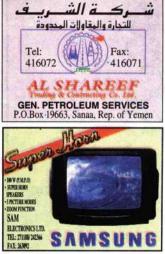


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Any comprehensive and final border agreement should take thes spirit of the Tayif Accord. In other words, it should lay down the framework for interaction and cooperation. The border should be a meeting point, rather than a line separating the two neighboring countries.

In specific terms, Yemen should raise certain issues which are important to its people. These include:

In my view, unless the border accord leads to more trust and cooperation for the mutual benefits, it is not worth concluding.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times.

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Border Negotiations

The Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are on the verge of agreement regarding the delineation of the borderline separating them. The 2 sides have been negotiating proposals exchanged between them until the gap separating them today is said to be minimal. More progress is expected over the next few weeks, as a Yemeni delegation prepares to head for Saudi Arabia.

This breakthrough in relations, following the visit by Prince Navif bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Interior Minister, to Sanaa last week, allowed optimism to prevail in both countries. There is a welcome change in mood.

1. Yemen should get a Saudi pledge and commitment to approve its admission to the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC). 2. Yemen should demand a Saudi commitment to give its laborers the right of free QUALITY • FASTEST movement and work in Saudi Arabia, without the conditions which are presently enforced. 3. Yemen should demand payment of the arrears in budgetary support committed by Saudi Arabia in the National Reconciliation Agreement of 1970. The Kingdom used to pay US\$ 100 million every year as budgetary support. Accumulated arrears are for the seven-year period since 1990. 4. Yemen should seek to include, as part of the border deal, an agreement giving Yemeni farmers and Saudi manufacturers free access to the other country's market. Another clause regarding the free flow of investment capital should be incorporated.

But the issue at hand is not a matter of a line separating the two neighbors. The border agreement should form the basis for better understanding and stronger cooperation between the two countries. Unless a visible normalization of relations is achieved, a border agreement will be meaningless, especially to Yemen.

The Republic of Yemen should remember that it got nothing out of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Security Agreement signed with Saudi Arabia. Therefore, there is no incentive for it to sign yet another agreement, especially not a comprehensive one, unless it leads to more trust and cooperation for mutual benefit.



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Issues Facing Yemen

As the Republic of Yemen gropes through the maze that sociopolitico-economic transformation is fast becoming, some issues stand in its way more than others. These are the things it must address in order to attain a place among the world community

I kept thinkg about these issues and what they are. I do not presume I have got them all, or even that I have got them right. But I did come up with three internal and three external issues. Here they are:

1) Economic Reform & Development:

Economic issues, taken as a lump sum, are one of the key factors in Yemen's evolution. What is happening to develop-ment? How fairly are the proceeds of development distributed? How can reform be sustained leading to a less distorted economy? Those are the issues.

2) Political Transformation & Harmony:

As we stumble ahead with our democratization, the steepness of the little curves - up and down - in our overall trend is important. This country cannot take any more severe jolts. How to keep the political transformation going, and preserve harmony is the issue here.

3) Change of Guards:

Page 22

With time, Yemen's socio-power structure will have to change. The traditional power centers - army, tribal leaders, religious clergy, government bureaucracy, etc. - have to give way to new ones. These include businessmen, entrepreneurs, professionals and the likes. The main issue here is how to achieve such a transfer of power peacefully.

4) Yemen's External Affiliation:

Yemen needs to belong. But where does it belong? The issue of belonging and external affiliation is critical. The AGCC is a visible option. A Red Sea format is another. How and where Yemen belongs will determine its bed-fellows, and hence its place and fortunes in the world community.

5) Israel and the Peace Process:

Coming to grips with the peace process is a key issue facing us in the near future. Yemen should make up its mind, as to how it will react and interact with this matter. We cannot wait until the issues fall on us. Support for peace with Israel should be an acceptable option if the minimum Arab rights are met.

6) Globalization:

The fall-out from technologic advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this, and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to to do, th ebetter prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

Those are some of the issues with which the country has to come to terms in order to chart out a course that ensure stability and prosperity. Whatever it is our country does, Yemen has to satisfy two basic conditions:

a) To achieve internal legitimacy based on the willfull and informed consent of the The Publisher people, and b) To interact globally as a good world citizen.

CAN WE DO IT?

Italian Tourists Released

Two Italian tourists, a man and a A Moroccan parliamentary delwoman, were released in the late afternoon of Sunday, July 27th, following a kidnapping that lasted for about 32 hours. The kidnapper, Mr. Abdulaziz Bukair, who is an opposition politician belonging to the League of the Sons of Yemen, had financial complaints against the state. He picked up the Italian, some 10 kilometers south of Taiz on the main highway and took refuge to Al-Yamaniyah in Khowlan, some 50 kilometer south-east of Sanaa. Tribal leaders were able to mediate the release.

More Banks in Yemen

The Faisal Islamic Bank (Yemen) is expected to open for business in Yemen shortly. The Bahrainbased bank, the fourth Islamic bank in Yemen, has already rented offices in Sanaa and Aden for its business.

Yemeni immigrant capitalists are considering establishing two banks in Yemen. They have assigned a local banker to study the prospects and report to them in two weeks.

Egypt's Trade Minister Årrives in Sanaa

The Minister of Trade of Egypt, Dr. Ahmed Juwaily, arrived in Sanaa yesterday, Sunday, 27 July, at the head of a business delegation representing 150 companies. The visit coincides with an exhibition for Egyptian Products.

Yemeni Minister of Trade and Supply, Abdulrahman Mohamed Ali Othman, told the media that the two sides will discuss possible customs exemptions for certain goods and a free-trade zone with the aim of boosting bilateral trade exchange.

Yemen Mounts **Campaign to Control Desert Locust**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources is holding a one-week workshop on ways and means to combat the desert locust. The workshop in Sanaa, 26-31/7/1997, brings together about 40 trainees from different governorates. They are getting theoretical and practical training on how to fight this threat to Yemen's agriculture.

The Food and Agriculture Organization has warned of a new wave of desert locusts emanating from Saudi Arabia, thus is poised to invade Yemen and cross over to Africa. That story was reported by Yemen Times last week.

> 26th September Gets A New Press

Yemeni-Moroccan **Parliamentary Talks**

egation headed by the Speaker, Dr. Mohammed Jalal Al-Saeed, is holding official talks in Yemen. The Moroccan speaker, who is also the Chairman of the Federation of Arab Parliaments, coordinating with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of the Yemeni Parliament, regarding bilateral and regional cooperation.

NGO Law Task Force Revived

Chaired by Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council, the National Task Force (NTF) for drafting the new NGO law was revived last week. The one-year old NTF was re-structured under the auspices of the Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs Committee of the Consultative Council.

frame for its work leading to a nation-wide NGO conference in mid-December. In the mean-while, the NTF will hold weekly meetings will evolve the NGO law draft.

Spanish Tourism

Travel and roads into the Spanish market. A large Spanish delegation of tour operators, tourism journalists, and other market leaders are visiting Yemen at the moment. We are trying to interest the Spanish tour operators in Yemen as a viable tourist destination,' said Marco Livadiotti of UNI-VERSAL.

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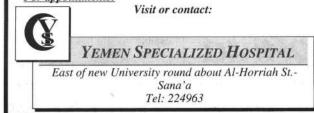
Chief of Gynaecology and Obstetrics departments in Rene Dubos - Pontoise Hospital in Paris. The international expert will arrive from 27th of this month to 7th of August. He will offer medical consultations and perform laparoscopic operations and open surgery for women.

• The starting of Urological Endosurgery: Where Prostatic enlargement and Ureteric and Urethral strictures treated by Endoscope and stones of kidney, Ureteric stones are fragmented and removed using Endoscopies under supervision of skilled experts.

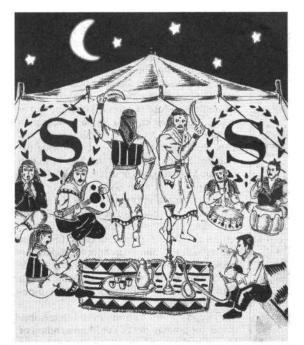
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The 26th September newspaper has just installed new publishing and printing presses. The newspaper can now come out on time and in full colors, according to the newspaper. Congratulations.

No More Electric **Blackout in Sanaa**

There has been a pleasant surprise over the last few days no more blackout in Sanaa. The daily repeat blackouts that used to be a normal part of life have been less and less frequent and have now totally disappeared.

Yemen Times would like to use this occasion to hail the new minister of electricity, Mr. Ali Hameed Sharaf for this achievement.

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'President Saleh upholds the Revolution."

Brigadier Ali Abdullah Al-Sallal is currently the Rapporteur of the Defense and Security Committee at the Consultative Council (Upper House). He occupied the post of Yemen's ambassador to Algeria for a long time.

The son of Field Marshall Abdullah Al-Sallal, the person who led the 26th September Revolution, Ali enjoys a lot of respect and prestige. He himself participated in the revolution against the Imam. He was imprisoned for his activities.

Bin Sallam of Yemen Times had an opportunity to interview Brig. Al-Sallal during his busy schedule at the Consultative Council. Excerpts:

about the Consultative Council (CC)?

A: The CC is a forum that brought together a number of prominent Yemeni figures with wide experience and varying backgrounds. It is intended to be a sort of reference point for the President.

It discusses and proposes drafts of laws, raises important issues and recommends decisions and actions to the President. We offer our frank and honest opinion. The council members, with their wide experiences, have a lot to offer in many fields. If this council continues to be active the way it now is, then a lot will be achieved.

Q: Can you be specific. What do you hope to achieve?

A: Yemen has great resources. It only needs to channel them the right way. We hope to get things going the way they were in the 1970s and early 1980s. During that period, Yemen had achieved great developmental leaps forward. No such thing happened since the late 1980s. We have not heard of any big industrial or agricultural project. The President has unveiled many great and important plans and projects during the recent weeks. We want to support him as he

obal TeleMedicon

Q: Can you talk to us briefly leads the country meeting with the heads of committees. That is at the development level.

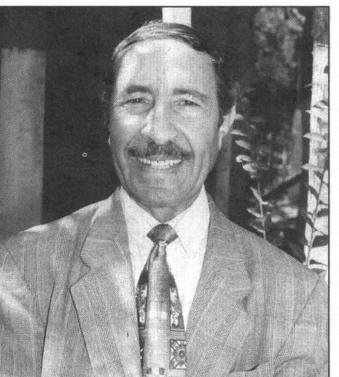
At the level of relations with out neighbors, the CC hopes to be instrumental in evolving proper and balanced attitudes and positions. This is important.

The CC itself is addressing many pressing issues that need to be urgently and effectively tackled. These include health, education, water, the environment, the rapid increase in population, and many other important issues. Sana'a, for instance, will not have any water left in 15 years' time. Other cities such as Taiz are already suffering from this problem. Of course, you are aware of the specialized permanent com-mittees which are working on specific issues. In general, I can say that the CC

wants to enable Yemen fit well in the 21st century.

Q: Given those ambitious objectives, how do you assess the work of the CC so far?

A: So far, it is a good and rather satisfying experience. The head of the Council, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, has vast knowledge of Yemen's problems and the workings of government. He headed the government for a long time in the past. So, he stears the CC well.



The CC members are not tied down to any government bureaucracy. In that sense, we can all think clearly and constructively. That means we can look at the way things move from a distance.

If things move according to what the President and the CC hope, then the future looks tre-

mendously promising. Of course, change is something difficult, to say the least. We'll face some stiff opposition by those few who feel that their narrow personal interests will be harmed by the new drive. They want Yemen to remain in a sea of troubles.

These people must fully realize that the stability and security of the state will be to their advantage. We must all take care of the poor and vulnerable people in our society. Otherwise, accumulating hatred will lead to an explosion that no one can stop. Anyway, the CC is only about

two months old. And it is too early to assess its effectiveness.

Q: As the rapporteur of the Defense and Security Committee at the CC, how do you view the current situation vis-avis the country's defense policies and strategies?

A: Yemen's defense and military situation is very good, especially at the borders. Our aim is to develop the armed forces along modern and professional lines.

Yemen's armed forces serve a strictly defense purpose. We have no hostile intentions towards anvone.

Yemen is in the process of building itself. This requires peace and stability. We do not want any trouble.

Q: It is alleged these days that the Yemeni army is being purged of all elements that are even remotely linked to the socialist party. Many were discharged, and many more had their salaries stopped. What do you say to that?

A: There is a reform process going on, not only in the armed forces, but all over officialdom. If what you say is true, then it is going contrary to the President's decree pardoning those who took part in the secession. I personally intermediated on behalf of, and got pardon for, many figures who would have otherwise been put on trial. I do hope that the Presidential amnesty will be applied to include all concerned members of the armed forces. There are many military men who fought with the secessionists, but later felt that the unity of Yemen is above all considerations. Such people must be rewarded, not punished.

The Yemeni Socialist Party has greatly harmed itself - first by declaring secession and later by boycotting the elections. However, we must all stop using the word secessionist except to describe those who are really calling for partition. Fortunately, such people are extremely few in number.

Salaries must never be stopped. I have spoken to the President about that. Even during the Imam's reign, imprisoned revolutionaries did not have their salaries stopped.

All officials have to comply with the President's amnesty decree, and never stop the source of livelihood of any person. I will help in this direction.

Q: According to the payrolls, the Yemeni army consists of half a million men. In reality, however, there are less than 200,000 men in uniform. Can you comment n that?

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A: The payroll number is a gross exaggeration. There are large numbers of armed men who serve as personal bodyguards. These people are not part of the regular army. The army does not include any militia of any type.

Q: You mentioned reform in the army. How can the army be reformed under the same old military commanders?

A: Appointing army commanders is the sole responsibility of the Commander in Chief - the President. Appointments of highranking officers are done according to various criteria, including qualifications and experience.

Corruption is an evil found everywhere. The President himself admitted that. We have to work to contain corruption. The President declared many times that those who do not reform will simply have to leave the army.

Q: As the son of Yemen's great revolutionary leader, do you think that the revolutionary process is over?

A: We consider that President Saleh is capable of defending the principles of the Yemeni revolution. Some may think that the revolution is over. The President is still holding to the revolution, its principles, and goals.

Q: But what is left of the revolution's noble and lofty ideals? A: These are not class differences. Few individuals and families have become rich and powerful beyond all reasonable limits.

Continues on page 14



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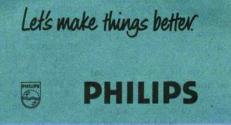
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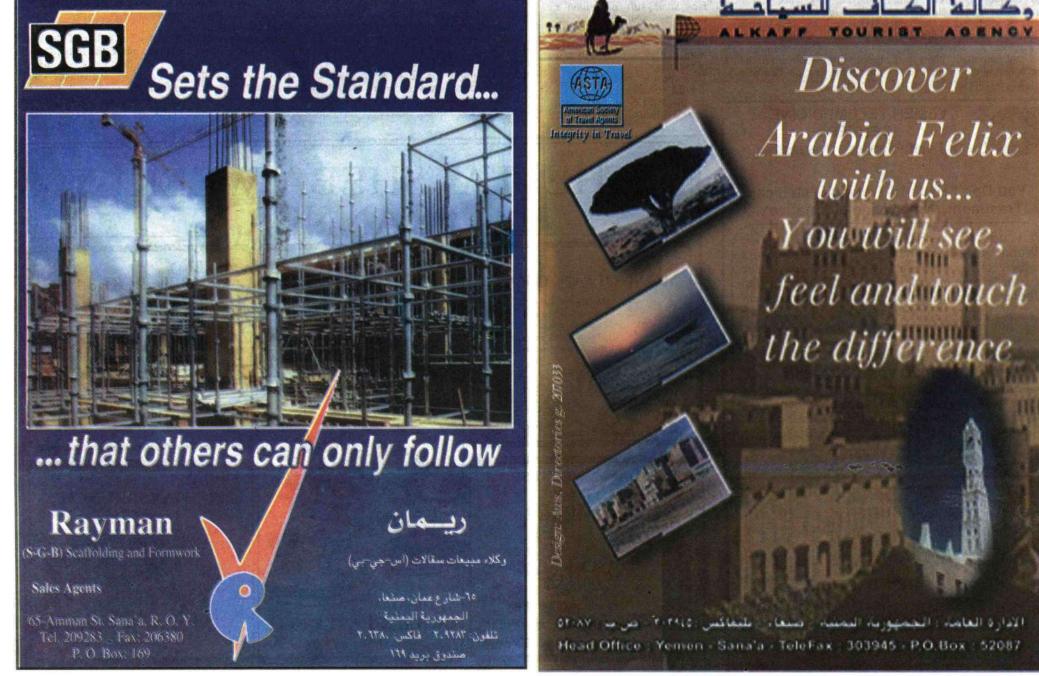


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Compensation for Fatal Accidents and Personal Injury

Sheikh Tariq Abdullah*

Compensation for a fatal accident of a Yemeni citizen prescribed by law is fixed at YR. 750,000. Under whatever circumstances the person accidentally dies, with the exception of natural death, whether in a road accident or at work in an office or in factory or in a house, the person responsible in law for payment of compensation is required to pay to the legal heirs of the deceased victim the sum of YR. 750,000.

The amount of compensation for an injury sustained under similar circumstances varies according to the degree of the injury/s sustained by the victim. The amount is determined according to the nature of injuries which may be temporary or permanent. They may be partial or total. They may may temporary or permanent.

The degrees of such injuries for the purpose of compensation payment are to be certified by a formal medical board and not by an individual physician who treated the injured person.

The labor law in detail defines both the types of injuries and quantifies the quantum of compensation for every type of injury. The law does not differentiate between a foreign and between a Yemeni person/company.

In law both Yemenis and foreigners are liable to pay the same compensation.

There are a number of compulsory and voluntary legal measures which a company should take in order to protect itself against such an eventuality. These are:

- Regularly pay its and the employees contribution under the government's Social Security Scheme and pay contribution for workmen injury.

A default in this respect may get very costly. - In addition to this it may carry out collective insurance of its employees against work and industrial injuries or otherwise.

- Insure all its vehicles against third party risks or carry out comprehensive insurance as the case may be. Only licensed drivers should be allowed to drive a car or a vehicle. Although the law is clear yet foreign companies find themselves paying much more than what is prescribed in law and in certain cases the demand continues and is non ending in order to avoid this the following steps among others should be taken:

- A reasonable sum of money as an ex-gratia payment at the discretion of the company, body or a person who caused the injury should

be made at the start of injury or fatal injury. - The treatment of the injured person should be attended to immediately and followed up to the end. A reliable employee who will not collude with the injured person should be assigned for the purpose. This will avoid possibility of exaggerated vague or false reports of injury and sick leave, etc.

- Compensation should never be settled without a final report of Medical Board and through the Labour Court. If this is not done in spite of the final releases/discharges and receipts of payment the claim must be revived. - Legal advise from an in house adviser (if any) or a legal adviser of the company who should preferably be a practicing lawyer be taken at the very outset. This would avoid the problem of escalating and become complicated which happens so often when advice from laymen employees is followed.

The readers are welcome to suggest a topic that may be of interest or ask any questions which will be answered in future issues of the newspaper.

* Sheikh Tariq is one of the leading lawyers of Yemen. His offices in Aden and Sanaa handle many cases for local and international companies.

Promoting Yemeni-Indian Cooperation

Mr. K.M. Khan is chairman of the bankers, businessmen, etc. This **Asian Coordination Committee on** Palestine in the Indian Upper House (Rajya Sabha). Last week, he visited Yemen.

Mr. Khan's association with Yemen goes back 15 years ago. As a member of the Indian Congress Party, he organized many meetings in his home town of Hayderabad to promote Yemeni-Indian relations.

Dr. Salah Haddash of Yemen Times talked to him and filed the following interview.

Q: What brings you to Yemen?

A: My association with Yemen goes back to a long time. We have age-old relations with Yemen. In Hayderabad, for example, there is a population of about 50,000 Yemeni people. Their language, culture and traditions are still intact. It was very fascinating for us to see Yemen. In specific terms, I am here at the

head of a business delegation in order to promote bilateral trade.

We have set up a company called Khudabaksh Agro Farms in Hayderabad, capitalized at \$25 million. It specializes in sheep and goat It specializes in sheep and goat breeding. There is a very big demand for Indian meat in the Arabian Peninsula. We want to engage potential investors and traders from Yemen.

Q: How successful were you? A: We held many meetings with trip is like a feeler. We are here present our ideas, get to feedback and then work on future possibilities.

I want to insist that the response has been very positive. We have to follow up on this visit.

Q: Which parts of Yemen have you visited?

A: We have already visited Aden. It is a very interesting place and full of potential. I have also stopped on the way between Sanaa and Aden.

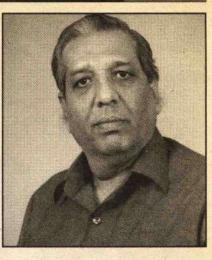
Q: How about political talks?

A: The Indian Ambassador, Mr. Sinha, and I agreed on the need to intensify people-to-people contact and political cooperation between our 2 countries. India and Yemen share identical views on many regional and international issues. We consider Yemen as a very important partner. We hope to increase exchange in the fields of culture, youths, sports, education,

Q: How effective is the joint committee?

A: The joint committee, which has met a couple of years ago, needs to be activated. I think efforts are under way to fix a meeting for this committee later this year.

Both sides are considering new feeling of solidarity and togethareas of cooperation. The joint com- erness. mittee already covers culture, eco-



Page 5

nomics, commerce. Other certain areas of cooperation could also be identified.

Q: At the end of your first visit to this country, what is your overall impression?

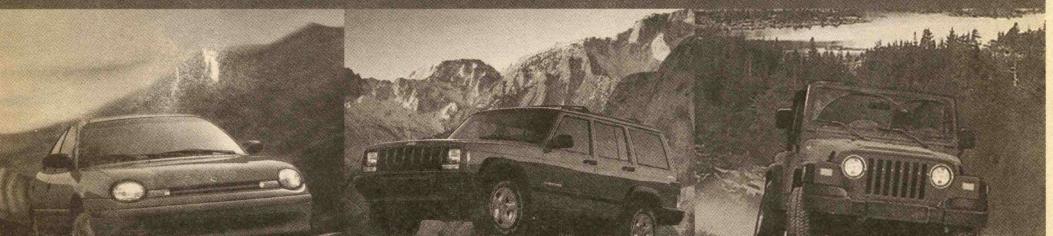
A: Yemen has entered an era of political stability. The economy is picking up. I find the people are hopeful about the reform programs and policies implemented by the government under the leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. I am sure in the next few years, Yemen will prosper.

Q: Is the Yemeni community in Hayderabad interacting with events in Yemen?

A: When the unification of Yemen took place in 1990, I had the big privilege of organizing a meeting to celebrate the event. The Yemeni Ambassador and several key public figures attended.

Yes, there is interaction and a

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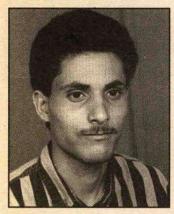
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This is an OPINION page.

Page 6

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

The Trial of the Sixteen



Accused of high treason, the trial of 16 former leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) continues in Sanaa in absentia. The key persons on the list are Ali Salim Al-Beedh, former vice president; Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas, former prime minister; Haitham Qassem Taher, former Haitham Qassem Taher, former minister of defense; Abdul-rahman Al-Jifri, former chairman of the League of the Sons of Yemen Party; Saleh Monasser Al-Siyali, former governor of Aden; Anees Hassan Yahya, former chairman of the YSP bloc in paclignment and others. Thay in parliament, and others. They are all accused of criminal acts against the state and the nation. The list of charges includes the following:

1- declaring secession on 21st May, 1994;

2- forming a secessionist government on 1st June, 1994; 3- conspiring to take over power

by illegitimate means in some areas of the country;

by Abubakar Abdullah*

4- forming military commands that must be restricted to the Ministry of Defense in Sana'a; 5- appointing and promoting high-ranking officials;

6- enforcing secessionist laws; 7- issuing secessionist currency worth 600 dinars;

8- imposing control over various governmental establishments, and reviving pre-unification institutions;

9- adopting a secessionist budget contrary to the constitution and legislations;

10- ceasing the issuing of unified ID cards, and blocking the general population census in the southern governorates; 11- re-establishing the pre-

unification security apparatus; 12establishing information centers abroad;

13- forming an armed gang to lead part of the army for the purpose of changing the state's constitution and system;

14- importing, storing and distributing weapons, ammunition, military equipment and armored vehicles for the purpose of instituting a military rebellion;

15- seeking and taking foreign support to carry out the seces-sion; and several other accusations.

The heading judge Jassar Mohammed Saif has listened to more than 850 documents read by the prosecuting-attorney, who will present 4,000 documents.

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The general prosecutor aims to prove that the 16 persons concerned were involved in preparing for the 1994 war and for secession attempts.

The general prosecutor also cited the violation of 12 articles in the 1990 constitution by the accused. He also cited 9 supposedly relevant articles in the Penal Law # 3 of 1976 and 11 articles in Law # 22 of 1962, concerning crimes detrimental to the public interests.

All this, the general prosecutor asserted, is in accordance with the Penal Law #12 of 1994. Thus, he demands the severest of punishments for the accused, and also demands the return of what they had taken.

The defense is taken up by nine 'voluntary' lawyers, accepted by the court since the accused refused to nominate their own defence lawyers. The defence council includes famous lawyers well-reputed by their own right, though none of them are known for their YSP sympathies.

The defense council contested the court procedures and called them invalid. It asserted that the trial relies on pre-unity legisla-tion which was nullified by the 1990 unification.

The prosecutor has relied on Law # 3, which was issued in Aden in 1976. This law, the defense contested, was superseded by Law #12 of 1994.

EVIDENCE OF THE PROSECUTION:

Many independent legal experts have expressed their doubts regarding the validity of the trial. Their reasoning is that the trial depends on the retroactive application of pre-unity laws that are superseded by post-unification laws. The post-unification laws. The court upheld most of the defense's assertions. Some of the documents submitted by the prosecutor assert the following facts:

- forming the Presidential Council, which is composed of Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Abdulrahman Al-Jifri, Suleiman Nasser Masoud, and others:

- appointing Al-Beedh as president of the Presidential Council:

a secessionist government;

- appointing a governor for Shabwa; pre-secession documents

indicating preparations to form secessionist institutions:

- the names of the members of the Temporary Committee for National Salvation;

documents indicating Al-Jifri's attempts, as a vice-president, to get foreign recognition for the secessionist state; - illegally appointing military and

administrative officials in recently establishment military zones;

forming a council of ministers composed of 30 people;
forming the so-called Council of Defense and some of the decisions it issued;

- Al-Jifri making illegal decisions and appointments, and trans-ferring bank accounts abroad;

 introducing a military com-munication network, a special cipher, military formations, barracks, and zones, and illegally appointing military commanders; forming military commanders,
 forming military axes, specifying their geography, and supplying them with arms and ammunition;

- issuing military orders to execute war plans;

- importing large quantities of explosives, mines, surveillance and radio-jamming equipment, satellite communication equipment, and tens of thousands of military uniforms;

أجمل وأرق التهانى القلبية نزفها للاستاذ

Strilla rockets, sniper rifles; and 2128 containers of various arms and ammunition from Bulgaria; importing military airplanes, communication equipment, radar spare parts, armored-vehicle batteries, shiploads of arms, advanced Mig 29 fighter planes, and seeking the assistance of foreign mercenaries,

- issuing orders to military personnel to strike with various types of arms for the purpose of instigating acts of anarchy, resisting the authorities, resisting authorities, attacking military formations, and piracy in the high seas against civilian ships;

usurping large sums of public funds, and paying several individuals and groups for the purpose of instigating public unrest; and many other similar documents.

QUESTIONS:

Some Yemeni and international legal and political figures view these trials as purely criminal. Others see them as political, indicating the continuing political crisis in Yemen. A few observers even consider the trials as a wasted effort, taking into account

- importing large quantities of the regional and international arms, ammunition, RPG and ramifications of the conflict and ramifications of the conflict and the difficulty in establishing which side fired the first shot.

From the viewpoint of the Socialist Party, the trials stand for the persistence of the ruling authorities to re-open the war files. They delay chances for a comprehensive national reconciliation.

Some opposition party members also view these trials as an attempt to tarnish the image of the Socialist Party, and ruin its reputation, thus undermine its future prospects in competing in elections. This is especially so since the defendants are tried in their former partisan capacities, not as former officials of the Republic. This has put the authorities in a legal and constitutional dilemma. The legal base on which the prosecutor relies is no longer valid.

So the nature of the trials is still unclear. Are they political, criminal, or a mixture of both? Are they going to continue? Are they going to help Yemen or hurt it? Only time will offer answers to those questions.

Abubakar Abdullah is a rising young journalist. He is a columist with YSP's Al-Thawri weekly.

ألف مبروك , يتقدم كل من:



a declaration of secession; - Mr. Anees Hassan Yahya appointing himself head of the so-called Temporary Committee for National Salvation;

 appointing Al-Jifri as vice-president;
 the Presidential Council authorizing Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas to from

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have various activities. Within the region, two years

ago we started a business investment in the Sudan. We have earlier business and interests in Iran, Saudi

Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Seddigi Al-Emadi, Exec-

In addition to the agreement mentioned by Mr. Abdulaziz regarding the exploration for oil, I wish

to say that we are also looking at different areas of

investment. I personally, have discussed with offi-cials in the field of Fishery Wealth.

In 1994 we paid a visit to Hodeida Seaport to assess

possibilities for investing. Then we made pre-

liminary studies. Other sectors of interest to us

utive Chairman, added the following:

include tourism and agriculture.

Assessing the **Social Safety Net Program**

Ahalm Al-Mutawakil, Yemen Times.

As the Republic of Yemen gets poised to implement the third dose in the reform program, much has been said, and little has been done, regarding the social safety net program. The idea behind this program is that the vulnerable groups in society, will be partly shielded from the negative impact of the reform, which inevitably lead o higher prices and more unemployment.

"The main aim of this scheme is to reduce some of the burden of the people. The government has taken several steps in this direc-

tion. First, several development programs and activities are being executed to provide quick and vast employment opportunities for the unskilled and semi-skilled people. The government has attended to the issues of unemployment and poverty," explained Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs.

He was pointing to the establish-ment of the Social Development Fund, the National Program to Limit Poverty, the Social Security Fund, and the Public Works Project - all of which together form the Social safety Net Program of Yemen. In addition, there is the on-going cooperation with several local and international NGOs in implementing These programs have different focal points.

The main objective of the Social Development Fund is to combat poverty through encouraging income-generating small projects. The Public Works Project, on the other hand, targets unskilled groups of society by offering employment to manual workers through the execution of construction works.

The Social Development Fund's resources have, by the end of June, 1997, reached \$100 million. This money is provided through credits from the World Bank, the European Union and oth-donors. Its work will be done through small credit facilities. It is now implementing an experimental project with a capital of \$1.7 million.

The Fund plans to cover all gov-



ernorates of the Republic and all sectors of activities ranging from rearing farm animals, financing fishing services in coastal areas, promoting handicrafts, etc. The money is given in the form of flexible soft loans. While the Social Development Fund has a primarily developmental orientation, the National Program to Limit Poverty, which has a capital of \$40 million, aims to make the people more selfreliant. It offers several solutions for the problem of poverty in all sectors of society.

There is an additional organ - the Social Security Fund which essentially aims to provide material and financial assistance to needy people such as orphans, women without supporter, and families without breadwinners, etc. It has a capital of YR. 1 billion. It also aims to combat some bad social phenomenon such as vagrancy and begging, by providing specific monthly income. But to what extent has the Social Security Fund been successful in combating begging and other harmful social phenomenon?

That is a difficult question and difficult task.

e is a multi-faceted It is not solely the job of stry of Social Security to ombat it. The whole of society, NGOs and government must get involved. Begging and vagrancy are closely related to economic, social, and other factors. It is quite difficult to solve this problem," insisted Ali Saleh problem." Abdullah.

The Public Works Project aims to implement laborintensive public works such as road paving, land cultivation, maintenance of schools/clinics, and other similar projects. It is being implemented in cooperation with the World Bank with an overall budget of \$28 million. Implementation has already started at the beginning of this year. The project aims to employ unskilled people, and offer training and re-training for future needs.

One of the major problems of the Social Safety Net Program is that it involves a number of projects which are independent of each other, and which have no

coordination among them. An agreement has been reached lately giving the supervision and coordination responsibility to the Ministry of Social Affairs. A republican decree is expected to be issued to this effect.

Finally, great efforts have been exerted during the last few years in offering vocational and technical training to unemployed persons. The General Authority for Vocational and Technical Training is now cooperating with the private sector in many training programs and the management of the Vocational Training Fund. The World Bank and several donor countries are financing these programs, which include establishing several training centers. Up to the end of 1996, the available funds have reached \$60 million.

Mr. Saleh Ahmed Ali, Deputy Minister for Social Care, indicated that the pensions part of the Social Safety Net Program represents a big burden on the government. The allocations cover juveniles, widows, the elderly, the handicapped, and the families of imprisoned people. "The number of beneficiaries was about 15,000 persons in 1990. The total amount dispensed was YR. 200 million. Every individual was paid YR. 250 with an additional YR.50 for every dependent, up to a maximum of YR.600 per family," he said.

By 1996, the number of beneficiaries jumped to 50,000 cases. Social Security Law # 31 of 1996 also raised the minimum monthly payment per beneficiary to YR. 500, with an additional YR.100 for every dependent, up to a maximum of YR.1,000.

There is another project which provides assistance kind in social centers. This is in the form of clothes, education, rehabilitation for handicapped, etc. Two centers - one in Sanaa and the other in Aden - are now operational in cooperation with the UN. The cost of the program is estimated at \$988,300. This sum will be divided in three parts payments for international experts and volunteers, training courses, and materials. Work on the project started in 1996, and is set to continue for two years. At the conclusion of the project, many qualified people will be able to train and rehabilitate the handicapped. Still another project, CBR, is being implemented in cooperation with the Swedish Rada Barnen organization. It aims to provide care for handicapped children. The project is active in the governorates of Taiz, Lahej, Abyan, Aden, and Ibb.

Qatari Investors Eye Yemeni Market

Arabia, etc.

Mr. Abdulaziz Bin Hamad Al-Sudani, Director ments? of Gulf Petroleum Co. (Sudan) Ltd. (W.LL), A: Of course, we are based in Qatar. But we do spoke to Dr. Salah Haddash.

Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen? A: We came to negotiate with concerned officials in the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources (MOMR) in Yemen to discuss a concession agreement for an exploration bloc in Al-Masila, Hadhramaut. We already have a draft contract which could be finalized shortly.

Q: Is this project your first involvement in investing in Yemen?

A: Yes, this is our first involvement with Yemen. We hope it will lead to other businesses.

Q: In which other countries do you have invest-



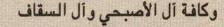
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July 28th, 1997

What Money Can't Buy

By: Fatima Mahdi *

Calcutta, Paris, Washington and Sana'a - What do these cities have in common? Their share of human misery and isolation, commonly found amongst the poor.

poor. The destitute are everywhere, and they range from invalid infants to the ailing elderly. These are people who are often ostracized from society, because they are supposedly beyond hope. Thankfully, these cities are not solely sisters in sorrow, for they also share the healing hand of Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity.

Mother Theresa's mission, now spread in 132 countries with over 600 homes, has provided for many the only happiness they have ever had. "Our aim is to look after those who need immediate care, and we never give up hope," says Sister Arundati, the head-sister at Mother's Home in Sana'a.

In 1973, the mission started in Hodeidah and is now also active in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden. In Sana'a, it is run by seven sisters. These nuns, whether from Africa or Europe, share a common goal of making people who have lost hope feel loved and cared for. The current foreign minister and deputy prime minister, Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, has been continually supportive of the mission. "He has been of great help to us," says the sister. Locally, volunteers -- usually expatriates, continue to offer their services by feeding and clothing the handicapped.

Located in Safia, the Home currently has 85 people. The majority of those present are physically and mentally challenged children, between the ages of seven and ten. The rest are the elderly, many of whom are there to spend their last years in peace. Most of these people, when found, were handed over to the nuns; but there are also those hailing from affluent families. These are individuals who have been secretly discarded, perhaps because they are too ill and hence a burden.

The Home exists for people deprived of hope. So what makes the sisters persevere? "There is always



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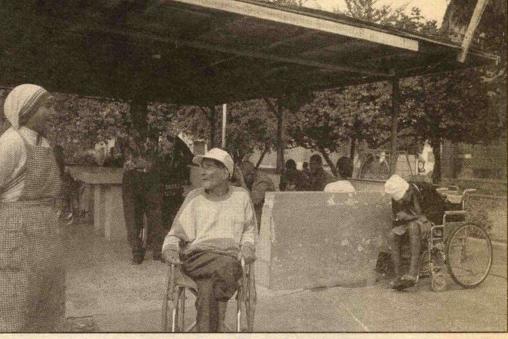
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hope in people, and you should never stop helping. Constant care can make miracles, even if it is over a long period of time," says Sister Arundati. She goes on to tell about some of the mentally and physically crippled children, who were formerly too severely damaged to even move. With patient and constant attention, some of these children can today help themselves. If nothing else, they can now show their feelings with their innocent smiles. Tranquillity prevails over the Home, where the breezy rooms are occupied by children. The aged are in separate sections. Their faces light up with excitement when they see the sisters. An elderly lady grabs a sister's hand as she walks by, and expresses her gratitude by saying, "Please don't ever leave us."

The uniqueness in Mother Theresa's mission lies in its devout pursuit of helping the poorest of the poor - the so-called vulnerable in the jargon of the World Bank and other international organizations. The people who are admitted have no financial support. To run the Home, the sisters rely heavily on what they call "Divine Providence". Apparently, whenever the sisters have had shortages, they have invariably been blessed with a solution. The Mission does not solicit for donations, but functions on the principle that 'good moves the heart of

. people'.

The Home is rapidly reaching its maximum capacity. The head-sister says that there are often instances when she is forced to reject people, simply because there is no room. A reason for this overcrowding is that Yemen, like most other developing countries, has yet to build an extensive welfare mechanism for the destitute. For example, after a child has spent a few years at the mission, there is nowhere he or she can go. "Some individuals have been with us for over two decades," sighs a sister.

Mother Theresa's Home helps those who have not been given a chance. These destitute people have been discarded by society; a cruelty in itself. However, it is never too late to develop new attitudes and more awareness. Education can create compassion and understanding, but caring comes naturally to all. Mother Theresa's Home remains a prime example, for it runs solely on what money cannot buy; unconditional love.

* Fatima is a young woman from India who is doing a few-weeks internship at Yemen Times while visiting her folks here in Sanaa. She is a university student in the USA.

Digging Out the Mines!

Of the 66,000 mines planted and left behind by the secessionist forces in 1994, the majority are still underground, waiting to claim, yet more victims. News has repeatedly flashed across the TV screen and newspaper front pages giving details of new victims, mostly children and civilians.

The Yemeni Government had given this matter its priority, immediately following the war, but its resources uncovered only a third of the mines. Many more are still down there. Now the Americans have come to the rescue.

A recent visit by a representative of the Department of Defense (DOD) to Sanaa carried the good news. The DOD will finance a full demining and training operation. An assessment team will arrive in Yemen during September to draw up the logistics and the budgetary needs of the effort. American demining efforts clean up 99.6% of the mines. According to a military expert, 'they even get out the duds'.



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Administration Manager, National Trading Company, P. O. Box 1108, Al-Qasar Al-Jumhory Street, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen (Telephone: 272 983). Most of the affected regions are around Aden, in addition to isolated spots in Lahej, Abyan and Hadhramaut. There are no maps or even clues as to where the stuff is buried, originally intended to hold back the advancing unionist forces. That is why a full scale across the board sweep effort is needed to cover roughly 25,000 square kilometers.

Mine casualties, so far, have been remarkably low, partly possibly because people have abandoned suspect fields and grazing lands. That is why the demining process, will end up giving back agricultural and pasture land to the farmers and shepherds. will be included for the first time this year.

The effort will probably be fully under way before the year is out. The Americans have put up some US\$ 25 million last year to sweep out mines in the region - notably in Eritrea, Ethiopia, extending all the way to Cambodia. Yemen





sponsored page

AL-JAWFI GROUP OF COMPANIES: Yemeni Investments Responding to Market Needs

Al-Jawfi Group of Companies has a long business history, extending back to 1915. Al-Haj Abdullah Ali Al-Jawfi, Sr. traded coffee beans and raisins, at the port of Aden, for sugar and fabrics, which he then sold in Sana'a.

since then, the business grew tremendously, especially during the Second World War. In the 1960s, his son Mohammed started Al-Jawfi General Trading Stores. He was the first to introduce Chinese goods into the Yemeni market during the 1960s and 1970s. Haj Mohammed is, in fact, the founder of the Yemeni-Chinese Trade Development Association.

Today, the business has moved from trade to an industrial complex, which is managed by a grandson, Abdullah Mohammed Abdullah Al-Jawfi. The young Abdullah has introduced modern ways of management and modern approaches to the family business.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Managing Editor of Yemen Times, talked to Mr. Abdullah Al-Jawfi, Jr., at the Al-Jawfi General Plastics Company. He filed this interview.

Q: How was the beginning?

A: My grandfather Abdullah (pbhs) started by buying large quantities of coffee beans and raisins from farmers, mainly in Al-Haima, Bani Matar, Manakha and Bani Hushaish. These products were transported to the port of Aden, where they were bartered for sugar, fabrics and other manufactured commodities, which were then sold in Sana'a.

Then after the rise of the People's Republic of China, trade with China was established. Though China was internationally isolated during the early 1960s, my grandfather Abdullah (pbhs) and his son Mohammed engaged it extensively by imported great quantities of Chinese products. Most of these products were distributed in the Yemeni and Gulf markets, which were not developed then as they are now. This led to the establishment of the Yemeni-Chinese Trade Development Association.

Yemeni relations with China have continued to develop in many fields, since then.

Q: How did you move from trade to industry?

A: The year 1967 witnessed the establishment of the first Yemeni company for manufacturing plastic goods. It was called Maain Private Plastics Company. This company became the nucleus of Al-Thawra Industrial Complex - one of the most important industrial establishments in Yemen today. The partners in this enterprise are Mohammed Abdullah Al-Jawfi, Abdulghani Al-Rammah, and Ahmed Al-Darman.



Other companies were later formed. These include the Yemeni Plastics Company, the Arab Petrochemicals Company, the Yemeni-Chinese Furniture Company, Al-Thawra Complex for Paints and Insecticides, and the Red Sea Detergents Company in Taiz. The last one is a partnership between Mohammed Al-Jawfi and Mohammed Al-Hashidi.

In 1992, this company in which you are carrying this interview, the General Plastics Company, was formed. This one is a 100% Al-Jawfi-owned.

It started with manufacturing consumer products such as shoes, etc. The company has now progressed to producing many household items and kitchen utensils. It is the first Yemeni company to be fully computerized. The Minister of Industry will shortly visit us to inaugurate two new production lines.

Q: How many workers are employed in this factory?

A: There are 45 factory workers (25 males and 20 females). In addition to 20 office (clerical) employees. All our employees are Yemeni. Some were trained in Syria. We had employed the expertise of people from China and Japan.

(Yemen Times met with some of the workers at the factory who expressed their satisfaction with the work conditions and wages they receive.)

Q: Do you export your products to other countries?

A: Some of our products are exported to the neighboring markets, whether the Gulf region or East Africa. Eritrea used to be an important market for us, but business relations were stopped after the recent crisis.

Our products are of high quality. They are sought after by many importers. Our reputation is our capital asset.

Q: What sort of problems do you face in your business?

A: Our most pressing concern now is the new tax law. It is quite unfair to local industries. This law imposes a 5% tax on all imported equipment and machinery. In addition, there is a 5% sales tax as well as a 25% customs tax. This makes goods imported from foreign countries cheaper than those produced locally!

Another tax law, introduced four months ago, has forced us to stop work on our ready-made garments factory. We found that, with the recently imposed taxes, the factory is no longer economically viable. More than 700 workers lost their jobs because of a tax that was not well thought out. We imported some of the machinery, but had to cancel other orders due to the new taxes. Many other enterprises also suffer from the same problem.

Q: What about your sales?

A: We are now in a recession due to the pevailing economic conditions, coupled with unfair taxes, leading to falling market purchasing power, on the one hand; and higher production costs, on the other. We are now operating at 45% of the factory's capacity. We have a lot of unsold goods. The local market is not what it used to be.

The other problem we face is smuggling. Large quantities of products similar to ours are smuggled into the country from neighboring countries. We are unable to compete because of the high taxes. So we have sent a request, through the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, to the Council of Ministers. We are asking for a revision of some of these taxes

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: We aim to gain the ISO 9000 certificate. In addition to consumer satisfaction, this certificate will be another testimony to the high quality of our products.





The Individual & the Community: **RIGHTS & ROLES IN ISLAM**

The relationship between the his or her interests. individual and his/her com- Therefore, such do munity is an important issue. It is a vital link for social harmony. Sociologists have different views as to the precedence and priority between the rights of the individual and the community. The majority of sociologists and politicians believe community interests should have precedence. They regard the individual as part and an interacting element with the community. This theory agrees with the views of most of the classic/modern philosophers and sociologists.

The Islamic view also goes along with this premise - that society's interests have precedence over individual rights. God addressing Adam and his family, said: "We said: 'Get ye down all from here, and if as is sure, then comes to you guidance from Me, whosoever follows My guidance, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve'." [Surat "Al-Baqarah", verse # 38].

Life started on earth in the form of a human community - at least of a man and a woman. As opinions differed about the beginning of communities, they also dissented about the beginnings of social organization. Some are of the opinion that the family is the first cell of a human community. They ascribe that to the remnants of the primitive African families which are still in existence, and to the phenomenon of glorifying forefathers in some primitive communities.

Some sociologists assess that community relations social appeared for the first time in the form of a tribe: a group of people intimating to one origin and preserving joint ties and practices. In their opinion, a single family was not recognized. Man, they hypothesized, did not practice settlement in the very beginning of his life.

May be we need to go back and ask, "What is community?" Is it a congregation of individuals gathering randomly, or is it an organized group, based on shared objectives, will, structures and beliefs?

Whatever the proper definition, a community is not a mere gathering of individuals at a certain time and place. It is a group of people actively interacting with respect to their present and future ambitions. Thereupon, a social structure is not a mathematical one, but a chemical formation with different elements interacting to produce new compounds. These new compounds bear new features different from the original constituent elements, just like water which is a fluid composed of two different gases. Thus a community differs much less in its system from the individual trends and opinions which are intimate to it. We can percieve this relationship by deciding their importance and the liks between them. The contemporary philosophies show community and individual as conflicting rivals. But the totalitarian philosophies and systems give dominance to the community. They see the social trend as the origin, and man is in need of a group to survive. Totalitarian systems also tend to abolish individuality and the human personality in favour of community. Such systems organize everything and decide every detail in the private affairs of an individual.

Therefore, such doctrines empha-

size the individual's personality, rejecting any imposed boundaries which hinder the the exercise of free choice.

Islam does not admit this dispute and rejects any discord between the interests of individuals and community. Both are rooted in the human nature. Islam has clearly specified the individual's responsibility, respecting his or her independence and rights:

"Nay, man will be on himself even though he were to put up his excuses." [surat "The Doomsday" sign 14], and "That man can have nothing, but what he strives for." [surat "The Star" - sign 39]. At the other end of the scale, Islam has stipulated some duties to be performed by the individual towards society. Both the individual and society have mutual responsibiliteis toward each other. Quranic verses, as well as the Prophit's Hadiths (talks), are full of examples of cooperation and joint work between individuals and their community: "Help ye one another in sin and rancour." [surat "Al-Mai'da" sign 2].

Absolute, freedom has very negative consequences. It clears the way for egotism, coceitedness, and, on the long term, moral depravity. The community's supremacy, on the other hand, leads to the complete melting of the individual's identity, demolishing the gift of free thinking. When an individual rebels to seperate his or her identity from that of the community, extremely serious cosequences may occur, affecting both.

The proper system would be the one that strikes a fair balance between the individual's motives and interests, and preserving his or her status and independence as an active member within the community. Such a system must also favourably treat the hopes and aspirations of successive generations within a comprehensive human context. This is exactly what Islam has advocated and practised.

Islam perceives the individual and the community in a uniquely comrehensive view, and follows noble means in achieving that .. Islam endeavours to create the stable individual who keeps his or her existence within the moral limits and does not infringe the rights of others. When the individual is confidently settled, a new community is going to spon-taneously appear - stable in motives and trends. Therefore, Islam gives a great care to the individual - the substantial unit in setting up any community. Islam does not burden the state alone with the task of bringing up the individual through its social establishments. It is noteworthy to refer here to the Islamic-based community. It is truthfully a moral and intellctual one, based on principles and goals that achieve social solidarity and cohesion. Islamic society is not based on race or social status, but on a certain doctrine and moral principles. Thus, the Islamic community is open to all who believe in one God. This contrasts sharply with societies based on race or lineage which are highly exclusive. In addition to that, Isalm does not recognize social strata. It forges noble relations among individuals in the community on the basis of brotherhood and cooperation. Islam's criteria to judge people are based on their work, achievements, knowledge, or

Islamists & Power in Yemen: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ISLAH

By: Saad Salah Khalis

BOOK REVIEW

Culture

Unquestionably, the issue of the trend, commonly referred to as the "Political (or Politicized) Islam" and its emergence as a leading power player all around the Arab and Muslim worlds, is one of the most significant phenomena of the last three decades of this century, that witnessed the decline of major ideologies. The controversy of how far religion can be politicized, or rather how far politics can be religionized is as hot as ever. Secular versus religious society conflicts have varied in magnitude from place to place, ranging from fierce violence, on-edge co-existence, and peaceful, although somewhat tense, coalition and in - power participation, which is very closely the case of Yemen until the parliamentary elections of 1997

Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf, in his book titled "Islamists and Power in Yemen, The experience of Yemeni Congregation for Reform", published by Al-Mustaqbal Publications, Sana'a, 1997, tries to focus light on the experience of one of the most genuine and influential political/ religious movements in the Arab peninsula, namely the Yemeni Congregation of Reform (Islah), the begotten embryo of the "Muslim Brotherhood" movement and the Yemeni tribal cartel.

In his introduction, the author states the importance of studying the experience of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform party in relation to the power in Yemen, starting from its early evolution, relation to various of ruling regimes in Yemen, up to its actual participation in power after the 1993 elections and the 1994 war.

One important statement in that introduction, is that such experience is still too early to issue final verdicts about, or to evaluate either positively or negatively, as it is still going on in actuality, and is subject for further developments. Yet, it is worthwhile to present an initial overview. governed by time limits, of that experience in view of its players' theoretical origins and their actual interrelation with power in the country either the in the past or in the later stage, through the official participation in power by the Yemeni Congregation for Reform, or through the under cover role played by

The author starts his study looking for material in Islamic literature which address to the issue of "power", and the phil-osophical roots of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform. He concludes that the theoretical origins thereof, the party being the Yemeni copy of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood", goes lished by Hassan Al-Banna in 1928.

He states that the Yemeni "copy", established any significant conceptual additions in terms of "fiqh" to that of it is Egyptian original, except for certain discretion, unprepared for previously, imposed by on-site circumstances, such as their participation in power in Yemen, to which they were pushed into by other active sides. (The President and the Tribal Sheikhs). Accordingly, they had to elaborate new concepts and conceptual pretexts to justify their acceptance of that position. The author believes that despite some certain positive aspects of such a situation, on the theoretical level, it still has a major deficiency in the form of its being under-influence rather than influential.

In his brief presentation of the mother movement. "The Muslim Brotherhood" of Egypt, the author summarize its major goals (Muslim Household, Muslim Society, Muslim State), and their three slogans that are the way to achieve the sort of power they are theorizing, which are: "No power but of God," "Application of Islamic Law (Sharia')", and "Islam is the Solution". He then goes over, although slightly, over the controversy of the critics of Islamic political movements who crated the designation of "Political or Politicized Islam" and the ideologist of such movements who believe that the political system is an original source of Islam and Islamic thought.

A look over the concept of in Islamic thought "State" follows. The author smartly admits the absence of such a concept in the Islamic thought in replacement of the nation. Islamic heritage always refers to the government otherwise. Until now, such concept is still not clear, unlike the "Government", which protects the nation, and inflicts the Islamic Shari'a.

The Yemeni Muslim Brotherhood is not different in such concepts, as it dies believe that the Islamic system can be achieved starting from raising the Islamic House, which will create the Islamic Society that will naturally end with its selection of the Islamic ruler who will inflict the law of God.

and technical division, rather than a deep cultural one, especially with the generations that were grown during and after the toppling of the Imami rule in 1962. The Muslim Brotherhood believe that one of their main achievements is the unification of the cultural base of the religious thought in a society of sectarian differences. Their critics in return, think that this situation is an open ignorance of the facts of history and actuality, and is influenced by "imported" Wahabi thought.

In his attempt to classify the Islamic movement in Yemen, Dr. Al-Saqqaf sets the following divisions:- [Independent Muslims] which form the largest sector and who are Muslims by nature and instinct. [Sectarian or Sunni tradition Olama']. [The Muslim Brotherhood] (currently the Yemeni Congregation for Reform) the largest and the most organized political 'organization. [Smaller and limited Islamic organizations), that are, although limited in size, have become of a heard say due to their coordination under the Highest Council for Coordination of the Opposition, which is the parallel side of the ruling coalition, such as Al-Haq Party, the Union of Popular Forces, etc. [Traditional and Fundamental movements], which are less organized, and exist largely in Southern and Eastern areas.

The writer briefly goes over each of those categories (each of which may require a separate study), concentrating mainly on the Yemeni Congregation for Reform.

In the chapter concerned with "Islam as ruling ideology", the author tries to spot an analytic and critic light on the political dogma and ideology of the Yemeni Congregation for Passing over some Reform. relevant experiences of sister movements in Sudan, Algeria, Jordan and Turkey, he places the causes that has put the Islamic movements into the forefront of events. He is then realistically wondering, whether such movements have succeeded in putting their slogans into actuality.

He finally admits that the Political Islamic Movements have entered into the game of power without prior preparation that secures such success, as they have not yet matured from the stage of advocacy to the stage of institutions, programs and state. Such position rendered the effectiveness of these movements in solving major social and economical problems rather limited, let alone qualifying the right cadres for such tasks. Their major success really was in the fields of limited charity and donations. Such immaturity driven these movements to waste time and effort on minor cases in favor of major cases of real importance in the long-term.

followed by almost total decline through the later stages, to be back again through Judge Al-Zubairy (the General Secretary of the Muslim Brotherhood the Brotherhood according to Sheikh Abdul Majid Al-Zindani, the story that is not quite authenticated as the author believes, although it does form an important indication) in the early days of the September revolution. A long re-organization period followed to be finally crowned through the establishment of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform in 1990. This does not mean that the Muslim Brotherhood was not existent in earlier stages through certain achievements such as forming of Shura Council, education curricula, its covered existence in some circles of the ruling General People's Congress party. This of course applies to which was called "North Yemen" prior to the unification of Yemen in 1990

Next chapter concerns with the evolution of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform itself through the coalition with the tribal cartel. Its participation in power with the PGC and the YSP firstly, and then its coalition with the PGC after the 1994 war. The author states again that the problem of such religious parties as the Yemeni Congregation for Reform, is that they can form a good example theoretically and morally, yet fail to represent actual interests of people and society, and accordingly, failing to deal with causes of injustice and oppression.

In final conclusion, Dr. Al-Saqqaf asks several questions regarding the experience of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform in power during the two coalitions, especially the latter in which it became an active partner in power yet failed too leave impressive footprints. Its leaders have to keep showing the ideal that cannot be corrupted by the negative aspects of power, and state the limits and criteria for their relations of their power partners.

The next chapter of the book evaluates the political map prior to the 1997 elections, and possible points of difference between the Yemeni Congregation for Reform and the PGC, as the two main competitors. He especially looked at those issues related to the inheritance of the bounty of the YSP after the 1994 war.

The final chapter is an assessment of the future of the Yemeni congregation for Reform in and off power, responsibilities of Islamic and other forces of change in the country and the Arab world, calling all for overcoming the differences and conflicts of the past, while the world is getting into the next century with unmatched pace:

Individualistic systems and phi-losophies, on the other hand, give individuality a supreme status. They assume that a community is imposed on the individual by external factors, and an individual's activity is not directed or desciplined except by

The Islamic communit does not revolve around its people only. It is wide open to any newcomer. **By: Ibrahim Habeeb**

intellect.

the "Muslim Brotherhood" earlier times.

The authors hopes, in his introduction, to achieve a relevant, objective, analytical, and historical study curriculum for a political phenomenon of significant aspects and characteristics, that is the Yemeni Islamic movement in the form of its major representative; Yemeni Congregation for Reform, being the largest and the most influential of its kind.

Another important comment in the author's introduction, is that what is meant by the term "Yemeni Islamic Movement", is not the natural religious movement of the Islam, the religion of the Yemeni society, which is already religiously devoted by instinct. It rather means the organized political groups of certain political program and goals.

This section of the book also tackles the position of the Yemeni Muslim Brotherhood towards the state, which is, although being civil rather than religious, is still not infidel as the Islamic Shari'a is the source of legislation thereof. The present and apply in practice the possibility of co-existence with the state no matter what the differences may be, a part from open cases of blasphemy, of course.

Being Sunnis in terms of sect. did not actually prevent the growth of Muslim Brotherhood movement in a Shiite society. Actually, as the writer believes, sectarian differences in Yemen are rather based on a geographic

After going over the roots of the "Political Thought in Islam" in a surprisingly short chapter, the author moves to identify the Muslim Brotherhood's thought and philosophy. He then switches to the beginning of Islamic thought in Yemen and the political history of the Yemeni Muslim Brotherhood movement, its role in various stages throughout Yemeni modern history, starting from effective influence on the 1948 movement,

Nobody can do justice to a book in this limited space, especially when it deals with such sensitive and controversial subjects. I or any other reader may disagree with some ideas stated therein, I personally believe that such a study would need a larger book and more emphasis on theoretical and practical aspects. Yet, I do feel that this book is a helpful asset for those who want to understand the Yemeni political riddle better, looking forward to reading more from Dr. al-Saqqaf and other enlightened writers.



by: Bashar Ghazi Askar



WEST BANK: **RIGHTS WORKER STAYS IN JAIL**

Israeli authorities extended for a further six months the detention of a Palestinian human rights worker who has spent 18 months in prison without charges. Security authorities ordered a further extension of the administrative detention of Shaawan Ratib Jebarin, (35).

Ahmed Jaradat, who works with Jebarin in the human rights organization AL Haq, expressed his disgust at the Israeli authorities' attitude. Jaradat, who himself has served many prison sentences, said, "The Israelis have never said why they are holding him (Jebarin). By their action, the Israeli authorities are actually breaking Israeli law."

"The authorities can detain anybody for as long as they want by simply saying 'he/she is a threat to Israeli security'," he added.

The Israeli authorities who are holding Jebarin for over a year, refuse to charge him. The detention has to do with the man's work as a human rights activist.

DUBAI'S FOREIGN TRADE RISES 13.4 PERCENT

Dubai's foreign trade for 1996 increased 13.4% to Dhs 82 billion compared to 1995 according to a recent report by the department of Economic Development. Imports valued at Dhs 61.8 billion increased by 13.1% but exports worth Dhs 4.2 billion declined by 10.1%. The durable consumer goods group was the most significant contributor representing 42.9% of the total value of imports during 1996.

The US was the leading supplier of vehicles and machinery, with Dubai importing Dhs 6.9 billion of goods representing an increase of 55.4%. China and its textile products was ranked second (Dhs 6.6) while Japan came the third (Dhs 6.3). The report said the decrease in the value of exports could have been due to the sharp decline in the capital goods group which fell by 86.4%. Dubai exported to 129 countries including Japan which imported Dhs 16 million worth of goods. Taiwan was ranked second, importing Dhs 243 million of products, the majority of which were base metals. But exports to the US fell by 31.7% to Dhs 218 million. The re-export rate witnessed a rise of 23.3% to Dhs 16.1 billion, with durable consumer goods accounting for almost half of the total value. Iran remained its position as the top re-export destination with re-exports amounting to Dhs 2.9% decline compared to the previous year.

SINGAPORE SUSTAINS OUTPUT

Singapore expressed its commitment to the manufacturing sector, saying a recent dip in industrial output was just a cyclical blip, and assured investors it was ready to ride the next wave of growth. We are certainly committed to manufacturing because it is important to our economy," said Lim See Sway, deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee on finance, trade and industry. Man-ufacturing accounted for 24.4% of gross domestic product and 23.2% of employment last year, and has significant spin-offs on sectors such as finance, logistics and transport.

Singapore's manufacturing sector posted a 6.7% year-on-year decline in the first quarter of 1997, its biggest drop since a 1985 recession, amid a downturn in global electronics demand. Last year, the island-nation attracted S\$8 billion in new manufacturing investments and the economic development board expects investments this year to exceed that sum, Lim said.

By 2000, investments in the sector are expected to go up to \$\$9-to-\$\$10 billion a year. "These aggressive targets are a clear reflection and

indication of commitment to manufacturing, and our confidence in sustaining the future growth of manufacturing in the Singapore economy," Lim said.

SAUDI ARABIA: TOURIST SECTOR FLOURISHES

Total investments in tourism sector under implementation by the Saudi private sector have risen to more than SR 30 billion, according to estimates. Most of these projects are located in Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Abha, Tayif and Baha. A recent study conducted by the Saudi Consultancy Center for Investment and Financing expects the private sector to invest an additional SR 10 billion in tourism projects during the next five years.

This amount will be invested in new projects as well as for expanding and developing some existing ones. They include expansion of Durrat Al-Arus (Pearl of the Bride) project by the Dallat Al-Baraka Group at the Red Sea beach in Jeddah. Another one is Madinat Al-Buhairat (City of Lakes) project by Afandi Company.

In addition, a number of medium projects are being implemented by other companies. The Government of Saudi Arabia has reversed its past anti-tourism policies to one of cautious support and encouragement. Thus, tourism has started to flourish, and it promises to be an important sector.

TUNISIAN ECONOMY RELIES ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Tunisia was the first Arab borrower to secure Federal defense minister Mulayam Singh Yadav investment grade ratings from US, European and said plans for a long-range missile were on and that Japanese agencies. In early 1996 Tunis borrowed on the Euroloan market, having raised over \$850 million from four Japanese bond issues in the previous two years. The Euroloan raised \$200 m, twice the amount originally envisaged.

The markets are taking a wider role and project financing has already made its debut in the country with US banks lending the bulk of a \$195 m, nine-year facility for British Gas' Miskar project. This facility was secured with guarantees from agencies including the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, the US Overseas Private Invest-ment Corporation and the UK's Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Unlike most countries which ran into debt problems in the 1980's, Tunisia never rescheduled. This means that sovereign debt repayments are relatively high - around \$1.6 billion in 1995 - and the govern-ment closely monitors borrowing levels. "We will keep a realistic policy, maintaining our debt service ratio in line with solvency ratios," says Mohammad Ghanouchi, Minister of International Cooperation and Foreign Investment. "We have kept things in balance, but the problem is how to increase our reserves. Building our reserves is important for the country's liberalization and it will further help our rating." Foreign reserves reached a record Tunisian Dinars 1.6 bn by the end of 1995. The best news would be if Tunisia registered a sub-

stantial rise in foreign direct investment in the hydrocarbons - led by the country's largest single investment, British Gas's \$650 m Miskar gas field development.

Traditional industries, such as textiles, still dominate. New industries requiring high-tech investments and employing Tunisian graduates some of whom have returned from Europe to take up the new posts created by incoming companies are starting to make their mark.

The Bezerte Free Zone is gearing up to bring in newcomers from several countries. According to some local and international investors, Bezerte is the ideal Mediterranean port. Substantial investments in telecommunications and other infrastructure, already in place, has created an environ-ment in which foreign firms can function with relative ease.

Important pull factors for investors - stabilization, safety and incentives - have attracted investment far from beyond the country's traditional southern European orbit.

DELHI WON'T DROP MISSILE PROJECTS

said plans for a long-range missile were on and that a surface missile criticized by the US will not be scrapped. The United News of India quoted Mulayan saying India had not shelved a project to build the ballistic missile Agni (Fire), which has a range of 2,500 kilometers and can carry a one-ton nuclear warhead. The defense minister also said the surface to surface, with a range of 250 km, would not be scrapped despite protests from washington. He said, "We will take our decision on the timing and location of deployment when the time comes, depending on our threat perception." He added that it was nobody's business to dictate to us when, where and what we should deploy. "There will be no compromise on India's security and the country will not be cowed down."

TEHRAN: SPECULATIONS OVER KHATAMI'S CABINET

Since his election, Mohammad Khatami has tried to appease the conservatives, saying he plans to stick to the economic policies of outgoing president Ali Hashami Rafsanjani and respect the fundamental values of the 1979 revolution. It seems that Iran's moderate president is involved in negotiations to pick a new cabinet that the conservative parliament will accept.

Khatami's ministers must be approved one by one by the Iranian parliament, whose speaker is Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, Khatami's defeated rival in the elections. He has also met repeatedly Iran's paramount leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who will swear Khatami in as president for a four-year term on August 3. The cabinet will be put to the parliament the following day.

However, Khatami must satisfy the two political factions which backed him in his presidential campaign - the modernists, drawn from Iran's modernist technocrats, and the radical left-wingers who dominated the government in the decade after the 1979 revolution. The right-wing conservatives, who favor a market economic policy, fear attempts at centralization under the radicals and a tougher foreign policy. Insisting that ministers must be chosen on their merits and not on their political affiliations, the conservatives have warned that the parliament will exert its rights over government appointments. Khatami denied that he had come under pressure from conservatives in choosing his ministers.

New Investments to Upgrade Lebanon's Cellular Telecommunication System

France Telecom Mobile Liban (FTML) signed recently a US\$ 100 million syndicated loan to expand its cellular network in Lebanon. The 6-year loan carried a LIBOR +3% interest.

Mr. Salah Bou Ra'ad, FTML Chairman, also disclosed that the company, capitalized at \$ 30 million, made \$13 million profit in 1996, and was expecting \$ 16-17 million in profits in 1997.

"Since the self-financing capacity of the company has not yet reached its investment volume, we are signing the loan approval with the International Finance Corporation, the Group Societe has a 10-year renewable build,

Generale, and 19 participating creditors," he said. Cellis, the name under which

FTML has been operating its

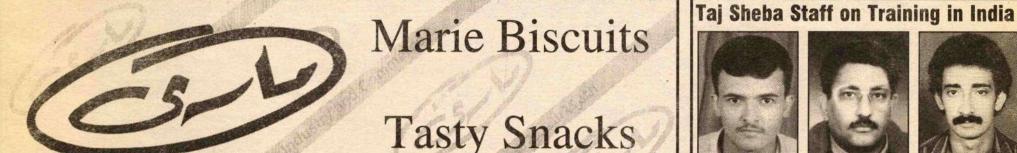
services in Lebanon since 1994,

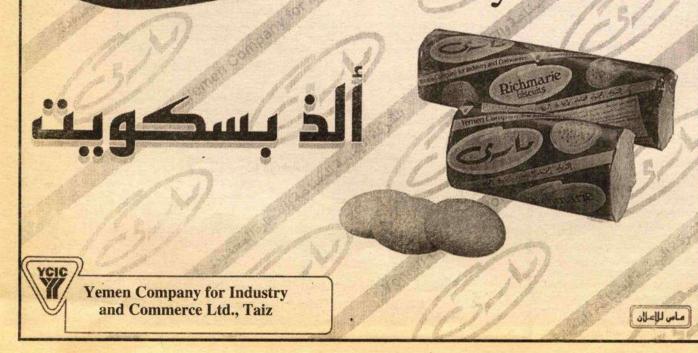
with the Lebanese government. Cellis has 137,000 subscribers who use the cellular at a record average of 750 minutes per subscriber per month. The world

operate and transfer (BOT) deal

average is 130 minutes per month per subscriber.

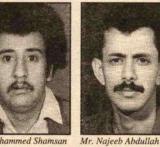
The loan will be used to help a \$190 million project to expand the cellular phone network while maximizing the quality of service. "This will be done by increasing the process which densification consists of reducing the size of the cells to increase reuse of one same group of frequencies on different cells, Bou Ra'ad said.





Mr. Ghalib Ali Mohammed Mr. Baider Mohammed (Kitchen) Abdulla Saidi (Purchase)

Mr. Abdul Karim Kaid (Maintenance)





Mohammed (House Keeping) Ahmed (Kitchen)

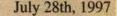
Mr. Naji Musleh Moha med (Mainter

The Management of Taj Sheba Hotel conveys their Best Wishes to the above staff members who are proceeding to India to attend a Eight Week Training



Mr. Abdullah Nasser Abdulla Qatmah (Laundr





Summary of the National Strategy for Community-Based Regional Development

The United Nations Development Program is getting seriously participating in the efforts of local voluntary non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Over the last three weeks, a UNDP team has been visiting different parts of the country to pin down four pilot projects, in which it will be involved.

On Sunday, July 27th, the team presented its preliminary report to the donor and NGO communities. given the insights it offers, this is reproduced below.

I. BACKGROUND:

The Government of Yemen has decided to undertake an ambitious Five-Year National Program Framework for Poverty Alleviation, building on its First Five-Year Development Plan and assistance from UNDP and other external donors. UNDP support to this national program framework will aim at creating an enabling environment for poverty alleviation in Yemen by helping to formulate and operate appropriate policies and convert and alternative pro-poor demonstration activities.

The main objectives of this support are:

 Formulating a national policy framework on poverty alleviation as well as establishing a national entity to manage it;

• Streamline the institutional network and reinforcing the national capacity for labour policy formulation and data management;

 Promoting socioeconomic integration of the poor, especially rural women, through micro-finance and sustainable livelihood opportunities; and,

• Redirecting development activities to the regions through a community-based regional development strategy and program

This summary deals with the last of the foregoing support programs, which is briefly described below.

II. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COM-MUNITY-BASED REGIONAL DEVELOP-MENT PROGRAM

The purpose of this sub-program is to assist local communities, regional government institutions and non-governmental organizations in establishing a fully functioning organizational framework and processes for participatory planning and for implementing community-based poverty alleviation initiatives in selected regions/ecological zones.

Earlier this year, UNDP commissioned a study in order to define further the regional development strategy. The study, after describing the overall and regional characteristics of poverty in Yemen, classified poverty in five agro-ecological regions corresponding to urban, coastal, mountainous, high plateau and steppe conditions, and recommended the selection of a demonstration area in each of them. The present Mission was fielded to specifically select the five demonstration areas and to define the strategy, program approach and activities of this support initiative.

HI. THE FIVE DEMONSTRATION AREAS:

tions with various concerned provincial government authorities and any available NGOs and international project personnel were held in order to narrow down the areas/districts to be covered. In all cases the areas selected met with the approval of the relevant authorities.

The mission confirmed the initial selection of the following demonstration areas:

• In Al Mahweet, the district of Khamis Bani Sa'ad, representing northern upland mountain ranges. The main economic activity of the population is rainfed agriculture. Unemployment, shortage of annual rainfall, land tenure, and inadequate social services are among the main problems for the men and women of this area. Other poor areas in the districts of Hufash and Al -Khabt may be considered for the expansion phase of the program.

• In Hadhramaut, the agro-pastoralists of the Ghail Ben Yamin area Ash Shihr district were selected representing arid zone semi-nomadic populations. The poor nomads of Thamud District, as well as the poor households of Shibam-Hadhramaut may also be suitable for inclusion. Major problems include water harvesting/flood control, agricultural equipment and other inputs, and veterinary care, as well as inadequate social services.

• In Al-Baidha, Sawadia District, representing the southern upland plateau region, was selected. Rainfed agriculture, with some group water irrigation and surface water spreading forms the mainstay of the local economy. Major problems are irrigation water supply, social services and animal health. An expansion phase might include Nate' and No'man Districts, as well as provision of certain technical assistance services to the areas covered by the Integrated Rural development Project in the Middle Plateau of Abyan Province based in neighboring Lauder.

 In Taiz, the coastal areas of the Districts of Al Mokha, Dubab, and Mowza' stretching from north of Al-Mocha to the Bab Al-Mandab area was confirmed by all concerned. Their are three micro agro-ecological zones in the lowland coastal area, stretching roughly parallel to the coast from north to south, and representing artisan fishing livestock rearing and rain-fed, spate irrigating agriculture as dominant economic activities.

These three zones in effect constitute and interdependent area within the same tribal structures. The main priorities, in addition to drinking water, relate to fisheries support (ice making and cold storage, boats, engine and fishing gear) and agricultural production (water harvesting and storing, flood protection, etc . . .) as well as the lack of social services. The latter is felt strongly by the women, some of whom are engaged in full-time fisheries activities in the Bab al-Mandab area. An expansion phase could take in the livestock rearing the agricultural belts of these two Districts, Al-Waziyya and Mowza'.

• Aden's various poor neighborhoods, in the districts of Seerah and Al-Sha'ab, particularly Al-Basateen, Eastern Dar Sa'ad, Mimdara and Sha'ab Al-Aidarous were earmarked as the urban demonstration area. Al-Basateen and parts of Eastern Dar Sa'ad are populated mostly by poor returned Yemenis from Somalia and the Gulf States. Akhdam social groupings form about a third of Eastern Dar Sa'ad. Major proforms are unemployment, temporary or shack housing, and the lack of social services and basic foodstuffs.

IV. STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

community animators and organizations selected and set up by them. The capacity of local and regional government institutions and NGOs will be strengthened through appropriate training programs designed to address their urgent need to "learn by doing."

V.CONCLUSIONS:

1. The demonstration areas selected are living under difficult socioeconomic circumstances and are well suited for inclusion under the criteria agreed upon at the initial workshop.

2. Some of the shared characteristics of the communities in the five demonstration areas include lack of productive activities and social services, along with considerable permanent or seasonal labour surplus, despite the diversity of socioeconomic and ecological conditions. Women's conditions are worsened because of their disproportionate share of both productive and domestic burdens, and their relatively higher state of deprivation from essential services including literacy and education, as well as suffering from health risks special to women. All areas also share the strongly felt shortage of affordable foodstuff.

3. Most of the communities in the demonstration areas have a cultural history of experiencing participation in implementation of community development actions. Their cultural characteristics and indigenous organizational capacities strongly favour the success of participatory approaches, provided the adopted modes of organization and management are in full compatibility with their own traditions (such as the share system in agriculture and fisheries, the mahjar system in range management, and the former local development associations).

There is no need to rely on imported models. The experience of Yemeni communities also show that local communities are more likely to succeed in these efforts if they are allowed to manage their

community animators and organizations selected own development affairs without outside interand set up by them. The capacity of local and vention.

> 4. Local and regional government institutions often have sufficient skilled personnel and resources (such as equipment) which are underused because of organization and budgetary limitations, and a poor incentive systems. The regional and local authorities have also expressed their strong commitment to the principles of participation and community control of regional development in all five regions visited.

> 5. NGOs such as associations, charitable societies and co-operatives and LCCDs exist in all five areas visited. However, with few notable exceptions, due to the financial or management problems, most are in a defunct state. The only viable and successful exception at the community level is the Returnees Charitable Association of Al Basateen area in Aden. However, many traditional forms of cooperation still exist and can be counted on for building appropriate institutional systems for participatory project planning and implementation.

6. Based on previous experience both in different regions of Yemen and in many other developing countries, it is clear that community-based programs will have enormous potential success if they can maintain their independence of operation, and a strong bottom up design. This will have implications for opting for a lean and participatory management structure, which needs to avoid the tendency of many international projects to have a large number of staff. Most needed expertise can secured by judicious use of available human resources in the country.

7. As in many other developing countries, acute and nearly complete centralization of decision making and concentration of authority at the top, characterize the administrative organization system of Yemen. This has led to grossly sub-optimal and inefficient use of human and material resources and talents.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER SPECIALIST

The United States Information Service (USIS) of the U. S. Embassy announces for a vacant position within its organization for an Information Resource Center Specialist. The IRC Specialist is responsible for the administrative management, public outreach, and collection development of USIS's Information Resource Center, a fully computerized, online electronic library. The IRC Specialist responds to complex research requests and direct the use of advanced information technology in response to the needs of Yemeni institutions and the highest level of target audiences. The successful candidate will be a creative, dynamic, and ambitious individual with expertise in information technology, public relation, and library science.

RESPONSIBILITIES

* Plans, develops, and manages the activities of the Information Resource Center. Maintains limited print collection and electronic bibliography. Optimizes use of advanced information technology for audience-related needs. Develops creative and relevant public outreach programs designed to introduce IRC services, technology, and resources to Yemeni audiences. Advises American officers on the role of the IRC in the information environment and recommends the appropriate policies and objectives. Consults regularly with American officers and independently with the Regional Information Officer.

Through consultations with governmental, nongovernmental and international organizations in a preparatory workshop in Sana'a, the following main criteria for selection of the demonstration areas were agreed

Upon:

• Areas selected should represent the five main agro-ecological regions of Yemen mentioned above;

• Areas should be among the poorest in their region;

• Areas need not correspond to existing administrative subdivisions of the country;

Areas should not have been major targets of similar programs and projects;

• Regional and local government authorities should be prepared to support (but not manage) community based initiatives and activities, and,

 Local communities in the areas selected should have shown adequate enthusiasm about participation in and management of program activities.

The consultative workshop agreed with the choice of the following five provinces to be visited by the Mission: Al-Mahweet, Hadhramaut, Al-Baidha, Taiz and Aden. In each province, initial consultaAND USE OF RESOURCES:

The implementation strategy of the program is based on organization of the demonstration support program from the bottom (local communities) up. Local groups of women and men in the communities visited were found highly capable of defining, analyzing and prioritizing their needs in rapid participatory assessment meetings. Based on these findings and local observations the Mission has identified many types of project activities. The most important initial set of activities will concentrate on wealth generation at the community level, with employment benefits going mainly to poor households.

As the capacities of local communities to set up and manage their community re-investment funds (CRIFs) through concrete activities improve, they will increasingly take over the main tasks of poverty alleviation. Gradually, they can devote a portion of their community income to the provision of services that are not strictly income generating. Where and will share in the products of the enterprises, in accordance with modalities that are compatible with community traditions and skills (such as the share system in agriculture and fisheries). Intensive and interactive training will be given to * Uses emerging information technology to increase the accessibility of electronic information, such as the Internet, data bases, on-line news services, and CD-ROM collections for use by target audiences. Conducts ongoing assessments of electronic and information technology developments in host country.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

A. Education: A university degree and the equivalent of a master's degree in information science. Alternatively, a university degree in political science, library science, international affairs, or American studies, combined with formalized training in the field of information technology.

B. Prior work experience: Three to five years of progressively responsible experience, preferably in the field of information management. Experience in traditional reference services and in the use of emerging technologies and electronic resources, particularly U. S. on-line databases and the Internet, are highly desirable. Evidence of planning, organization, problem-solving, management skills, creativity, and initiative.

C. Language proficiency: Level IV (fluent) in both written and spoken English and Arabic. Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Interested applicant should contact the personnel office at the American Embassy phone:238844 ext 181

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TADHAMON ISLAMIC BANK A Pioneer Bank Leads in Banking Services **The Opening of Aden Branch**

By: Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times - Aden Bureau.

Thursday, July 24th, witnessed another milestone for the TADHAMON Islamic Bank. Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, the Prime Minister, inaugurated the Aden branch of the bank.

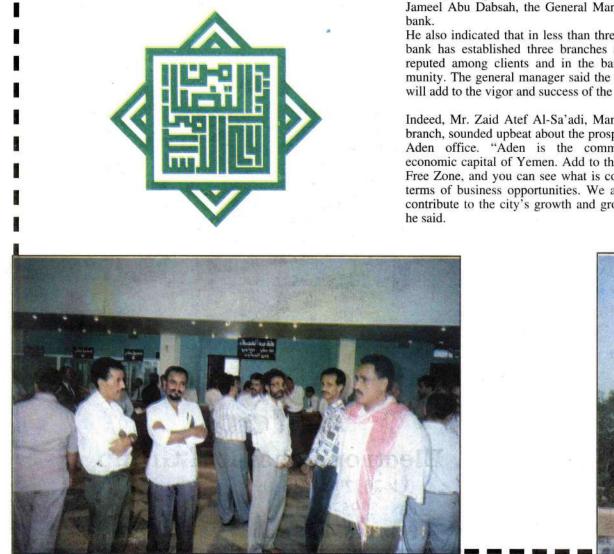
Accompanying the prime minister were Mr. Taha Ghanim, the Governor of Aden, Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies and Member f the Consultative Council, Mr. Abdul-Jabbar Hayel Saeed, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank, and many Aden dignitaries and businessmen.

In a statement on the occasion, Prime Minister Bin Ghanim emphasized his government's support for the private sector. "We welcome investments in all fields, but notably in modern sectors like banking,' he added.

The Governor of Aden also lauded the step and pledged full support for the branch. "My office is open and I welcome any chance to be of service to the business community," he indicated.

Ali Mohammed Saeed, who heads Yemen's largest business group, insisted that conditions were excel-lent for investments. "We pledge to continue to make investments that have visible returns on Yemen. This bank is just another indicator of our commitment to this country," he said.

Abdul-Jabbar Hayel Saeed disclosed that the bank has been doing well. "We are the first Islamic bank of Yemen. The bank is well capitalized, at US\$ 15,000,000, which gives it a lot of financing possibilities, especially in joint ventures," he said. The TADHAMON Islamic Bank is a pioneer in the





computerization and systems manage-ment of bank operations. The bank has also introduced many tools which avoid riba (usury), which is forbidden in Islam. "As a Muslim people, Yemenis would like to avoid getting involved in riba. That is why a good part of the money supply is out of the traditional banking system. We offer alternatives, and just as lucrative," said Tawfeeq Jameel Abu Dabsah, the General Manager of the

He also indicated that in less than three years, the bank has established three branches and is well reputed among clients and in the banking community. The general manager said the new branch will add to the vigor and success of the bank.

Indeed, Mr. Zaid Atef Al-Sa'adi, Manager of the branch, sounded upbeat about the prospects for the Aden office. "Aden is the commercial and economic capital of Yemen. Add to that the Aden Free Zone, and you can see what is coming up in terms of business opportunities. We are ready to contribute to the city's growth and grow with it,"

TADHAMON ISLAMIC BANK

Page

Head/Sanaa Office: **Al-Saeed Commercial Center**, **Zubairy Street**, P. O. Box No. 2411, Sanaa, Yemen. Phone: (01) 203-270; Fax: (01) 203-271.

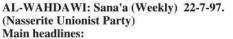
Taiz Branch: De Lux Hotel Building, Jamal Abdul-Nasser Street, Phone: (04) 226-589; Fax: 226-534.

Aden Branch: National Domestic Trade Building, Entrance to Ma'alla Street,

Phone: 240-520, 240-536/7.







1) PGC Accuses Parliamentary Speaker, Sheikh Al-Ahmar of Bias Against Government's **Decision to Raise Wheat Prices**

2) Nasserite MPs Call for Decisive Action **Against Corruption**

3) Court of Appeal in Hadhramaut Endorses Death & Crucifixion Sentence on Two Brigands

Article Summary: Al-Thawra "Slaughter House"

by Huda Al-Himyari

Al-Thawra hospital in general, and the out-patient department in particular suffer from outrageous negligence. The emergency department is a dark corridor were many patients lie in agony on the floor. Some nurses are far from angelic. Due to the absence of some doctors during emergency cases, some seriously affected patients died after being left unattended for hours .

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 23-7-97. (Independent)

Main Headlines:

1) The President Directs Military and Security Organs to Make Greater Efforts in their Work 2) League of Sons of Yemen (Rabita) in Hadhramaut Condemns PSO Decision to Ban Circulation of its Bulletin

3) Director of State's Lands & Real Estates in Lahaj was Fired at by Two Citizens for Refusing to Award them Plots of Land

4) General Director of Cultural Center in Taiz Suspended from Work Pending Investigations of **Financial Irregularities**

Article Summary:

Yemeni Songs by Issam Khulaidi

Yemeni songs are not as widespread in the Arab world as songs from other Arab countries. This is despite the presence of many talented singers and musicians.

The reasons for that are:

1- lack of advanced recording technology; 2- the virtual non-existence of a mature critique movement;

3- lack of recording and distribution companies; 4- the inefficiency of the law of intellectual

property rights; and

5- general economic and social instability.

Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly) 20-7-97. (Federation of Popular Forces Party)

Main Headlines: 1) Intensive Efforts to Resolve Yemeni-Saudi **Border Dispute**

2) Security Forces in Sana'a Crush Demonstration Protesting Over Zionists Attempts to Distort Image of Islam 3) Industrial Waste Pollutes Water in Al-Daeesa,

Taiz

4) Trial of "16 Minus 1" Former YSP Leaders Continues

Article Summary:

a- Smuggling

The beautiful coastal area of Omran near Aden has become a center for distributing smuggled goods. Expired soft drinks, tinned food, cigarettes, liquor, spare parts, and even sheep are being smuggled from some neighboring countries. All these activities go unnoticed by the authorities.

b- AIDS

Medical sources in Hadhramaut have disclosed that there are now 34 people infected with the deadly AIDS virus. This number is expected to rise in view of the prevalent ignorance and the negligence on part of the health authorities in the governorate, the sources added.

AL-WAHDA: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-7-97. (Official)

Main Headlines:

1) The President Urges Government to Carry On with its Program

2) Council of Ministers to Regulate Foreign Travels of Official Delegations in Order to **Reduce Expenditure**

3) New Yemeni-Qatari Cooperation Agreements 4) Committee to Resolve Issues of Nationalized Houses in Hadhramaut

Article Summary:

Are Good Intentions Enough by Ahmed N. Al-Shareef

Optimism is rising regarding an imminent resolution of the Yemen-Saudi border issues. The Saudi Interior Minister has visited Sana'a twice within 20 days. A solution of the problem depends largely on taking practical measures by the leaderships in the two countries. Yemen has accepted the Tavif Agreement of 1934. It was a Yemeni taboo to even discuss this agreement.

Despite the good intentions expressed by both sides, what is actually taking place contradicts that. The recent border tension has never occurred before. An open, honest & practical approach must be adopted.

Al-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-7-97. (Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

1) Yemen Keeps Saudi Views on Border Secret 2) YSP Secretary-General: "The ruling authorities will have to be convinced of the legitimacy of other stances."

3) Eritrean Authorities Continue to Harass Yemeni Fishermen

4) Two Yemenis Claim to have Inherited Planet Mars, and Sue NASA for Trespassing

Article Summary: Hunt & Ministry Disagree

Disputes have ensued between the Yemen Hunt Oil Company and the Ministry of Petroleum over the policy of Yemenization. Hunt insists on employing 120 new foreign workers in place of others whose contracts have expired. This, the US company contends, it is in accordance with deals it made with several American sub-contracting companies.

Some informed sources have predicted that the dispute will worsen. The Ministry of Petroleum finds itself in a difficult situation, considering the thousands of unemployed Yemeni engineers and technicians. Some of these people have been waiting for over 3 for an opportunity to get jobs in

AL-JAMAHEER: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-7-97. (Arab Baath Socialist Party) **Main Headlines:**

1) Baath MPs Suggest Alternatives to Relieve **People Off Poverty**

2) Education Employees Demonstrate in Ibb in **Protest Over Delay in Salaries**

3) Historical Castles in Haradh, Hajjah are **Demolished by Government Organs**

4) Minister of Health Bans Smoking in All Health Establishments

Article Summary: **Political Reform**

Economic reforms in developing countries cannot be carried out without political reforms. The latter are liable to create a mature social condition that is more conducive for a larger public participation. Economic reform has to be carried out in a frank manner after gaining the people's confidence. Secrecy and coercion in implementation are the whole marks of a repressive political administration. A positive public response to the reform program can only be attained through cleansing the legislative and executive authorities and a judiciary clean up.

AL-UMMA: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-7-97. (Al-Haq Party)

Main Headlines:

1) Yemen Demands Fair & Satisfactory Solution for Border Issue with Saudi Arabia

2) Fire at Supreme Court Destroys Thousands of documents

The President Supports PM, and Warns 3) Against Interference with Government Affairs 4) Foreign Minister: "Final decision on Hunaish Island will be in July, 1998."

Article Summary: Strange Accident

It started with a quarrel between two children in Al-Sadda, Ibb. The fathers got involved, and had to resort to tribal adjudication. On returning to the village, one of the fathers killed the other one. The killer later escaped to a nearby cave.

The killer was later surrounded by the villagers and were joined by the local police. Fighting ensued for several hours. When attackers tried to secretly enter the cave, the killer threw a grenade at them.

One person was killed, and three were injured. The killer was later shot dead. The police took the assailant's cow as a payment for their trouble.

Continued from page 3: Interview with Brigadier Ali Sallal

The majority of the people, on the A: I sincerely hope for the selfish personal interests first that state and must accept a fair distogether.

Q: There are rumors that But much will largely depend on Yemeni troops are being pulled back from our borders with of this nation. Honesty in Saudi Arabia. The responsibility for our border patrol is being handed to the tribes of the region. Is this true?

A: The truth is the complete opposite of that. The Yemeni armed forces 'man all border regions and are in full capacity and readiness.

other hand, live in abject poverty. adoption of five or even ten-year I tell all those who put their plans. We must not only work for today or even tomorrow, but also they have no place in the new for many years to come. We must Yemen. They must respect the think about the next generations. We must all look ahead beyond tribution of wealth. We are in this the immediate future. This is how nations develop.

I am optimistic about the future. the President and the honest men approach will create great achievements. It is not necessary to achieve massive wealth and die looking at it.

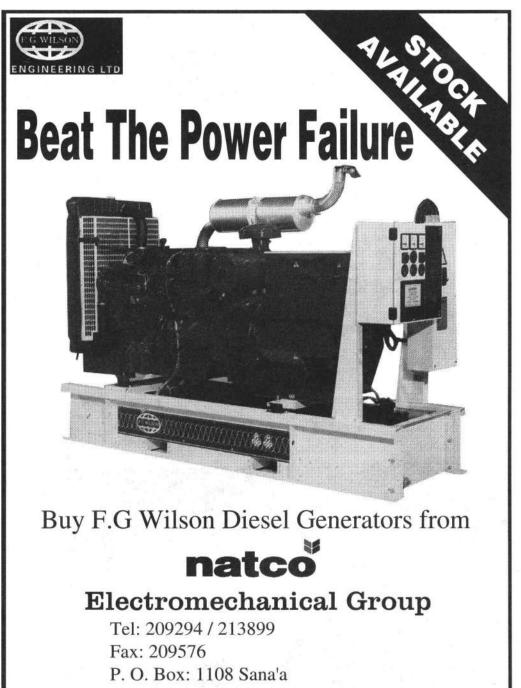
The most urgent thing now is to solve some of the very pressing problems.

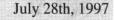
People want to feel safe, to have essential health care, get their kids to decent schools, get them good jobs after graduation. In general, we want to build a modern state. We want to get out of backwardness.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I admire Yemen Times very much. I hope that you continue with the same courtage and farsight for the sake of the whole nation - a unified Yemen.

the petroleum sector.





Maybe the control of stopping smuggling at certain posts is delegated to the tribes at the border regions.

Q: How will the CC contribute to the next stage in Yemeni development?

A: The council is not an executive organ. Its primary role is to provide honest, neutral and well-informed opinion to the President to act upon. Personal interests, sectarianism, and regionalism must stay out of the whole process. We will not stop at what the President asks of us, but will also come up with new ideas and suggestions on our own.

Q: How do you view Yemen in five years' time?

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Conclusion of the Olympic Course for Volley-ball Coaches **25 Trainers are set to commence**

training course of the volley-ball Yemeni Olympic Committee was concluded at the Olympic Husain Awadhi and Chairman of Center

Last thursday July 24th, 1997 the Raweh, Secretary General of the volley-ball Union Adel Wadi.



The course was financed by the (25) International Olymbic Cooperation with coordination of Yemeni Volley-ball Union as well as the International Union . It lasted a period from 12th till 23ed July 1997 during which two lecturers have participated. They are from Ethiopia Mr. Alemayiu and from Egypt Mr. Samir Lutfi. A large number of sport officials headed up by Minister of Youths Sports Dr.Abdulwahab

qualified trainees for coaching have been grAduated . They came from different governorates in the Republic and this will help covering the shortage for qualified trainers and also developing the game in Yemen. The two international lecturers confirmed before the Minister Dr. Raweh that the game is a social one which does not require a lot of expenses and it is widely spread.

Final Championship for Arab Football Cup Ahli of Hudeidah defeated by Sudanese Marrikh (4:0)

Hudeidah when played against the Sudani football team last Friday in Sudan. The match ended with (4) goals for the Marrikh team and zero for the Ahli of Yemen. First half two goals were scored and two more

second loss for Ahli of during the second half time of the game. It was a final defeat for the Ahli disallowing competition after being defeated first by the same team with scores of (5 goals

against nothing).

Arab Sport Games in Lebanon Yemeni participation in combat games **Silver Medal**

Last Friday 25th July 1997, the Yemeni athelet Abdullah Al-Azzani has concluded his last participation for Yemen in the 8th Arab Games held in Beirut, Lebanon. He acquired a silver medal and the second silver for Roman wrestling of 54 klgms weight but lost the gold one when competed the Algerian wrestler. The silver medal awarded



Last Sunday evening 27th July 1997, the Arab games ended in a considered the only one given pleasant ceremony during which winners of gold, silver and to Yemen which lacked training bronze honored. capabilities

Saiyun Club Wins the Volley-ball **Tournament in the Republic**

The Club of Saiyun has achieved the championship of Volley-ball in the Republic after defeating last thursday the Ahli Club. Above victory has confirmed that

clubs of Hadramout have made advances competing fast numerous centers in all sport fields.

)n the other hand, the Yemeni Olympic Committee has sent a message of congratulation to the club of Saiyun confirming that the victory was efficiently acquired. A humble gift of YR 100,000 from the Olympic Committee was presented to the club of Saiyun.



EMIRATES CRICKET CUP 97 (YCA TOURNAMENT) In Cricket, TIGERS Beat LIONS

On July 25, 1997 in a very exciting cricket match where the godess of victory appeared to be changing sides many times, Pakistan's Tigers Cricket Club (PTC) played their third and eighth league match against the Lion and Jambiyah Cricket Club (LJCC) in Al-Thawra Stadium. The Tigers continued thir winning spree by defeating LJCC with a margin of 28 runs. The Tigers filed up 200 runs in 25

asked PTC to bat. Arif Bult and Nabil opened the inning while Mobin and Waris were the attack bowler from LJCC side. LJCC were successfuly in getting Arif and then in quick succession. Shafqat out when the team score was 31 and 41respectively. The scenario of the game totally changed with the arrival of Ali who in partinership with Nabil took the PTC score to 149 till Ali

time LJCC won the toss and The Lions lost the first 3 wickets when the team score was 24, 25 and 35 respectively. However Waris and Habib remained definant to PTC bowlers for a long time and added 78 runs to the team score. The respectively scored 50 and 35 runs. The last 3 wickets of LJCC fell with the addition of 3 runs only. In LJCC inning the ball crossed the boundary 15 times. LJCC team was all out for a score of 172.

Strike Led to Postponement of Yemen / Uzbekistan Football Match

Captain Hazem Jassam - Coach the match which was delayed till of Yemen's National Football August 24th, 1997 as Ahli of Team has indicated that he will Hudeidah is busy with Arab and meet with Football's Union to Asia Games representing Yemen. specify the final date for calling It is worth to mention that FIFA the national players to the camp has accepted the apology of prior participating Asia final Yemen because of the strike of games (fifth group) of 1998. Yemen Airline when the players Jassam pointed out his dis- were stopped from departure on agreement toward the timing of July 8th, 1997.

تهانينا القليية

Spotlight

More Support for Sport

Yemeni

many

comparing with other countries . Our par-

ticipants have dis-

played their talents in

Taikwandu and were

outstanding till they reached the semi

final. They drew the

attention of other teams who knew well

the simple conditions

Different attitude was

handling delegations of participating coun-tries. This was also observed clearly in

the field of referring which many par-ticipating countries have encountered.

have

when

been

of sport in Yemen.

noticed

medals

When Yemen Times announced the about donation campaign which it led to support the football national team,

businessmen

responded to this initiation very positively. They understood the difficult conditions which these youth pass through, especially in such occasion as representing Yemen in one of the toughest international competitions. We are pleased with the good results which the team achieved, and which proves that the Yemeni youth very possibly could achieve advanced results, given the necessary care and attention. But the Ministry of Youth and Sports with its short resources can not provide full care for all sports. Fulfilling the dreams of the ambitious sportsmen starts first with establishing long-term training camps, supplying the training needs, improving the life conditions of the sportsman and woman by providing healthy nutrition and increasing his/her monthly income so that they free themselves up for training and

scoring high results. Here comes the importance of the Yemeni businessmen who have showed good initiations in supporting these sports which, in return, provide them with the publicity they seek.

Zabarah has supported Sana'a Marathon, Shayef sponsored the championship, and boxing another businessman promises US\$1500 for every Yemeni participant who wins in the Arabic competitions in Lebanon...etc.

Sports in many countries depend on the commercial support in return for which the team wear Tshirts that carry the name of the company or its trade mark orAt the same time the company provide all the necessities of the champion team or individual so that they achieve advanced results in many competitions.

If this gets the Yemeni businessmen and foreign companies interested, it will contribute a lot to upgrading the sports level in Yemen. Yemen is full of sportsmen who practice different games and sports. Many of them could compete for high levels if they are only supported. Youth and sports is wide sector which has not been invested yet.

emen

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Sport Editor



overs by far the highest in the league matches and by virtue of this victory have attained six points so far the highest by any team. During the day the weather was good for the game, partly cloudy, slightly, rainy and lates on sunny. The Ambassador of Pakistan, Mr. Amin Jan Naeem, graced the occasion as chief guest for some	fours and two mighty sixes. Nabil was the the second highest scorer with 41 runs. Mobin, Imdad, Ajay and Sadhesh bagged 2,2,1,1 wickets respectively. LJCC inning was opened by Ajay and Nafees while Shafqat and	Once again it was a day of wide balls. Ali with 73 runs and 2 wickets was the man of th match. Adil and Taufeeq were the umpires. The score card of both the teams	نبارك ونهنئ الأخ رفيق محمد أحمد بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولودا جديدا أسماه للمحصط ألف مبروك المهنؤون: جمال بدر العواضي، بسام بدر العواضي، طارق محمد راشد، محمد الجرموزي،	at NASS Yeme Netscape Communicator 4 which includes: Netscape Navigator Netscape messenger
Co Sponsors: DHL Worldwide, Philips, Ashtal Travel & Tourism, Pepsi, Taj Sheba Hotel, Tulip, Yemen Times	PTCArif Butt (Captain)25Nabil41Sháfqat0Ali73Naeem Butt18Ahsa'n16Nasir Khan. (Not out)01Imran (Not out)03177ExtrasExtras23Total200Not batted : Naeem , Manzoon Tariq"	LJCCAjay (Captain)12Nafees05Habib35Dominil01Waris50Imdad23Mobin02Shiju03Jarid04Barry03Sudhesh (Not out)0138Extras34Total172	و جميع الأهل و الأصدقاء قليب التهاني وأصدق الأماني والتبريكات نزفها إلى الشاب الخلوق محمد عبد الوهاب الشجاع المتواجد حاليا هي نيويورك وذلك بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف. فألف ألف مبروك، وبالرهاه والبنين. المهنؤون، الاستاذ المحامي عبد العزيز السماوي عبده ناشر الشجاع، محمد صالح الشامي، حسن ناجي الشجاع، طاهر صالح الشجاع	Netscape Conference Netscape Composer Netscape Collabra Utilities To order your copy, please c







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The armed forces, as the final arbiter of power in this country, have been a near-monopoly. That is why there is a highly selective admission policy, enabling only those with the right' tribal affiliation to join. But, what can be done with the hordes of those who had joined in the past. In many cases, the senior officers without the needed loyalty criterion are asked to stay at home, and simply show up at the end of every month to collect their basic salaries. Many officers succumbed to this fate.

Now, there is a new development. Given the drive to weed out 'ghost' workers in government and in the armed forces, these officers' risk being totally cut off, with no salaries to collect at the end of the month.

As an example, the Air Force has last month started to refuse to pay people who had been forced to stay at home. Many pilots, aviation engineers, technicians and other personnel face a grim future. Their main flaw is that they are not trusted by those in charge.

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But to discard these people and cut off their salaries may not be a good policy. Hungry people are known to create havoc in society. This is even more so if these people have a military background. Thus, it may not be wise to push them overboard. Already some pilots and engineers have gone on hunger strikes, others have filed complaints with the legal and administrative authorities.

It may be useful to listen to those complaints.



Rule Britannia

Adel J. Moqbil, **Yemen Times**

French art and culture set the pace worldwide. There is no need to elaborate. The drive to spread the French language is a top goal for both the political establishment and the literati. French is, as many believe, the language of love, poetry and culture in general. It should find a fertile soil in many parts of the world. So far so good. But is it going to grow and bloom in a changing world environment? That is a different matter.

Judging by conditions at the French cultural center in Sana'a, it seems rather doubtful that French will ever gain ground in Yemen, let alone grow and prosper. The whole atmosphere there is quite unwelcoming. Getting through the front gate sometimes involves a lot of hassle. A friend of mine had once witnessed a squabble between a group of people wishing to enter and the gatekeeper - the latter behaving like a little Napoleon. The worst is yet to come.

The library is small and dingy. There are no seats! And the librarian, or so I believed him to be, thinks that he is Andre' Marlaux with a goatee. He seems to have been placed there for the sole purpose of turning people off French culture altogether. He does not seem to have any awareness of what it is all about. It is a cultural center.

The place is opened to further the language and culture of a particular nation. So people

going in should not be treated as if they are beggars. Nobody should be turned back, unless of course there are some very sound security or similar reasons.

Cut to the British Council. You feel as if you are immediately transported through space and The atmosphere is time. entirely different. It is far more relaxed. The surroundings are quite pleasant. You are usually met by a nice, or at worst an impassive, gatekeeper. There is a beautiful, well-tended garden. An oasis in the desert, to coin a well-thumped phrase. The library is large and well stocked. There are chairs and tables and comfortable cushions and sofas. Compared to the French library, the British is a Penthouse suite. Raja the librarian is a nice, mild-mannered Yemeni girl. One can choose a book, magazine, newspaper or any other publication, and read it in a very civilized atmosphere. No hassle here.

On top of all that, there are regular film shows and other cultural events such as photographic exhibitions, book signing, lectures, etc. The French do not seem to be "bothered" with that at all. There is also a nice little rooftop cafeteria. This makes the whole ambiance even more welcoming. You do not have to be a student or have a library membership to enjoy all that. This, I believe, is how it should be. It is not an exclusive club for the privileged.

It is good that the Brits are taking over the Rimbaud House in Aden, if it is run by the French the same way as their cultural center in Sana'a. So folks it seems that Britannia is set to rule the waves (radio maybe, not sea) again. It will not be through guns and warships this time, but by the "people's diplomacy," as the new Labor Foreign Secretary

recently said on the BBC. The other similar establishment I know of in Sana'a is the United States Information Service (USIS). Upon entering the building, you should handover some sort of a personal ID.

Security is very tight there. It is like entering some sort of a military fortress. The guards wear special coats with the word "SECURITY" embla-zoned on their backs. I think this just about sums up the paranoia in which the Americans live at the moment.

This is despite the fact that no major terrorist attack has taken place against foreigners in Yemen - notwithstanding the kidnappings by tribesmen.

So when a guard asks you about the purpose of your visit, just be relaxed, and try to look as non-terrorist as possible. Next comes the x-ray machine, or the metal detector or whatever. So far, it does not sound like a cultural establishment, does it? Once you are in, however, you are O.K. Then you can relax, and turn your mind to more intellectual matters.

Is this because the British have lost their muscle and empire, and have nothing to worry about anymore? Whatever the case, they seem to know how to handle intellectual business.



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