations Development Program, as well other UN organizations such as the WHO, Unesco, Unicef, WFP, FAO, etc., have been heavily involved in the development process of Yemen. This role has become more crystallized as the country has come to grips with its socio-economic ills.

The present UNDP Resident Representative and Coordinator of the UN organizations' offices in Yemen, Mr. Onder Yucer, has just completed his first year of service in Yemen. Yucer had served in the various capacities in several parts of the world, but notably in West Africa, southern Africa, and other regions. A native of Turkey, he feels a special affinity to Yemen and the region.

Yucer, 52, has an M.A. from the UK, having done his B.A. in one of the prestigious universities of the world, the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. He is a happy family man, with three children.

He talked to Yemen Times on a number of issues. Excerpts.

Q: Let us start with a general question. How do you see the economy?

A: First of all, let me say a few things about my assignment in Yemen. This, to me, is the most challenging, interesting and happy one. Yemen is a country with which I feel personal ties for obvious historic reasons.

I came to Yemen knowing full well that this assignment will be different in quality and challenge. At the beginning of 1996, shortly after my arrival, the country embarked on a very ambitious reform program. I can say that 1996 has been a unique and almost unprecedented example of a country which comes out of a very tight, challenging and demanding restructuring program with concrete achievements.

Normally, structural adjustment is a long-term process. Thus to find a new equilibrium in the money market, exchange rates, services, commodity prices, factor costs, a long time usually lapses.

But in the case of Yemen, there is a vigorous enforcement of monetary and fiscal discipline which has already resulted in many very important achievements. One is the lowering of the inflation rate very drastically and thus the interest rates. The second is the stabilization of the exchange rate, primarily due to control over money supply.

Of course, the final goal is growth, creation of wealth and its distribution. But in answer to your question, I can say that the Yemeni economy is now breathing, and it is out of the suffocation stage which had prevailed, only a short time ago.

Q: The UNDP is heavily involved in the act of development. Can you share with us some of the major projects with which the UNDP is involved?

A: We are having very intensive discussions and consultations on two principles: One is the national ownership of our program. This entails participatory financing and manning the activities by local personnel. The second is that there will no longer be individual projects, but we will group the efforts along major areas. And we have now worked five major areas.

Q: Could you highlight them?

A: Yes.

1. The first area is water sector management. I am happy to report that this effort, for which US\$ 13.5 million have already been allocated, is financed by the Dutch Government, the Yemeni Government, the UNDP, and the World Bank.

The money will be put at the disposal of the National Water

Resources Authority. Of course, related organs, such as the National Water Resources Information Center, the National Water And Sanitation Authority, etc., will also benefit.

2. The second area is non-water natural resource exploitation. The key here is sustainability, which therefore, involves preservation, protection of the unique biospheres, such as Socotra, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, the Buraa Mountain Forest, etc.

The main contribution for this second area is from the Global Environment Facility, and we have to the tune of US\$ 5 million. The main handling agency here is the Environmental Protection Council.

3. The third area, which the flagship of our program is what we call "Poverty Alleviation". The main allocation here comes from the Capital Development Fund, and we have an allocation of US\$ 20-30 million. At this very moment, we have a mission in the country formulating a sub-program valued at US\$ 9 million for the development of a low cost housing scheme in Aden. We expect to build some 3,500-4,000 units which will house some 25,000 persons to the north of the Free Zone area of Aden, at Madinat Al-Sha'ab.

I am happy to note that the money is available for procurement of the hardware, rather than the traditional software of technical assistance.

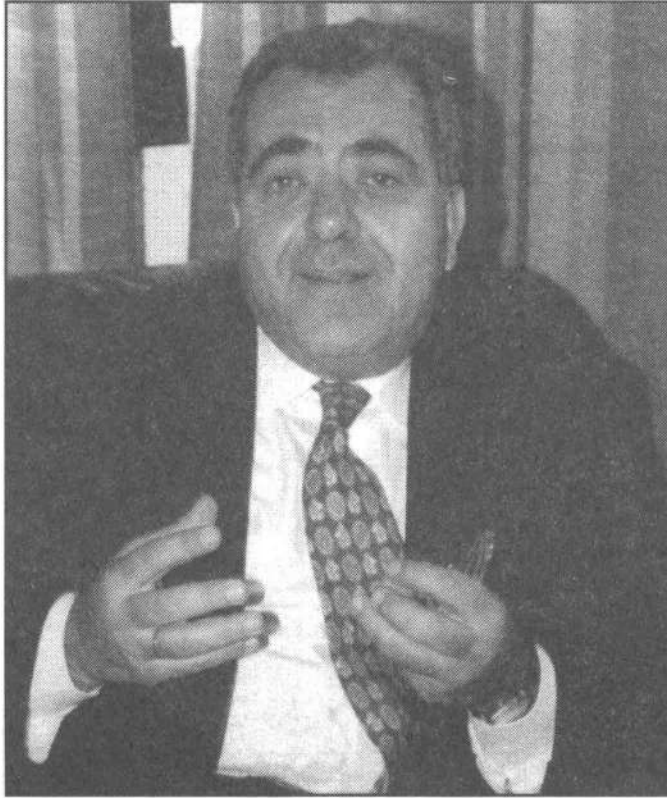
4. The fourth area is related to assisting in the development of management of civil service and its reform. Technicians and experts will be arriving by the end of this month or early March to discuss with the Yemeni authorities to help them formulate the parameters. This program is also involves decentralization, which is in line with the Yemeni authorities and people have decided to pursue.

We have about US\$ 6-8 million available for these efforts.

5. The final area has to do with relief effort. When the floods hit Yemen in June, 1996, many countries rushed in assistance. Within a matter of two weeks, some US\$ 14-15 million was made available to Yemen in relief assistance.

I have to say that I am very impressed with the speed and efficiency with which most of this assistance was directed to the targeted populations in the disaster areas.

We are now helping the government to prepare assessment of the impact of these floods and the needs for rehabilitating the infrastructure. We all remember that Yemen's infrastructure was damaged badly. The roads, bridges, water systems, schools, clinics and most important of all,



the farmlands were swept away. Estimates of the lost topsoil range from 25,000 to 40,000 hectares of land was lost. Fortunately, the recently completed surveys show only half of the top soil of that acreage was washed away.

So there are the five major areas of cooperation.

Q: In general, how much money does the UNDP put in Yemen per year?

A: There is some US\$ 100 million available from the UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and UNDP programs over the next five years. There are of course, other UN organizations which also have allocations for Yemen.

These include WHO and FAO and others.

We do not have annual budgetary allocations, but you can average it out to roughly US\$ 20 million committed per year for Yemen.

Q: I can see an optimistic note in your responses. What frustrates you in your work in Yemen?

A: I'll be very frank with you. I think the most difficult issue for all of us in the UN and for our counterparts is to improve the implementation pace - time-wise and disbursement-wise.

When we formulate these programs, you are actually committing relatively sizable

resources. Implement these programs is presenting us with very serious challenges. I mean you just don't have the quality and quantity of personnel needed at the right time in the right place around these projects. The trained and experienced people are stretched over too many activities and projects.

Q: Are you talking about pushing paperwork?

A: No, we are talking about counterpart staff who have both the required qualifications and experience. They have to be available on full-time basis for the implementation of projects.

Secondly, the system is also bureaucratic. There are certain procedures which tend to delay execution, what you call paperwork. The paperwork is a bit complex. In certain instances, it is just unnecessary.

The third element is the objective of spending the money where it is needed most and where it will make the biggest impact. Spending money is easy. But we are talking about sustainable human development centred around those communities which need to be mobilized and organized. You have weak community organizations which are unable to do many important things such as procurement of equipment in a manner acceptable by international standards in terms of procedures.

Q: Is politics ever a factor?

A: I have not seen in all technical work with the government any evidence of political interference. I can say this without any hesitation.

Q: Is corruption a factor?

A: I think corruption is a global problem. It is everywhere but the real important thing is what one

does about it. I see at least in terms of our cooperation with the authorities no serious cases where we have concerns about the way procurement of equipment is carried out. I can say that the implementation of these projects remain accountable.

Of course, there is corruption in general. But in terms of our cooperation, I do not see any evidence of that.

Q: What about working with and through NGOs?

A: It is our ardent hope that we will be able during 1997 to begin working directly with NGO's as our implementing partners. This will with the government's blessings. I think, however, that there are a few things that need to happen quickly.

First, the NGO community badly needs an umbrella organization which will set the standards, concern itself with a code of conduct and provide NGOs with a resource center where they can be assisted. By an umbrella organization, I mean a center where NGOs can meet and establish themselves into this forum.

Q: Isn't the Ministry of Social Affairs supposed to be doing this?

A: The recent global experience is that you need something beyond the government inducement and presence. I am talking about something like an association. There has to be standards, self-monitoring and self-auditing code of conduct, and a degree of transparency.

Q: Lastly, your contribution to the coming elections?

A: Through UN and donor countries like Switzerland, we have now set up a technical program to assist the Supreme Elections Committee.

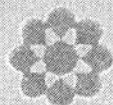
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Chinese Community Celebrates Spring Festival

On February 7th, the Chinese community in Yemen celebrated the Spring Festival. The event was hosted by the China Road and Bridge (Group) Corporation at its Sanaa Camp.

Many prizes and gifts were offered on this occasion which represented a rare social gathering for the work-oriented Chinese community.

Attending the occasion were His Excellency Mr. Yu Xingzhi, China's ambassador in Yemen, his wife, and senior officials of the embassy. In addition, of course, there was the host, Mr. Li Quan Huai, General Manager of RB, and members of the company.

Reported by:
Ali Wang, Sanaa.



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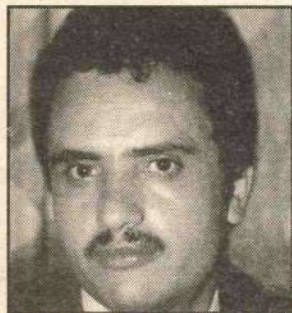
Yemen's Eid Traditions:

THE EID AL-FITR FOLKLORIC CELEBRATIONS

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,
Yemen Times, Sanaa.

In the early morning of the first day of the month of Shawal (month after Ramadhan), the Muslims go to perform the Eid prayer, major congregation which marks the beginning of Eid Al-Fitr (which itself marks the end of the fasting). Muslims are asked to go to the prayer site by one route and come back by another so that they can greet as many persons as possible.

First thing in the morning, everybody takes a bath, and people wear their best clothes to go to the Eid prayers. Each city or village has at least one huge site prepared for Eid prayers. At this place, everybody gathers to pray as a congregation. They thank Allah with one voice. Then they turn to each other



and offer greetings. The typical greeting is "Eid Saeed, Wa-Kullu Aam Wa Antum Bikhair (Happy Eid and may the years come back to you with good health). Individuals are asked to visit female relatives before returning to their homes from the prayer. Once at home, families are expected to eat breakfast together as a symbol of togetherness. The meal is usually "fatoot" or "fattah" (which is bread pieces immersed in a bowl

of milk). On this day, all members of the family must hug and kiss each other. No two individuals shall remain angry at each other, especially not within the family. Therefore, on the eid occasion, many people make up.



After breakfast, families who can afford to slaughter a sheep, do so. This is a sacrifice replicating the sacrificial lamb brought by Angel Gabriel to redeem Ismail, whose father, Ibrahim, was ordered to sacrifice him. In a trial of faith, God ordered Ibrahim to sacrifice his only son, Ismail (Ishaq, the second son, was born several years after his brother). The meat of the sheep is divided into three equal parts. One-third is kept for the family, another third is distributed to relatives and neighbors, and the last third is distributed to the needy and poor. The Eid is a chance for friends and relatives to visit one another. People wear clean (if not new) clothes and visitors usually give children some pocket money as part of the Eid ritual. Families prepare exotic dishes of cakes, sweets which are presented to visitors. These days, many families, especially in the cities, buy ready-made cakes and sweets. In the urban areas, the rituals of eid are rather simple and limited. In the villages, the celebrations are a bit more elaborate.

Visitations and reunions are the most important component of the eid ritual. Beyond that, families go on picnics, and the parks and wilderness are often full of people. In the countryside, people either go hunting or shooting. Both involve using firearms and a lot of noise. Lunch is served, and all members of the extended family eat together. usually, they are grouped in the home of the eldest male. Unfortunately, the afternoons are relegated to large qat chew crowds. Many marriages are consummated during the eid days. For one thing, reunions bring more people, especially the relatives. Second, the ambiance is merry and happy, and lends itself to celebrations. Third, people are free and available. Yemenis who have become accustomed to universal dresses, go back to traditional clothings during the eid. Even the urbanized core people all of a sudden wear traditional clothes. In many ways, the eid represents a return to folklore and traditions.

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THE CONCEPT OF MAN IN ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY

by: Habeeb Ibrahim,
Sanaa.

God cherished man, raised him above all His other creations, and made him in His image. Actually, it is more than that, God breathed life from His spirit into man. This undeniable fact which is accepted by all monotheistic religions can be seen in man himself and the grace he carries. Islam has its own vision of 'Man'. It sees Man as the only creation that is made of a body, mind, soul and spirit inseparably, as the Godly wisdom willed it. These components are combined only in human beings. Even angles do not have them. What does it mean? It means that Man was created for a unique purpose, and to be compatible with all circumstances, because each of the aforesaid elements has a specific function. Together, they confirm the elevated and advanced nature of Man in this universe. On top of that, Man is the guardian and heir of God on all His creations. Man is expected to perform and attain the noble goals which the rest of the creatures can not even comprehend, let alone achieve. The Holy Quran draws upon this in the following verse:
"We have honored the sons of Adam, provided them with transport on land and sea, given them for sustenance

things good and pure, and conferred on them special favors, above a great part of our creation." Surat Al-Isra-Verse 70.

Man is neither that being which is composed of matter only - which eventually degenerates - nor of spirit only with the sole duty of worship and supplication. Indeed, in Islam, Man is elevated higher than either matter or spirit. The combined elements create a synergy that is greater than the combination. As God says:
"When I have fashioned him and breathed into him of my soul, fall ye down in prostration unto him, I (God) said to the Angels." Surat Al-Sad, Verse 77.

Physically man was created from clay. What does that mean? It means Man becomes one with Mother Earth, to which he goes back upon death. Indeed, Man is verily the miniature of the universe. But Man is also made of that Godly spirit, which elevates him even above the angels. That is because Man is the heir of God. He has taken charge of the earth, and he is God's ultimate creation. That is why God says in the Quran:
"We have indeed created man in the best of molds." Surrat Al-Teen, Verse 4.
But God, in his infinite wisdom,

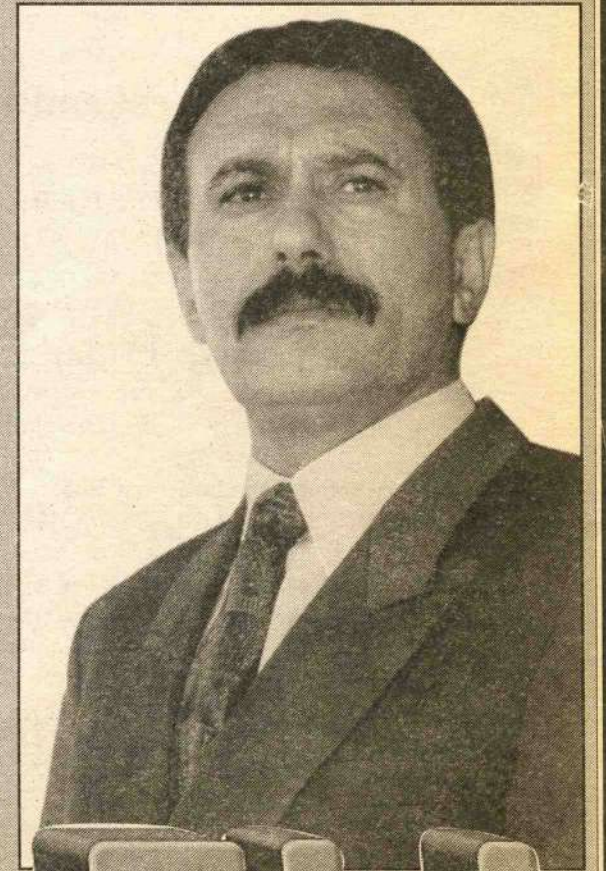
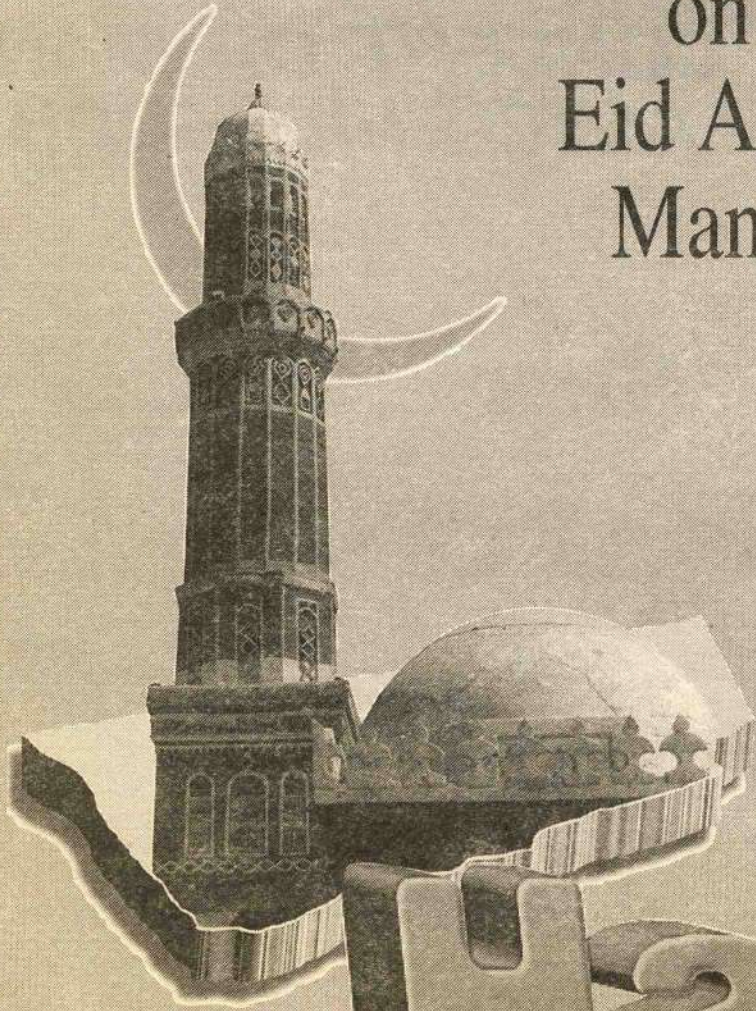
bestowed upon him instincts, inclinations, lust and feelings of sex, hunger, pain, pride, and various other needs and aspirations. These drives are going to be the test material for human beings. What distinguishes Man from other creatures is the ability to judge the temptations and rise above them. The difference between evil and good, between low and noble, between hate and love, between sin and virtue, between wrong and truth, etc., is what determines what Man has made out of himself. Man has the qualities that enable him distinguish, he doesn't need trial and error. He can see. The Quran says:
"Soon will we show them our signs in the furthest regions of the earth and in themselves until it becomes manifest to them that this is the truth." Surat Fussilat, Verse 53.

Unfortunately, even after seeing the Truth, Man often chooses to fall. That weakness is also part of our creation. It is, according to the Quran, the quality that brings out God's enormous generosity to forgive and to rehabilitate. For God cannot let His best creation fall. Man is destined to rule and occupy the universe honorably. Unless we choose to destruct the very universe from which we came and which we should nurture.

مجموعة شركات عبدالسلام شمسان وأولاده

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وإلى الحكومة الرشيدة، وإلى الشعب اليمني
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the wise government, and the Yemeni people
on the occasion of
Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak.
Many Happy Returns



Happy Eid

Yemen Acceded to It Recently!

Full Text of Article VIII of the IMF

Section 1. Introduction:

In addition to the obligations assumed under other articles of this Agreement, each member undertakes the obligations set out in this Article.

Section 2. Avoidance of Restrictions on Current Payments:

(a) Subject to the provisions of Article VIII, Section 3 (b) and Article XIV, Section 2, no member shall, without the approval of the Fund, impose restrictions on the making of payments and transfers for current international transactions.

(b) Exchange contracts which involve the currency of any member and which are contrary to the exchange control regulations of that member maintained or imposed consistently with this Agreement shall be unenforceable in the territories of any member. In addition, members may, by mutual accord, cooperate in measures for the purpose of making the exchange control regulations of either member more effective, provided that such measures and regulations are consistent with this Agreement.

Section 3. Avoidance of Discriminatory Currency Practices:

No member shall engage in, or permit any of its fiscal agencies referred to in Article V, Section 1 to engage in, any discriminatory currency arrangements or multiple currency practices, whether within or outside margins under Article IV or prescribed by or under Schedule C, except as authorized under this Agreement or approved by the Fund. If such arrangements and practices are engaged in at the date when this Agreement enters into force, the member concerned shall consult with the Fund as to their progressive removal unless they are maintained or imposed under Article XIV, Section 2, in which case the provisions of Section 3 of that Article shall apply.

Section 4. Convertibility of Foreign-held Balances:

(a) Each member shall buy balances of its currency held by another member if the latter, in requesting the purchase, represents:

- (i) that the balances to be bought have been

recently acquired as a result of current transactions or

(ii) that their conversion is needed for making payments for current transactions.

The buying member shall have the option to pay either in special drawing rights, subject to Article XIX, Section 4, or in the currency of the member making the request.

(b) The obligation in (a) above shall not apply when:

(i) the convertibility of the balances has been restricted consistently with Section 2 of this Article or Article VI, Section 3.

(ii) the balances have accumulated as a result of transactions effected before the removal by a member of restrictions maintained or imposed under Article XIV, Section 2.

(iii) the balances have been acquired contrary to the exchange regulations of the member which is asked to buy them.

(iv) the currency of the member requesting the purchase has been declared scarce under Article VII, Section 3(a) or

(v) the member requested to make the purchase is for any reason not entitled to buy currencies of other members from the Fund for its own currency.

Section 5. Furnishing the Information:

(a) The Fund may require members to furnish with such information as it deems necessary for its activities, including, as the minimum necessary for the effective discharge of the Funds duties, national data on the following matters:-

(i) official holdings at home and abroad of (1) gold, (2) foreign exchange.

(ii) holdings at home and abroad by banking and financial agencies, other than official agencies, of (1) gold, (2) foreign exchange

(iii) production of gold.

(iv) gold exports and imports according to countries of destination and origin.

(v) total exports and imports of merchandise, in terms of local currency values, according to countries of destination and origin.

(vi) international balance of payments, including

(1) trade in goods and services, (2) gold transactions, (3) known capital transactions, and (4) other items.

(vii) international investment position, i. e. investments within the territories of the member owned abroad and investments abroad owned by persons in its territories so far as it is possible to furnish this information.

(viii) national income.

(ix) price indices, i. e. indices of commodity prices in wholesale and retail markets and of export and import prices.

(x) buying and selling rates for foreign currencies, (xi) exchange controls, i. e. a comprehensive statement of exchange controls in effect at the time of assuming membership in the Fund and details of subsequent changes as they occur and (xii) where official clearing arrangements exist, details of amounts awaiting clearance in respect of commercial and financial transactions, and of the length of time during which such arrears have been outstanding.

(b) In requesting information the Fund shall take into consideration the varying ability of members to furnish the data requested. members shall be under no obligation to furnish information in such detail that the affairs of individuals or corporations are disclosed. Members undertake, however, to furnish the desired information in as far as possible, to avoid mere estimates.

(c) The Fund may arrange to obtain further information by agreement with members. It shall act as centre for the collection and exchange of information on monetary and financial problems, thus facilitating the preparation of studies designed to assist members in developing policies which further the purposes of the Fund.

Section 6. Consultations between Members regarding Existing International Agreements.

Where under the Agreement a member is authorized in the special or temporary circumstances specified in the Agreement to maintain or establish restrictions on exchange transactions, and there are other engagements between members entered into

prior to this Agreement which conflict with the application of such engagements shall consult with one another with a view to making such mutually acceptable adjustments as may be necessary. The provisions of this Article shall be without prejudice to the operation of Article V11, Section 5.

Section 7. Obligation to Collaborate regarding Policies on Reserve Assets:

Each member undertakes to collaborate with the Fund and with other members in order to ensure that the policies of the member with respect to reserve assets shall be consistent with the objectives of promoting better international surveillance of international liquidity and making the special drawing right the principal reserve in the international monetary system.

Article IX: Status, Immunities, and Privileges**Section 1. Purposes of Article:**

To enable the Fund to fulfill the functions with which it is entrusted, the status, immunities, and privileges set forth in this Article shall be accorded to the Fund in the territories of each member.

Section 2. Status of the Fund:

The Fund shall possess full juridical personality, and in particular, the capacity:

- (1) to contact
(11) to acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property and
(111) to institute legal proceedings.

Section 3. Immunity from Judicial Process:

The Fund, its property and its assets, where located and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy immunity from every form of judicial process except to the extent that it expressly waives its immunity for the purpose of any proceedings or by the terms of any contract.

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INTERSUN Leads World Research in the Field:

SOLAR RADIATION AND YOUR HEALTH

The World Health Organization is concerned with the potential health effects from increased exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV) as a result of depletion of stratospheric ozone by anthropogenic chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halon. Although uncertainty remains about future trends in the atmospheric zone, it is apparent that decreased ozone levels will persist and that corresponding increases in UV intensities will result in significant adverse health effects on all populations of the world for many decades to come.

The potential consequences of increased UV exposure are considered to be so serious that it was a major topic of discussion at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Agenda 21, adopted by the Conference, recommended as a matter of urgency that research be undertaken on the health effects of UV exposure and that appropriate measures be taken to mitigate them.

Ultraviolet Radiation:

UV is one of the non-ionizing radiations in the electromagnetic spectrum and lies within the range of wavelengths 100 nm to 400 nm. The shortest wavelength of the UV region is often taken as the boundary between the ionizing spectrum (wavelengths of less than 100 nm) and the non-ionizing radiation spectrum. UV can be classified into UVA (315-400), UVB (280-315 nm) and UVC (100-289 nm), although other conventions for UVA, UVB, UVC wavelength bands are also in use.

While exposure to UV occurs from both natural and artificial sources, the sun is the principal source for most people. As sunlight passes through the atmosphere, all the UVC is absorbed and all except a small percentage of the UVB is absorbed by atmospheric components such as ozone, water vapor, oxygen and carbon dioxide. Most artificial source of UV, except for lasers, emit a spectral continuum of UV containing characteristic peaks, troughs and lines. These include various lamps used in medicine, industry, commerce, research and the home.

Summary of Major Health Concerns:

Exposure to the sun is known to be associated with various skin cancers, accelerated aging, cataract and other eye diseases. It

may also adversely affect people's ability to resist infectious diseases, and compromise the effectiveness of vaccination programs.

The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) has estimated that more than 2 million nonmelanoma skin cancers and 200,000 malignant melanomas occur globally each year. In the event of a 10% decrease in stratospheric ozone, an additional 300,000 nonmelanoma and 4,500 melanoma skin cancers could be expected worldwide.

The health effects of increased UV exposure are not limited to fair-skinned populations. Some 16 million people worldwide are currently blind as a result of cataracts. Of these, WHO estimates that as many as 20% may be due to UV exposure. Experts believe that each 1% sustained decrease in stratospheric ozone would result in an increase of 0.5% in the number of cataracts caused by solar UV.

Skin:

Chronic skin changes due to UV include skin cancer (both melanoma and nonmelanocytic), benign abnormalities of melanocytes, and a range of other chronic injuries resulting from UV exposure to keratinocytes, blood vessels and fibrous tissue, often described as "photo aging" (solar elastosis). The much-increased rates of skin cancer in patients with xeroderma pigmentosum, who have deficiency in the capacity to repair UV-induced DNA damage, suggest that direct UV damage of the DNA may be a factor in the cause of these cancers.

The worldwide incidence of malignant melanoma continues to increase, and is strongly related to frequency of recreational exposure to the sun and to history of sunburn. There is evidence that risk of melanoma is also related to intermittent exposure to UV, especially in childhood, and to exposure to sun lamps, although studies conducted so far on the latter have not consistently controlled for other factors that could influence the results.

Eye:

The acute effects of UV on the eye include the development of photokeratitis and photoconjunctivitis, which are painful but reversible and easily prevented by protective eye wear. Chronic effects include the possible development of pterygium, squamous cell cancer of the conjunctiva, and cataracts. There is sufficient evidence to

link acute ocular exposure to photokeratitis, but knowledge of the effects of chronic exposure is less certain.

UV exposure of the eye depends on many factors: ground reflection, the degree of brightness in the sky leading to activation of the squint reflex, the amount of atmospheric reflection, and the use of eye wear. The target for UV-induced damage will depend on the wavelength of the incident radiation.

The immune system is vulnerable to modification by environmental agents such as UV, which appears to alter immune response by changing the activity and distribution of the cells responsible for triggering these responses. A number of studies indicate that UV exposure at environmental levels suppress immune responses in both rodents and humans.

In rodents this immune suppression results in enhanced susceptibility to certain infectious diseases with skin involvement, and some systemic infections. Mechanisms associated UV-induced immunosuppression, and host defense mechanisms which provide for protection against infectious agents, are similar in rodents and humans. It is therefore reasonable to assume that exposure to UV may enhance the risk of infection and decrease the effectiveness of vaccines in humans, but additional research is necessary to substantiate this.

Health Care Costs:

Substantial savings in health care costs could be realized by effective UV protection programs. The US Government alone spends US\$ 3.4 billion per year for 1.35 million cataract operations, while India borrowed US\$ 120 million from the World Bank to reduce its backlog of cataract surgeries. Deaths and disfigurements from skin cancer likewise pose a large burden to health care systems. Up to 20% of cataract operations could be prevented or delayed, and the incidence of skin cancer greatly reduced, by informing the public about UV-induced health effects and the simple techniques required to protect against excessive exposure.

Protective Measures:

Typical protection and control measures to reduce UV exposure are the containment of UV sources, methods for personal protection such as sun screen, clothing, eye and skin protection, and changes in behaviour while in the sun. Precautions include staying out of the sun during the

period around noon when UV levels are at their highest.

Broad spectrum (UVB and UVA) sun screens should be used when other means of protection are not feasible, and then to reduce exposure rather than lengthen the period of exposure. While topical applications of sun screen are preferred to absorbing UV, some preparations do not absorb the longer wavelength UVA effectively; moreover, some have been found to contain ingredients that are mutagenic in sunlight.

People using sun screens should use those with a high sun protection factor (SPF) and be aware that they are to protect from the sun and not for tanning purposes. The reflective properties of the ground have an influence on UV exposure.

Most natural surfaces such as grass, soil and water reflect less than 10% of incident UV. However, fresh snow reflects nearly 80% while sand reflects 10-25%, significantly increasing UV exposure for skiers and bathers.

INTERSUN: The Global UV Project:

In 1994, WHO published a monograph on environmental health criteria entitled "Ultraviolet Radiation" (EHC160), a result of the most thorough review to date of the scientific literature on UV. The monograph provided an updated assessment of health hazards from UV exposure, identified gaps in the knowledge base on the subject, and recommended the additional research needed to

fill the gaps.

EHC 160 forms the basis for the International Project on Health, Solar UV and Environmental Change (INTERSUN), a collaborative effort to prevent UV-induced diseases. The project involves WHO, UNEP, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and other specialized agencies at the national and international levels.

The objectives of INTERSUN, *inter alia*, are to promote collaboration in implementing the activities and research recommended by EHC 160, to evaluate the quantitative relationship between solar UV at the earth's surface and human health, and to develop reliable predictions of the health consequences arising from changes in UV levels.

INTERSUN also aims to assist national authorities with advice on programs to prevent excessive UV exposure and thereby reduce health care costs. This last objective is especially important given that the amount of UV reaching the Earth's surface will increase for decades to come.

Among the documents produced to date under the auspices of INTERSUN are:

*** Protection Against Exposure to UV:**

This is a joint publication of WHO and UNEP. It outlines the basic measures needed to protect against adverse effects of UV exposure.

*** Ultraviolet Radiation Dosimetry of the Eye:**

This is also published jointly by WHO and UNEP. It provides details of the factors necessary to assess UV exposure to the eye and will be incorporated into research protocols for studying human epidemiology and UV health effects.

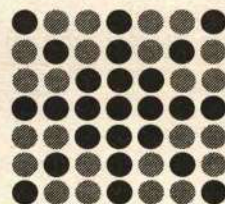
*** Global Solar Index:**

This is published jointly by WHO, UNEP and ICNIRP. It provides an internationally acceptable index of daily UV exposure that can be used in conjunction with news and weather reports to alert populations about UV-induced health effects and protective measures to counteract them.

A workshop to review the material and research available on UV immune suppression and the P53 gene was conducted in December 1995. The results are being finalized for publication shortly.

In addition, INTERSUN protocols have been developed for two major epidemiological studies - one to determine the influence of UV exposure on the effectiveness of measles and rubella vaccines in children, and the other on the influence of UV exposure on the effectiveness of hepatitis B vaccine in travelers going from temperate to tropical regions. The research work is already under way.

Adopted and abridged by:
Anwar Al-Sayyidi,
Yemen Times.



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Remembrance

19th Feb. 1997

Mathew Kurian

(Former Administration Manager
Arabian Group of Companies)

Your wisdom, lives with us
showing us the way.
No words could ever express the
treasure you were in our life.
We miss you.

Vijayesh Chandy
NASS of Yem

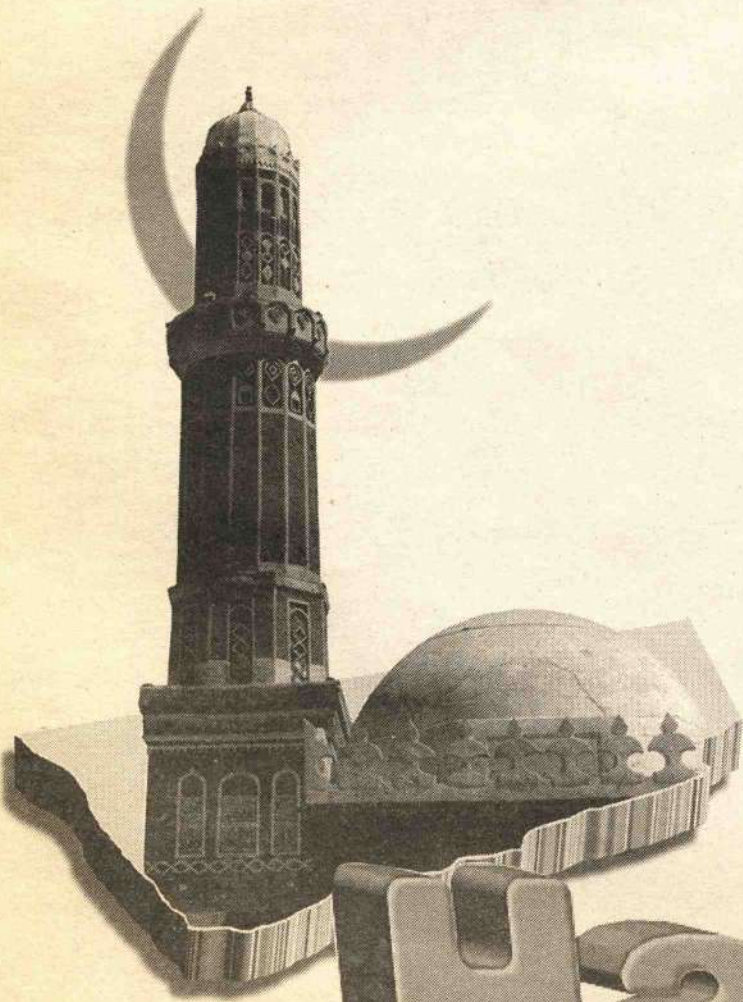


مجموعة شركات شاهر عبد الحق واخوانه

تتقدم بخالص التهاني وأطيب الامنيات إلى
الفريق علي عبدالله صالح-رئيس الجمهورية
والى الحكومة الرشيدة، والى الشعب اليمني
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The Government, and the
Yemeni people on the occasion
of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak.
Many Happy Returns.



Happy Eid

Aden Movenpick Hotel Introduces New Services

John Vouillamoz, General Manager of Aden Movenpick Hotel, comes from Switzerland. He has taken charge of the hotel four months ago, and has already made a difference. He has tried to bring some improvements to service. Yemen Times Aden Bureau filed the following interview.



Q: We understand you have started introducing some changes. Can you tell us more about them?

A: I started 4 months ago. When I arrived, business was slow. I am a great believer of that if the market is not there you create it. You do that, not by reducing the operations and services, by expanding and diversifying. This gives people more things to do. We are lacking in services and that is what we are working on. We started by asking pertinent questions. How are people served? How are people received? What do the guests want of the hotel? The answers are the basis for the changes in the services. Next week, we are going to open the buffet meals services daily for lunch and dinner.

We will have different theme nights based on different food varieties - sea food, Yemeni food, Indian food, Western international food, Italian food, etc. Two restaurants will be open six days a week. We have already started a decent disco service with live music, belly dancing and floor dancing. This is the Abu Nawas club which people enjoy. We bought equipment, sound-light system. We now have a disco night club with quality music.

Q: Don't you think you are inviting trouble with the night club service?

A: I don't think so. This is a clean and decent service. We had a belly dancer for the last three years. It is not something new. Beside the live music played by a band and the music coming from tapes is the same. We have Arabic songs, we have Yemeni songs on tapes. We have a dancing floor like in western night club, but we respect the law. I also want to point that the people and Government of Yemen have decided to make Aden a free zone. This means allowing for certain services common in the rest of the world.

Q: People say your prices are very high?

A: No. Those who say that are misinformed. I understand that may have been the case during the war. People were queuing or to get a room in this hotel. So the rates went up. We have every now and then packages. We have an Eid package for 7500 Riyals for local people all inclusive of tax and service charges. We have a package for expatriates living in Yemen which is US\$ 90 dollar for Ramadhan and Eid. So the rates are really not high, and they are reasonable.

Q: What is the room occupancy rate now?

A: It depends on the season.

November and December have been good months. During Ramadhan business is usually slow. So, the February occupancy rate is around 50%.

Q: There is talk about new hotels being built in Aden. Do you worry about competition?

A: I know there are a few hotels opening up soon and I am very happy. These are 2 and 3-star hotel. Even if they were 4 or 5-star hotels, competition brings the best in all of us.

Actually the hotels will help expand the market as new business is generated.

Q: Do you see the hotel market picking-up?

A: Definitely. I see an upward movement in the market. I see many foreign companies slowly moving back and new ones being established. Also, I see major development in the local tourist market.

I believe that 1997 will witness great changes to the better.

Q: You said there are many plans for improving services in your hotel. Can you share with us details?

A: We want to improve the software. We have hired new Yemeni people speaking English and we are training them. We are increasing our variety of food to offer our customers. We are constantly upgrading the furniture in the rooms and the overall hotel facilities.

We have now developed a project of giving extra service to the customers especially foreign group visitors to enjoy the sea and to enjoy the city of Aden. So far, the groups coming to Aden for a short stay are on their own. We want to offer them an extra service that allow them to enjoy folkloric scenes and fantastic beaches.

We also have programs whereby tourist groups will be invited to discover the culture of Yemeni dancing, singing and clothings over a hearty traditional meal.

We also have a couple of surprises in store. March will be the time to bring them out.

We also have an extensive training program for local employees. This summer, eight people will go for training to Movenpick Hotel in Cairo. At the same time, we are going to bring Egyptian and other nationality staff to replace them. So the eight Yemenis will be trained abroad, while at the same time the expatriate will train people here.

Our target is to develop people here, and make sure that may be in 5 or 6 years, Yemenis will run this place.

By:- Bashar Ghazi, Teacher, Sanaa.

What attracts attention these days is the increasing number of beggars in the streets of Yemeni cities and in front of mosques and company offices. This is especially notable in the capital, Sana'a. Most of these beggars have transformed begging in the streets as a profession, and a lucrative one at that.

I say it is a profession, because the beggars go to the same street corner in the morning and do their job until the end of the day. It has its special rules and regulations, to which members of these groups adhere.

The beggars have their own well-studied methods in approaching their 'prey'. Some 'fathers' carry little babies and 'mothers' even breast-feed them on public.

Begging on the Streets:

Is it Need-Driven or a Profession?



ating more employment, and re-training of these people to equip them with employable skills. It is a long-term process, but we must embark on it.

At the same time, there must be ways to control those who do not want to do any other 'job' but begging. Enforcement of certain laws may be appropriate. But, before that is done, we must create the opportunities. For example, foreign house-maids and house keepers could be limited thus opening new options for some of the beggars.

Begging is not a Yemeni phenomenon, they are everywhere in the world. You can see them in America, Britain, France, Germany and also in Arab countries. It is an economic and a

social problem. What is urgently needed in Yemen is to study it. This is even more urgent in light of the exploding number of beggars, to the extent that waiting for the green light at street intersection has become a nightmare for drivers. You have to fend off and avoid interacting. If you interact with one beggar positively, then a horde will jump on you.

We cannot overcome this phenomenon completely, but there are policies and steps to stop it from spreading much further. There are charity associations, and social activities that offer partial remedies.

The first step is to assign researchers to collect more data on this phenomenon.



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Others make-believe they are sick or crippled. Some of them even inflict such horrible handicaps on themselves on purpose, in order to extract sympathy.

The people who beg are of different ages, ranging from very young - like infants and little children - to senior citizens. Now, there is an increasing number of young women commanding street corners. They beg, they flirt and they wouldn't mind a 'ride'.

It used to be that the beggars were mostly the "akhdam" - black Yemenis. Now, there is an increasing number of tribal people stuck on the road. So the business is growing, as more and more beggars join the ranks.

The phenomenon is worthy of specialized study and research by experts and social scientists. For example, the Ministries of Social Affairs, Education, Health and Interior, should team with university professors and researchers to ascertain what is going on and what can be done. Sociologists, educationists, and others should study ways to address this problem.

Let us start by pointing to a major economic problem - unemployment. Indeed, many of these people do not have a steady income. That is one of the reasons why they beg. Let me point to a social problem - breakdown of traditional financial support among extended family members. Today, as urbanization and modernization make their impact, Yemeni are increasingly limited to nucleus families. So, a few relatives who used to be part of the 'family' are dropped off. At the same time, no modern pension or other benefits are available for those who do not have a bread-winner. Result, more begging.

One answer to the problem is really to promote socio-economic development. This means gener-

Good GCC Economic Performance

The economies of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries have done rather well during 1996, thanks to a major part to a turnaround of the international price of oil. Oil prices surged last year with the price per barrel of Brent crude averaging US \$20.32, as compared to the 1995 average of US \$17.01 a barrel.

As a result, the economic growth rate in 1996 was a healthy 20% higher than the growth rate averaged during 1992-95. The upward trend is expected to continue in 1997.

In a report released last week, the gross capital value of the six GCC countries' stock markets was put at US\$ 90 billion at the end of 1996. In every one of the GCC countries - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates - visible improvement was witnessed in economic performance.

Classifying the six markets as to capital value of stock markets, the report put the Saudi market in the lead, touching the US \$ 45.9 billion level. The Kuwaiti Stock Exchange Market came second with US \$ 21.8 billion, the UAE third with US \$ 13.6 billion, Bahrain fourth with US \$ 4.9 billion, Oman fifth with US \$ 2.4 billion, and Qatar with US \$ 2.1 billion.

The total number of companies whose shares are listed in the GCC markets was 307, of which 97 were in Oman, 71 in Saudi Arabia, 60 in Kuwait, 34 in Bahrain, 27 in the UAE, and 18 in Qatar.

The values of the shares of the 307 companies achieved an overall average growth of around 18%, with the highest growth rate achieved in Kuwait with 39.5%, and Oman 26.1%.

Nawaz Sharif Forms New Government in Pakistan

Today, February 17th, Mr. Nawaz Sharif will present his government to the National Assembly for a vote of confidence.

The results of the February 3rd elections in Pakistan definitely show that the general public wants a change. This change came primarily at the expense of the Pakistan People's Party of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Probably what gave away the PPP was the feuds and infighting within the Bhutto family, and the flagrant corruption scandals.

The results have come out in favor of Pakistan Muslim League headed by Nawaz Sharif. The PML got 134 seats of the 217 National Assembly constituencies, and will thus be able to form a comfortable majority government. In addition to controlling the central government, the PML-N will also form at least two of the governments in the four provinces. The PML-N group got a stunning 207 seats of the 233 seats of the Punjab Province.

Voter turn-out, considering that elections were held in the fasting month of Ramadhan, was higher than expected.

International observers have given the Pakistani elections high marks, in spite of the foul cries of Ms. Bhutto. Observers from the European Union (EU) covered 60 of the 217 constituencies, randomly selected. The observers visited the polling stations for 5 days - before and after ballot-casting. Their verdict was unanimous: the elections were carried out in a fair and free atmosphere.

Arabs Buy More Arms: GCC Leads the Way

The value of total arm purchases by Arab countries is expected to exceed US\$ 180 billion over the next five years, according to military intelligence sources. Topping the list are the Gulf Cooperation Council states, in addition to Egypt and Syria. While in the cases of Egypt and Syria, a native military structure is well in place, the GCC states import the hardware as well as the soldiers.

High defence spending in the Arab countries has attracted hundreds of international arms producers to the region. Several regional and international exhibitions are tailor-made to the Arab purchasers who account for nearly 10% of the total global defence spending. More than 700 companies from 40 countries are lining up to exhibit weapons in the IDEX '97 to be opened in Abu Dhabi next month. The list of exhibiting companies includes the top 10 arms manufacturers in the world.

Saudi Arabia is the region's leader in spending on arms. At the moment, the Kingdom is looking for between 150-225 battle tanks in a deal contested by GIAT industries of France, General Dynamics of the US and the British firm, Vickers. The Kingdom is also discussing the purchase of 100 F-16 fighter planes and a considerable volume of missiles.

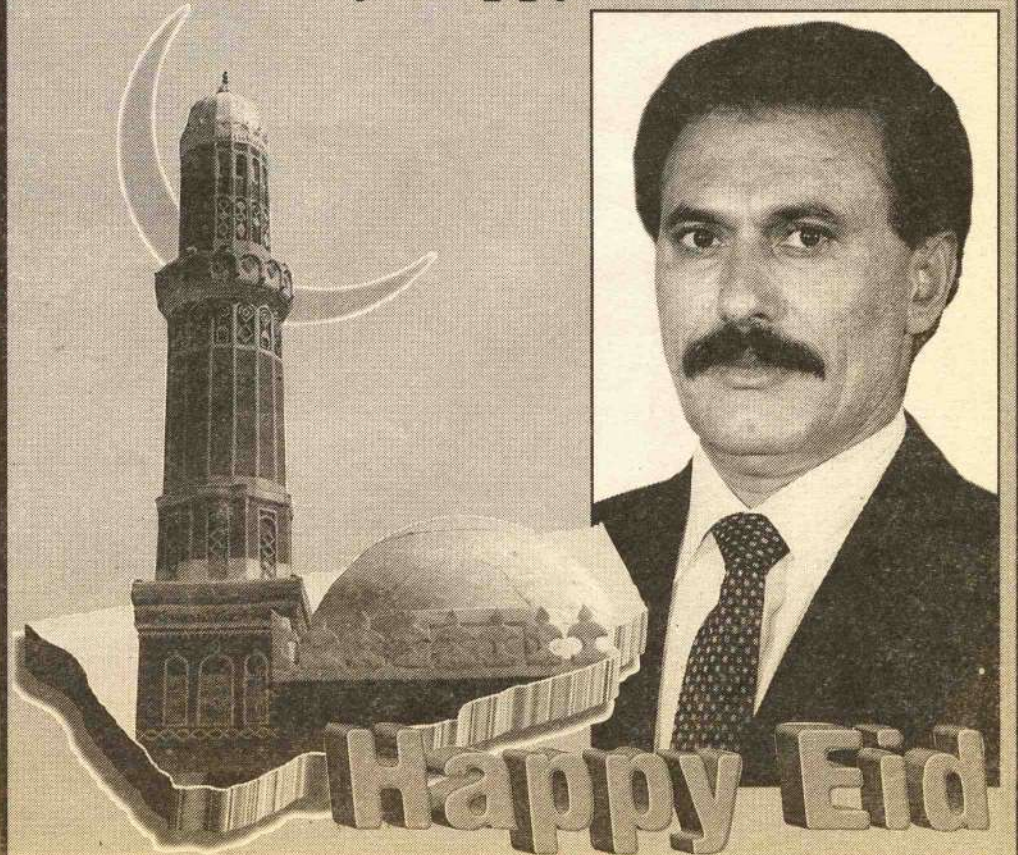
The United Arab Emirates is also discussing the purchase of 80 warplanes estimated to cost US\$ 6-8 billion. France's Dassault, which produces the Rafale, is in direct competition with the US company Lockheed Martin's F-16s.

بنك إندوسويس
يتقدم بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات
للقيادة السياسية بزعامة ابن اليمن البار
الفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية
والحكومة الرشيدة والشعب اليمني
بمناسبة حلول عيد الفطر المبارك.
وكل عام والجميع بخير.



BANQUE INDOSUEZ

Extend its best wishes and
felicitations to His Excellency
Preident Ali Abdullah Saleh,
The Government,
and the people of Yemen on
Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak.
Many Happy Return

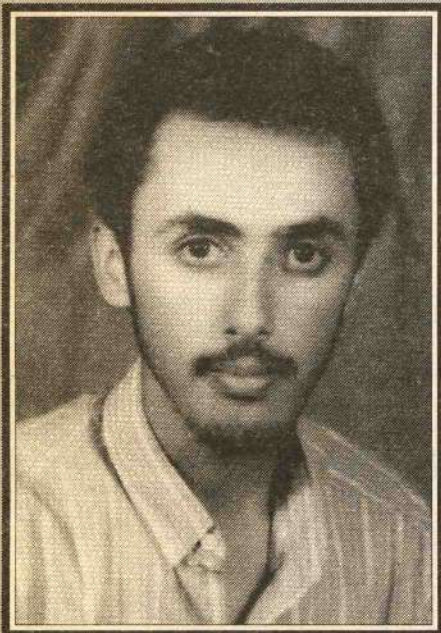


تهنئة

نتقدم بالتهاني والتبريكات القلبية
للأستاذ

رضاء عبدالرحمن السقاف

بمناسبة عقد القران
الف مبروك، وأدام الله المسرات



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منتسبو البنك العربي/صنعا

جمعية الحضارم الخيرية

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عارف أحمد الزريقي، خالد عبدالمولى الأديمي

طاهر عبدالفتاح السقاف وأولاده

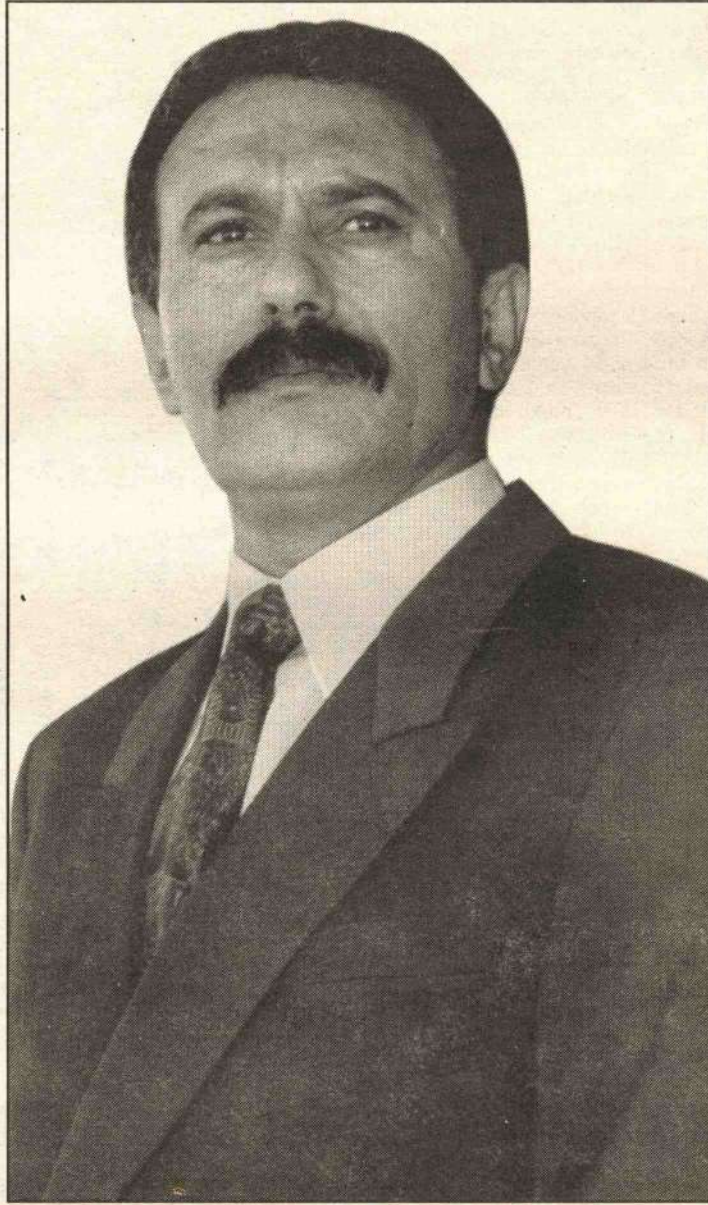
وجميع الأهل في صنعا وأبو ظبي وقرية الحضارم - تعز

Al Khamiry Group of Companies

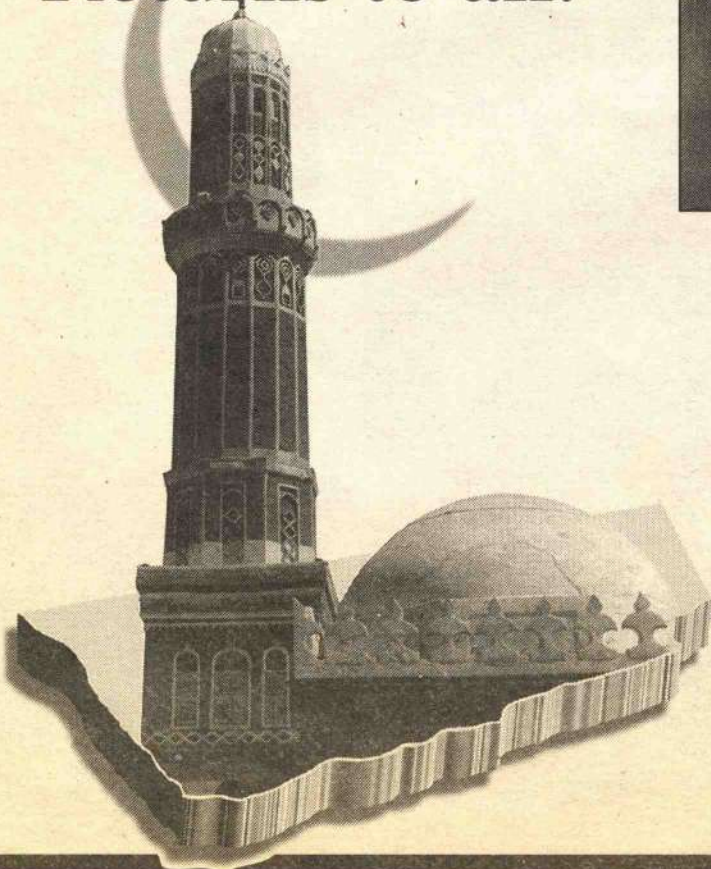
مجموعة شركات توفيق الخامري

presents their heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to the political leadership headed by General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic, the Government and People of Yemen on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak. Many Happy Returns to all.

تقدم
بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات



إلى فخامة الرئيس الفريق
علي عبدالله صالح وإلى
الحكومة وإلى الشعب
اليمني بمناسبة حلول عيد
الفطر المبارك
أعاده الله على اليمن
بالخير والرخاء.
وكل عام والجميع بخير



Happy Eid

Yemen Hunt Oil Company

Contributes to Assist the Schools at Ras Isa Villages



Although Yemen Hunt's concession is in the Marib Governorate, the export pipeline stretches from Safer, Marib, until it reaches the Red Sea, to the FSO "Safer" which is located 8 kilometers from Ras Isa shores. Along this huge stretch of the Export Pipeline lie stations that are either Pump Stations or Pressure Reduction Stations, passing through regions of different cultures and mentalities.

Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) an operator for Yemen Exploration and Production Company (YEPC - Exxon and Yukong), does its best to help the citizens that are living beside the stations. For example, it provides them with water, electricity, employment, medical assistance, and repairs their land along the Export Pipeline. This is done in order to build an excellent relationship with the people, and to make them feel that the facility is a national benefit, and that it should be protected because it belongs to them. This assistance is provided when needed and within limitation.

At Ras Isa, on the shores of the Red Sea, lies Pressure Reduction Station No. 2 (PRS-2). There are three villages surrounding the station: Al-Zuhaifi, Al-Dhubra, and Al-Wali. Recently, YHOC conducted a field study on the situation and conditions of local schools in these three villages. This was done in coordination with MOMR, Security, MOE, and Sheikhs in order to find out what it can do to assist in improving the educational environment.

At the end of last year, all the essential requirements were at PRS-2 for a special event. Early in the morning, it was agreed that the gathering will be at the station. Representatives from the Ministry of Education, Health, Interior, Security, the Governor's Office, PGC at Ras Isa, and Sheikhs, officials and community elders from the area were at hand for the event.

A YHOC convoy moved from the station to the biggest village, Al-Zuhaifi, and presented them with 60 school desks and chairs, 3 blackboards, and 4 cupboards for the schools. The students and teachers were overjoyed with YHOC's contribution.

The YHOC convoy then moved to the clinics and presented them with two complete sets of beds and a cupboard for keeping medicines.

Afterwards, the Ras Isa football team, which includes members from the three villages, was presented with two sets of football uniforms (36 uniforms), 4 first-class balls, and 2 sets of football goal nets.

The two other villages were also given what is needed for their schools.

At the end of this joyful event, the representatives, sheikhs, and community elders of the three villages thanked Yemen Hunt Oil Company, operator for YEPC, for its essential and important contribution.

YEMEN
HUNT
OIL COMPANY

شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط
Exxon and Yukong

AL-THAWRY: Sana'a (Weekly) 13-2-97
(The Yemen Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) YSP Politburo Welcomes President Initiative.
- 2) A Report Exposes Human Rights violations in Yemen.
- 3) Foreign Diplomats Involved in Printing and Spreading Counterfeit Hard Currencies.
- 4) Renewal of Bloody Conflicts Amongst Hajja Tribes.
- 5) Hunaish Arbitration Committee Holds First Session on Saturday 15 February.

Article Summary:

1- Aden Between Colonialism and Investments by Abu Arseel.

The British trade delegation that visited Yemen has come as an emphasis of the British interest in investing in the country. Aden has a lot to offer in this respect. Although there are no direct outcomes of this visit, Yemeni and British businessmen have agreed on a number of issues. A major negative aspect that overshadowed the visit and cast doubt on the whole viability of the Aden Free Zone, was the absence of Adeni businessmen. Many Adeni merchants and investors were not invited on board the Royal yacht the Britannia. Many non-official media representatives were also excluded from the yacht gathering. Despite all that, the visit has laid down the foundation for better Yemeni-British ties. The bitter memories of the 150-year British occupation of Aden are now forgotten by the citizens of that city in hope for a better life.

2- What Next? by Abdulhafour Al-Barraq.

It is not easy to accept the practices of the ruling coalition which aim at possessing all constituencies. Their agreement follows directly after the gross violations committed during the registration for elections process. The haphazard sharing of the constituencies is a dangerous deviation from the democratic conventions. Other measures will have to be taken in addition to the rejection issued by the Opposition Coordination Council. People will have to be aware of this phenomenon that is bound to stifle democracy and open the way for a totalitarian rule. The hidden motives behind this agreement are to deliver a severe blow to the opposition by monopolizing authority. In order for democracy to be a reality; equality, justice, freedom of expression and other basic human rights will have to be upheld and guaranteed.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 12-3-97

(Independent)

Main Headlines:



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

- 1) The President Expresses Yemen's Readiness to Facilitate British Investments in Yemen.
- 2) Exceptional and Surprise Meeting of Socialist Party Politburo in Aden.
- 3) Aden's Chamber of Commerce Boycotts Investment Symposium with the British.
- 4) National Social Bloc Warns Against Land Usurping.
- 5) A Man in Lahaj Dies in a Revenge Attack.
- 6) British Ambassador: "We aim to enhance friendship and cooperation between Britain and Yemen."

Article Summary:

1) Aden Airport is No Longer International!

A number of passengers going through Aden's airport have had the chance to see new rubber stamps inscribed with the words "Aden Airport" instead of "Aden International Airport". Calls for flights into and out of the airports have also failed to mention the adjective "international." People are now curious whether this comes as a part of a pre-planned policy to turn this important airport into an ordinary one just like any other airport in other governorates. If this is true, then it is utterly incompatible with the plans for Aden's Free Zone. During the 50s, Aden's airport was a vital aviation center linking many diverse regions such as the Arabian Peninsula, the Mediterranean, India and Central Africa.

2) The Greatest Danger by Fouad Kayid Ali

The struggle is at its fiercest today between the forces of democracy and progress and those of corruption and evil. The first aim for justice and development, while the latter seek to terrorize the people and steal their wealth. The practices of the undemocratic and selfish powers have turned the country into a stage for crises and a hideout for the corrupt and the outlaws. To attain their full legal and constitutional rights, all the people will have to fight against the forces of darkness, and have faith in their own strength.

Difference of opinion is considered a crime despite the fact that it is one of the main pillars of democracy. Such differences are essential for the develop-

ment of a healthy nation free of conflicts and hate.

AL-THAWRA: Sana'a (Daily) 15-2-97
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Palestinian Legislative Council Warns Against Excavations Underneath Al-Aksa Mosque.
- 2) Lebanese President Renews Support for National Lebanese Resistance.
- 3) Arab Summit May Be Held Next May.
- 4) Arab Demonstrations in Occupied Golan Heights.
- 5) King Hussain will Discuss Peace Process During His European Tour.
- 6) Nine Die in an Explosion in India.
- 7) 992 Field visits by Agricultural Guides to Farms in Hadramaut During 1996.

Article Summary:

1) The Tasks of the Next Parliament - editorial.

The political system in Yemen is characterized by plurality. The legally established political parties and organizations represent the mechanism through which a peaceful transference of authority can be achieved. The President and other members of the government have expressed their sincere commitment to holding free and fair elections.

The circumstances of the last parliamentary elections of 1993 were wholly different from the present. Voters, then, were wishing to be rid of the deteriorating conditions and the political squabbles prevalent at the time.

The present parliament has done a lot to reform many sectors directly related to people's lives. Voters in the next elections have the responsibility to choose a legislative authority according to criteria compatible with growth and development. The most competent candidates will be those who can rise to the great national tasks and goals.

AL-JUMHURIA: Tiaz (Daily) 15-2-97

(Official)

Main Headlines:

Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to

A TeleYemen Customer Questions Service

I wish to bring to the attention of all readers a complaint against TeleYemen - Sana'a.

You must be well aware, that during the Holy month of Ramadhan, certain satellite television stations transmit special programs through which listeners and viewers all over the world could participate so as to win prizes allocated by aforesaid stations such as MBC, Dubai, etc.

This Ramadhan, TeleYemen has deprived Yemeni International Direct Dialing subscribers from taking part in the above programs by disconnecting, I repeat by totally disconnecting, in direct dialing to MBC and Dubai satellite stations through the following No. 0056919191 - CHILE COMPUTER No. indirect dialing link with MBC in London. 006110002626, 00642342626 - Australia no. indirect dialing link with Dubai SAT. STN.

Imagine that. It was impossible to participate in those programs, just because somebody in the TeleYemen management has taken this absurd and provocative decision to deprive thousands of Yemeni viewers to do what all other viewers in the world are entitled to do.

This is total injustice. Some Yemeni nationals are really in need of any new financial income, as we are going through hard times in our living standard.

We had hoped to win some of the prizes in order to improve our current level of income.

TeleYemen ignored our basic rights as customers by implementing unjustified and silly rules which denied us our legitimate rights.

So, I am awriting to ask TeleYemen's top management to explain to me and all customers: WHY?

1- Is it due to mishandling by their own operators who may play around and use the international dialing for their own benefit so as to avert any payment of bills in connection with these unlawful usage of their positions?

2- Or is it because some big guy in TeleYemen - is trying to avoid extra expenditure. Really, very thoughtful of him.

3- Or is it because a political motive is behind this unfair decision (most unlikely).

I am sure, TeleYemen will try its level best to come up with a plausible explanation to this dilemma. We are left in the dark, and we do not feel we are given the appropriate service.

I am waiting, alongwith many other confused TeleYemen customers to hear from the company regarding this matter.

Thanks to the Yemen Times.

Abdulrahman A.Ghafoor Khan
Saudi Air Employee.

New Hope for Heart Patients

I have observed that the number of persons suffering from high blood pressure and Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) is increasing in Yemen, as in many other places in the world. The foremost reasons for this are excessive smoking, excessive chewing of qat, psychological stress, lack of physical activity and unbalance diet (high in fat and low in fiber).

Recent studies have shown that change in lifestyle, food habits and stress management will, not only reduce the risk of CHD, but also reverse the disease process. It also reduces the need of medicines and improves the quality of life. If one takes proper steps and strictly follows the laid down program, it prevents angioplasties and bypass surgeries. The credit for this pioneering research work goes to a young doctor of San Francisco, USA, Dr. Dean Ornish. He learned meditation and yoga from an Indian Guru and used successfully for his patients for stress management. He is the first man who broke the age-old and widely accepted belief that once someone gets athrosclerosis or CHD, he can't be cured as it is a progressive process, it can't be regressed or reversed.

Dr. Dean Ornish published his eye opening study in "Lancet", the prestigious medical journal. He showed that after following his program not only angina (chest pain) reduced, but it almost disappeared. Patients who were unable to walk due to pain of angina started jogging a few kilometers without angina. They showed angiographically reversal of blockages in their coronary arteries. Dr. Ornish's program opened a new era in the man-

agement of CHD. It gave new hope to patients of CHD. It is an alternative mode of the treatment to angioplasties & CABG (Bypass Surgeries). It also reduces medication. Dr. Dean Ornish is now one of the most busy physicians in the USA today. He is an advisor to the President of the USA.

His management techniques include:

- 1- Avoidance of risk factors of CHD (lack of physical activity, overweight, smoking, stress, high intake of fat in foods).
- 2- Low fat vegetarian diet.
- 3- Stress management
- 4- Regular moderate exercise.

It is observed that after following this program for only 21 days, 90% of the patients felt significant improvement due to reduction in their angina.

I wish to draw the attention of my Yemeni brethren towards this program through the Yemen Times. I wish that persons who are suffering from CHD should improve by following this program and avoid angioplasties and bypass surgeries and lead a healthier life without problem.

Persons who are not suffering with CHD can prevent it by following this program and remain healthy and lead a better and longer life. I wish to share this good news about heart patients with all readers of the paper. Any person who wishes to know more about this program, should read "Dr. Dean Ornish's Program for reversing heart disease". This book may change their life.

Dr. V. K. Nigam

- 1) Israeli Authorities Implement Strict Measures in Golan Heights.
- 2) Somali Factions' Negotiations Reach a Dead End.
- 3) South Korea Calls On China to Respect the Wish of Fugitive North Korean.
- 4) Russian Parliament Rejects a Draft Decision to Relief Yeltsin of His Duties.

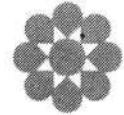
Article Summary:

Unanimous Agreement on Fair Elections - editorial.

It is quite normal that all agree on the necessity to hold free and fair elections. This aim represents the crux of the agreement reached between the two coalition partners. Many political parties have erroneously assumed that they are excluded from participating in supervisory committees. These parties have now discovered the reverse is true. The agreement between Islah and the PGC have favorably referred to other parties.

The Council of Ministers have stressed the government's commitment to neutralizing public funds, public positions and the official media. This step has come to dispel all doubts regarding the fairness of the elections. In view of this wide net of guarantees and regulations, participating in the elections must be a foregone conclusion. All political parties and organizations should start preparing for that great democratic event. They must all seek to nominate competent and well experienced candidates. When such worthy people are elected, the legislative authority will be better able to carry out its full duties and responsibilities.

TAJ SHEBA HOTEL CONDUCTS SALES BLITZ



TAJ SHEBA HOTEL Sana'a leading hotel was busy this Ramadhan with all their Executives on the field conducting their first annual client satisfaction study. According to their sales manager Mr. Shankar, the response exceeded all expectations and the analysis of the feedback has been started.

The client survey will provide the hotel with invaluable information on which to base its constant program of innovation and service enhancement for which the hotel is ever popular.

"Only through client feedback and development of better services will we ensure that the TAJ SHEBA is placed to continue its leadership of the Best Address in the city of Sana'a he added.

The hotel management thank all the heads from different sector who spared their time for the 'Sales Blitz.

ألف مبروك

أجل التهانى القلبية للأخوين
باسم محمد عبدالعزيز السقاف
شقيق عبدالولي عبدالعزيز السقاف
بمناسبة زفافهم الميمون

المهنؤون:

عماد أحمد عبدالله السقاف، وليد عبدالله علي السقاف، نائف عبدالله طه السقا، رضا عبدالرحمن السقاف، خالد عبدالولي الأديبي، طه محمد عوض الأديبي

تهنئة من الأعماق

نهني الأخوين
نبيل درهم عبده أنعم
مراد علي عبده أنعم
بمناسبة عقد القران.

ألف مبروك، مع أمنياتنا لهم بالسعادة الدائمة،
المهنؤون: مختار عبدالله قاندي، ياسين الحاج،
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

١٠٠٠ مبروك

أجل التهانى والتبريكات نرفها للأخ / عبده فارغ
بمناسبة عيد الميلاد الأول لنجله المبارك
محمد عبده فارغ، وعقبال مائة عام.
المهنؤون: ندى عادل، أحمد ناصر ضيف الله،
هشام الحزالي، مروان النجار، حزام، أمين جمال قايد،
وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء و موظفي شركة الأدوية

مبروك

أطيب التهانى القلبية للإستاذ / طارق عبدالواسع هائل
بمناسبة ارتقاؤه مولودة أسماها

شذى

ألف مبروك، مع تمنياتي لها بدوام الصحة وبجياة سعيدة.
منصور محمد غالب، وكافة منتسبي المتحددة للتأمين

Al-Tilal Wins Al-Mureisi Football Championship in Aden

Al-Tilal football team was able to achieve a spectacular 2-nil victory by defeating Al-Shulah of Aden on Sunday 11 February. This final match was held on Al-Hubeishi stadium in Aden as part of the fifth football tournament named after the late footballer Ali Muhsin Al-Mureisi. The powerful Al-Tilal has snatched the tournament's cup for the second time.

This victory comes to enhance the red team's status among other Adeni teams, and to emphasize its determination to win the general football tournament which started last Sunday. Will Al-Tilal be able to keep its advance position? Or will there be any surprises? We'll have to wait and see.



Youths Fund Council Starts Supporting Sports Activities

The board of the Youths Fund has, in its latest meeting, endorsed the disbursement of YR. 500,000 as part of its support for sports activities during 1997. A sum of YR. 250,000 was also handed out to each sports association and sports of excellent grade. Grade B and C clubs were awarded YR. 125,000 and YR. 25,000 respectively.

These sums of money represent first installments for supporting a number of sports activities during the next period. Financial difficulties represent a major obstacle impeding the progress and development of sports in Yemen. This generous disbursement of support money is quite an encouraging step for sports people in this country.

Yemen to Participate in Table Tennis Championship

The General Association of Table Tennis in Yemen has received an invitation from its counterpart in Qatar to attend the fourth Qatar International Table Tennis Championship due to be held on 23 February. A number of well known international stars including seven of the best Chinese players will be participating in this championship. The Chinese coach in Yemen, Mr. He Jian Min, will be choosing the Yemeni players who will participate in the championship.

FIFA Representative to Visit Yemen Next March

Assigned a special task by the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA), Mr. Ahmed Hajis, the secretary-general of the Qatari Football Association, will visit Yemen on Monday 10 March.

His assignment is to inspect the major football stadiums in Yemen which will receive the 1998 World Cup Asian matches with Uzbekistan, Indonesia and Kamodia. Me Hajis is expected to submit a comprehensive report regarding the state of readiness of stadiums, players' quarters and hotels in general for hosting these games which are to take place during next April.

On another level, sources at the Yemeni General Football Association have confirmed the Iraqi coach Mr. Hazim Jassam will arrive in Yemen on 20th February to start training the country's national team for these upcoming matches. He is expected to review the preliminary list of players chosen to represent Yemen in the World Cup games.

Yemen Times has been informed that Jassam is in a continuous contact with the Football Association, closely follows the matches of the Excellent Football tournament and assesses the players' performances.

The Football Association will ensure good air transportation to better coordinate with the other football associations that are going to take part in the games.

Announcement

The General Authority for Pensions and Social Security (GAPSC) wishes to invite potential business partners to consider the possibilities to make use of its buildings under construction in Sana'a, Ibb and Mukalla.

The GAPSC is willing to consider any proposal to make the best regarding use of these buildings. Should any foreign firm find interest in dealing with us in mutual investment or to hire any of our building please contact Mr. Lotfi Hojayra, Dir. Gen. of the Investment Department in GAPSC, tel. 250901, or fax 250900 Att: Lotfi Hojayra.

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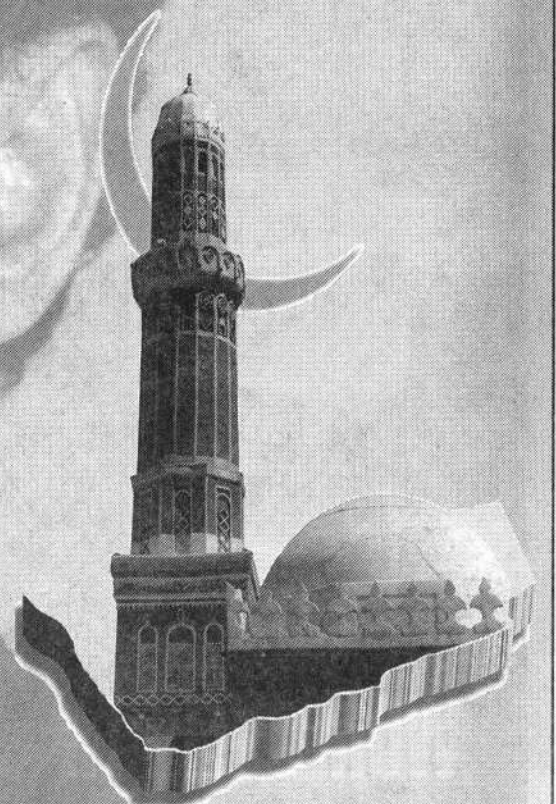
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congratulate the Yemeni people and our able leader
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YOS Offer Reward to Whoever Helps Find an Active Nesting:

Have You Seen a Bold Ibis?

Worldwide there are about 9,700 species of birds. These range from the tiny Bee Hummingbird of Cuba which weighs only a few grams, to the giant Ostrich which stands taller than 2 meters, and may tip the scales at more than 200 kilograms. Of all these birds more than 1,100 are threatened and in need of immediate protection.

Of the threatened species about 300 are endangered and face possible extinction within the next 10 to 20 years. One of the world's most critically endangered birds is the Bald Ibis. This unusual bird is known from a few dwindling colonies in Morocco, and a few semi-wild birds in Turkey. The total wild population hovers precariously around 200.

During the past twelve years Bald Ibises have been seen several times in Yemen. While some experts think that the Yemeni birds are actually migrants from the Turkish conservation importance of locating any Bald Ibis colonies which may exist in Yemen, the Yemen Ornithological Society is offering a YR 10,000 cash reward to whoever can help us find nesting Bald Ibises here. This reward will be paid to the first person who can take a member of the society to an active nesting colony of these birds. There is a separate reward offered for each additional colony which is found.

Bald Ibises are much larger than chickens, with dark

feathers that reflect a greenish light. As the name implies there are no feathers on their red heads though they do have a shaggy mane of feathers growing from the neck. The red legs are quite long which makes these birds look like sea birds. In spite of their looks, Bald Ibises usually feed in fields where they catch insects, among other things, with their long red beaks. They build their rough nests in colonies on cliff ledges.

Recently a British man reported that he found a colony of five Bald Ibis nests in the vicinity of Yarim during the 1970's. At the time, he didn't realize the importance of his discovery so this information has remained a secret.

It has now come to light and the search is on. Anyone who thinks that he/she located a Bald Ibis colony should contact Mr. David Stanton at fax: (01) 234 438 or write to him at P. O. Box 2002, Sanaa.

Correspondence should include a brief description of the site, including the number of nests/birds, and any activities observed. When a colony is located it should not be approached too closely as this may disturb the birds and prevent

them from successfully raising their young. All rewards will be paid, in cash, as each report is substantiated by a representative of YOS.

By: David B. Stanton
YOS Chairman



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