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# YEMEN TIMES

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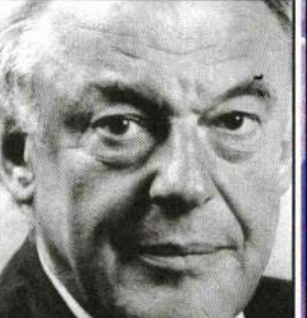
<b>INSIDE</b>	<b>More Arab Studies in the USA.</b> Page 5.	<b>Environmental &amp; Health Effects of Sewer System.</b> Page 8.	<b>The Postal Service: Beginning... and the End?</b> Page 13.	<b>A Journey in the Life of Mohammed Saad Abdullah.</b> Page 16.
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## Dr. Yassin Al-Qubati: 1997 YT Person of the Year



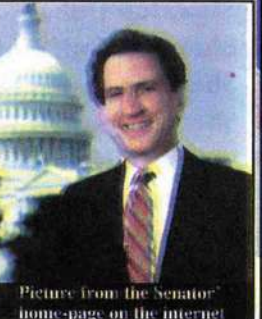
### Dutch Foreign Minister Visits Yemen Next Week

Mr. Hans van Mierlo, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, plans a 3-day trip to Yemen in mid-January. He will visit Dutch-financed projects in Hadhramaut, Dhamar and Sanaa. With some 100 million guilders dispensed during 1997, the Netherlands is one of Yemen's leading aid-partners. The Yemen Times will run a full-fledged interview with the Dutch official next Monday.



### US Senator Specter's Talks on Bilateral Relations

US Senator Arlen Specter arrives in Sanaa tomorrow Tuesday 6th January, on a 3-day visit to Yemen. His program includes meetings with numerous senior Yemeni officials, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Specter is interested in labor, education, health and human rights issues, to be covered by his talks here. On his third term as senator from Pennsylvania, Specter was a Republican candidate for the US Presidency in 1996.



### Top Ruling Politicians Rob State Property Openly

The news hit a lot of people hard. It came as a devastating blow to me. The top politicians of Yemen 'privatized' the housing complex financed by Libya in Sanaa. The original idea behind constructing these buildings was to re-settle the leaders of the former YSP in the unity arrangements. Now, the bounty is shared by the top men around President Saleh, some of whom already own lots of real estate in Sanaa.

Out of 42 nominations received, the Yemen Times Committee for Awarding the 1997 Person of the Year picked Dr. Yassin Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubati, citing exceptional work done for Yemen's some 15,000 lepers. Yemeni social and cultural stigma against lepers is so strong that any person who catches the disease is totally and immediately removed from society and abandoned alone in some remote place awaiting death. Dr. Qubati, over the last twenty years, mobilized local and international support to address the plight of lepers. He has been able to build 3 medical and living quarters (the largest is in Taiz), to care for these wretched souls. Dr. Al-Qubati then embarked on a nationwide media campaign to explain the disease, and how to interact with it.

Dr. Qubati introduced meaningful medical measures to control the problem and to treat the patients. His efforts made a difference in the lives of so many - the lepers and their relatives and loved ones. Full story on p. 3

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More on P.5

## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Back to Basics To Own or To Manage: The Mandate of Political Leaders

An e-mail from a Yemeni friend in the USA raised this basic issue with me last week. How does the Yemeni leadership handle public funds?

The problem in the Third World is that their leaders in general perceive themselves as owners of the country they are in charge of. There is no clear dividing line between their private funds and the public coffers. Therefore, you can see many examples of rulers siphoning off government money.

When one traces the evolution of Euro-American democracies, starting with the Magna Carta, it is readily visible that one of the main controversies was how much control the sovereign should have over public resources. It was well into the 19th century when the whimsical control of the rulers over public funds was brought to an end. In other words, the duty of the top person in the country has become to manage the affairs of the country within a well-defined set of guidelines and rules. Thus a system based on checks-and-balances came into place.

In the Third World today, the rulers have no fixed budgets or allocations, even when these exist on paper. The rulers simply spend as they please. Actually, the only limiting element is the lack of funds or the general poverty of the country.

Here in Yemen, this problem exists in a shameless way. Just a couple of weeks ago, a number of government palaces built by foreign aid were simply given away to the top president's men. Each of those palaces is worth several hundred million Riyals, and it is given to people who already have hundreds of millions. But that is not all. We have two additional complications:

1) The behavior of the top politicians is beyond accountability. To add insult to injury, such malpractices are emulated by the ministers, governors, commanders, chairman of corporations, etc. Most of these individuals interact with the institutions they are in charge of as if they own them. This attitude becomes ever more damaging given the lack of accountability, even at the middle and low levels of bureaucracy.

2) The behavior of the top politicians and their entourage is no longer limited to public assets, but is steadily moving to eat away on private property. Politicians, using their powers, infringe on private enterprise and snatch agency dealerships, representation rights, 'confiscate' real estate property, force co-ownership arrangements, and make other deals.

No laws will hold back the greed of the ruling clique. What is needed is really a high level of morals and ethical values on the part of the ruling group to see and observe the limits of their powers. Unless they do this, the system loses much of its integrity, legitimacy and credibility.

I use this opportunity to call on our leadership to check this matter and bring things under control. In the New Year, people in the West are used to making resolutions for themselves. May I urge our leadership to make correcting its relationship with public funds its main resolution for 1998. This effort falls within the reforms presently under way. And it is ethically right.

**The Publisher**  


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### Successful Yemen Times Campaign

The campaign initiated by Yemen Times to draw attention to the plight of the Iraqi population in general, and the children in particular, has generated enthusiastic response from the general public. The purpose of the campaign was to raise awareness among the people of Yemen regarding the hardships endured by Iraq because of the US-driven UN sanctions. Yemen Times has already received more than 46,000 signatures of distinguished individuals as well as ordinary citizens of Yemen who are disgusted with what is happening to the people of Iraq. People wrote to us by hand, there are type-written messages, some were sent by mail, others by fax, and still others were hand-delivered. Still many more called. Even some foreigners, including Westerners, also wrote in support of stopping the mass murder of Iraqi children. Yemen Times has made arrangements to directly deliver all these messages to the UN Secretary-General.

### TeleYemen:

#### A Bad Service Gets Worse

TeleYemen, monopoly internet server in Yemen, has been on its customers nerves for a while. High fees and repeated breakdown of service are some of the reasons.

For the 4th time in less than 3 months, customers could not access their e-mail. This time it happened during the new-year holidays.

Then there is that dreadful bar that jumps on you while on-line, telling you 'you have been disconnected'. Will the Public Telecommunications Corporation please wake up?

### CC Committee Inspects Prisons

The Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs committee of the Consultative Council started on 2nd January, field visits to various prisons in the country. This will cover Sanaa, Hodeidah, Taiz, Aden, Ibb, Hajjah, and Hadramaut. Joined by colleagues from parliament, the CC committee's mandate includes assessing prison conditions, checking the files of in-mates, and to propose corrective measures.

"We are not out to get any one. We just want the prison authorities to work within the rules. We are especially eager to discuss with the wardens their exact duties," said Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chair of the Committee and leader of the delegation.

The committee also talked about the importance and meaning of human rights to the relevant prison officials.

### Opposition Parties Join Hands on Trade Unions Syndicates and NGOs

On Thursday, January 1st, five opposition parties (Yemeni Congregation for Reform - Islah, the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Nasserite Unionist Party, the Ba'ath, and Hizbul-Al-Haqq) issued a joint communique. They said they agreed to support the independence of Yemeni trade unions, syndicates and NGOs and their right to strike and other legal means to defend their members' interests.

The five parties also agreed on the need to limit the state's control over such organizations. The authority can only have the role of registering newly established trade unions and NGOs, stated the communique.

The parties also agreed to lobby for introducing legislation which will affirm these rights and to abolish any rules which contradict these demands.

### Dutch Assistance for Workshops in Electricity and NIAS

During December 13-18, 1997, 29 general managers of branches of the Ministry of Electricity participated in a workshop in Hodeidah. The effort, which stressed the need for localized planning and implementation of electric services, was financed through assistance from the Netherlands Government.

Engineer Abdulghani Mohammed Mutahhar who coordinated the workshop expressed happiness with the results. "We plan to hold more such workshops given the visible benefits," he said.

The Ministry branches suffer from high inefficiencies and slow reaction to growing needs and demands.

At another level, Dutch assistance was also channelled to finance a workshop on human resource development held at the National Institute for Administrative Sciences. The workshop which was held during 22/12-1/1/1998 covered human resource develop-



ment in the Middle East and the Red Sea.

25 papers were presented at the workshop, of which 4 dealt with Yemen, with specific references to the efforts at the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative

Reforms and the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training.

Participants came from Iran, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, in addition to Yemen.

### Red Sea Crabs Washed Ashore Dead Due to Pollution

Famous ornithologist, David Stanton, visited the Tihama beach and noticed their was more evidence of ecological damage than just oily covered rocks on the shore. His sighting of a five kilometer or so stretch of swimming edible crabs adds fuel to an argument that the effects of oil spills do not disappear overnight. He reported to the Yemen Times millions of crabs were washed ashore dead, in the region between Mokha and Khokha, in the southern Red Sea area.

The mass killing of the fauna and marine life will continue unless tighter controls are placed on ocean going vessels that clean their hulls and empty pollutants. The association of crab deaths to the oil contaminated waters is not coincidence, and other contaminants like mercury poisoning might have a similar effect. "I am reminded of the mercury spills into salmon spawning grounds in the late seventies and the deleterious effect that it had on the salmon

fisheries," he said.

The oil may disperse because of the tensioactive effect of the ocean current but if it covers fish spawning grounds or in this case the littoral zone of the sea where crabs congregate and reproduce, effects can be quite alarming.

Mention was made that these crabs were not adults but the smaller juvenile form and a safe estimate was given at millions lost. In some places the crabs were piled up in heaps. Evidently the juveniles are more susceptible to the pollutant. No other fish was noticed on the stretch of dead crabs between Al Khokha and Al Mocha: they are similar to the blue crab in form except that the distance between their pincer-like claws are wider.

Tar balls are not only present near Hodeidah but also to a lesser extent, along the Arabian Sea coast at Abayan beach. This may be due to dumping oil further away from the coast or to an older spill.

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## Dr. Qubati:

# "We hope to make Yemen leprosy-free by 2000."

Dr. Yassin Abdulaleem Al-Qubati, YT 1997 Person of the Year, is the Director of the National Leprosy Control Program and the Manager of the Hospital for Dermatology and Venereology in Taiz. A father of five, Dr. Al-Qubati, 48, is involved in several social and charity activities and is a member of a number of medical societies such as the Yemen Leprosy Elimination Society, the International Society of Dermatology, the Society for Water Resources and Development, the Asian Dermatological Association in Hong Kong, the New York Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in London, the Pan Arab League of Dermatologists, and the International Leprosy Association in the USA. He is also the General Secretary of the Yemen Leprosy Eradication Society and head of the Committee for Environmental Health and Sanitation in Taiz.

Dr. Al-Qubati has authored and co-authored several research papers and books on dermatology in general and leprosy in particular. He has written the script of many short television episodes aimed at enhancing awareness on leprosy.

Yemen Times is happy to present this personality to the public. On this occasion, Bin Sallam filed the following interview.

Excerpts:

**Q: How did you get involved in the effort to eradicate leprosy?**

**A:** My interest in fighting leprosy started while I was still a student at the College of Medicine in Cairo. I was moved by the harrowing scenes of lepers being treated at Qasr Al-Aini hospital. I started examining lepers in some of Egypt's large leproseries like Abu-Zaabal and Al-Kalaa clinic. I also began to see leprosy patients during my summer vacations which I spent back in Yemen. They were looked after by a Swedish medical team in the 1970s.

Upon graduation with an M.Sc. degree in dermatology from Cairo University, I became the director of environmental health in Taiz and later assumed the post of director of Al-Jumhoori Hospital in Taiz. Thus, I started in 1982 to develop my activities to control leprosy in the City of Light which was run by nuns from the Mother Theresa mission to treat leprosy patients. I myself traveled all over the country to Reima, Hajjah, Mahweet, and Khowlan where leprosy was rife.

**Q: How was the beginning?**

**A:** We were fighting an uphill battle. The leprosy patients were outcasts, to say the least. People so ignorant then as to shoot a leprosy patient seen walking after the rain, believing that his disease would be transferred by water to their agricultural crops and later to the person who eats it. People also shot at any leprosy patient seen lighting a lantern, believing a stranger in the night might be led by their light and become infected.

In 1984, we started getting support from international humanitarian organizations such as the German Leprosy Relief Association (GLRA), in Wurzburg, Germany, which is combating leprosy worldwide. This organization, established by a German journalist called Herman Koeber, helped and is still helping us immensely.

We also receive considerable assistance from Dr. S.K. Noordeen, head of the WHO leprosy unit; the late Dr. H.B. Ostler, former head of the Ophthalmology Department in San Francisco University; Dr. L.K. Bhutani, head of the Institute of Dermatology and Venereology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi; Dr. M. Robinson, Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario, Canada, and many others.

**Q: What is the general success rate of treating leprosy?**

**A:** Only 1% of the population are susceptible to being infected with leprosy. All of them get successfully cured if they get the disease. The main problem lies with the mistaken popular beliefs regarding the disease, not only in Yemen but also in many other countries.

**Q: Can religion play a role in changing people's beliefs on leprosy?**

**A:** Some clerics in Yemen still insist on reciting a saying erroneously attributed to the Prophet (P) which calls for ostracizing leprosy patients. The truth of the matter is that the Prophet (P) once held a leper by his hand to eat

with him from the same plate. Irrational fear of leprosy among people in almost all nations has led to bad treatment of leprosy patients.

One factor that led to wrong beliefs regarding leprosy in Yemen was that ships belonging to the East India Company used to dump leprosy patients on the shores of Al-Mahara, and leave them fend for themselves in the wilderness. Thus, simple people really believed then that leprosy patients were devils from other lands who could be cured only by eating the brain of a human being!

I once met a whole family living in one room in their neighbors' house while their four-storey house was left empty. The reason was that their father died of leprosy and they just abandoned the house.

**Q: How is the campaign to fight leprosy getting on?**

**A:** We have special medical teams working in remote areas such as Shabwa, Maseela, Hajar, Abar, Thamoud and Haradh where they are setting a special camp for leprosy patients. All these special teams receive financial assistance from the WHO and the GLRA. Surveys are conducted in remote villages to detect any possible cases of leprosy. It is quite difficult to achieve something in this country because of the prevalence of corruption, suspicion and insecurity.

**Q: What has been achieved so far?**

**A:** With assistance from the GLRA, we started in 1989 with four leprosy clinics in Hodeida, Dhamar, Ibb, and Taiz. By 1994, 64 leprosy clinics were spread in various parts of Yemen. Only two years later, we started closing down some of the old clinics because leprosy cases became rare or disappeared altogether. Let me give examples. In 1989 when we started in Dhamar, there were 600 cases. Today, there are only 17 cases under treatment. The picture is similar in Ibb, with no cases left.

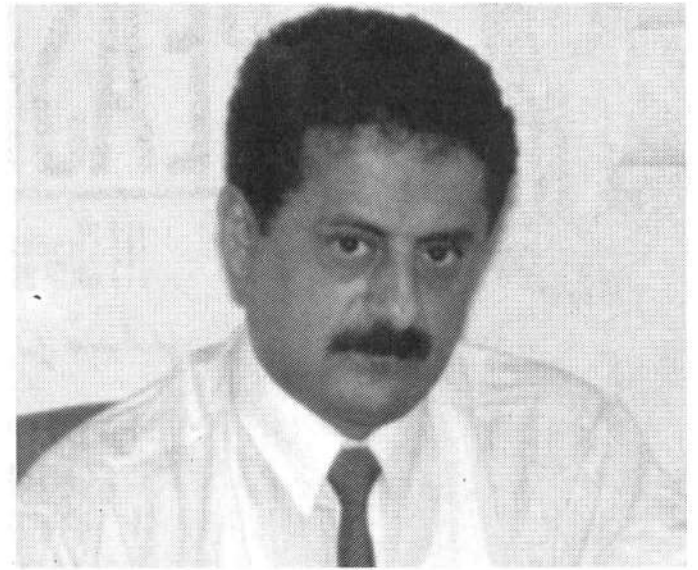
Of the 16 leprosy clinics that had been opened in Ibb and Taiz, only one is now left in Ibb which is visited by a supervisor from Taiz once every two weeks, and one clinic in Taiz at the City of Light. So our efforts have been successful. All in all, there are now 25 clinics left from the 64 that were opened in 1994, and I expect that only 20 would remain by the end of 1998.

There is still higher prevalence in Hodeida and Hadhramaut compared to the rest of the centers, but overall Yemen is considered free of leprosy according to WHO standards. The prevalence of leprosy has dropped from 4 cases in 10,000 to 4 in 100,000 people. It is expected that the prevalence of leprosy will further drop next year to 1 case in 100,000 people. We hope by the year 2000, there will be only 200 cases of leprosy left in Yemen.

**Q: Do you have any means to re-integrate cured leprosy patients back into society?**

**A:** Yes, rehabilitation programs are planned and carried out to re-integrate the persons affected by leprosy into society. In Taiz, for example, we are doing corrective surgeries for the deformed people and with help of Handicap International, Belgium, in 1995 we constructed a workshop for making sandals and crutches. This will help decrease the disabilities of the persons affected by leprosy. Lately, with aid from Hayil Saeed Anaam Cahritable Society, a two-floor building was constructed for the administration department and workshop for small scale income oriented industry. We contacted some embassies and the UNDP to get some assistance, but got no response.

To decrease disabilities, reconstructive surgeries are also conducted on some cured leprosy patients who have lost part(s) of their body such as absorbed nose, finger, or part of an earlobe. Presently, two volunteer French surgeons; Dr. J.A. Noirclerc and Dr. F. Jacquin are doing these corrective surgeries. We only had to pay their plane tickets for



which we thank Mr. Subhi, the Director of Yemenia Airlines for his kind assistance. I'd also like to thank Mr. Ahmed Hayil Saeed, the President of the Yemen Leprosy Elimination Society and Mr. A. Al-Sanabani, the director of the Aden Central Bank for their great efforts in raising money from merchants and businessmen for this worthy cause.

**Q: Could you tell us a little bit about the society you are heading?**

**A:** The Yemen Leprosy Elimination Society, established in 1992, is continuously supporting the field work for detection of new leprosy cases, the salaries of the staff and building of houses for the patients, and their food and clothing.

**Q: As a member of the WHO Expert Committee, what are your international activities?**

**A:** I am now sharing in the fight against leprosy worldwide. For example, in May, 1997, I worked as a part-time consultant for 15 days in Libya. In September, I participated in the leprosy elimination monitoring program in Indonesia and a workshop in Oman for all the Gulf countries. Through WHO, I also organized training courses on leprosy man-

agement for Egyptian and Pakistani physicians. I am expected to organize a monitoring program in Sudan at the beginning of this year.

**Q: Where do you get your finances from?**

**A:** Locally, we rely on donations from Yemeni merchants and businessmen working abroad, especially those from Hadhramaut origin and from Mr. Ahmed Hayil Saeed. We also get donations from community leaders. They helped us immensely by providing cars and big donations some of which were allocated to build a hospital in Hadhramaut. Unfortunately, and I am sorry to say this, due to rampant corruption and lack of security, many philanthropists are discouraged from making donations.

GLRA assists us with about \$200,000 every year, plus experts and medical vans, etc.

The WHO provides us with large quantities of medication, which we distribute free of charge to all our patients.

The Ministry of Health has provided the necessary buildings and it pays our salaries. The Ministry also promised to raise the budgetary allocation for combating leprosy during 1998.

Continue on page 5

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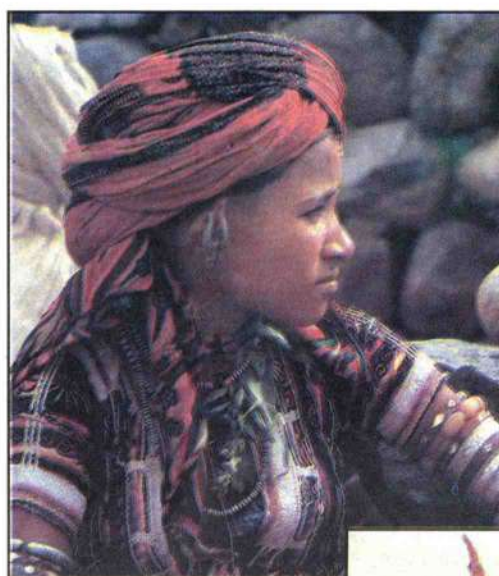


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## Yemenis Learn to Appreciate Flowers: Ikebana in Yemen

The art of flower arrangement, ikebana, to borrow the term from Japan - where the art has reached very advanced levels - is new to Yemen. The Yemeni people, visibly impoverished, had little time or interest in flowers. Survival and its means had priority. But this does not mean that Yemenis never appreciated flowers. In fact, flowers are often seen tucked in the turban or head-dress of men or women. They are also used as pendant hanging down from the neck. But now, with improved living conditions, many new aesthetic dimensions of life have begun to flourish. Using flowers at home, in offices, and for visitation purposes have increasingly become common practice. The growth of flower shops, the local flower plantations, and the rising level of imports of seeds, seedlings and cuttings testify to this growing reality.



There are many kinds of flowers that are in popular use. The local varieties are simple. One can see at street intersections, vendors selling pendants of flowers, jasmines, and other scent giving plants from ice-boxes. They sell you today's harvest. There are also the imported varieties. Most come from Syria, Egypt and Jordan. Some even come from further off, all the way from the Netherlands and southeast Asia. The most common types include lilies, tulips, red/yellow/pink and other roses. Of the leafy varieties, the more popular ones are in the daraena, calathea, codaeum and similar varieties. There are two major factors in the choice of flowers, depending on the purpose - the scent and the visual appearance and mix of colors. The stronger the scent of a flower gift, the more personalized the message is. One needs to be careful in the choice of flowers in order to give the right message.

**1) USES OF FLOWERS:**  
There are three uses of flowers in Yemen, and they are no different in other countries.

**a) For Visitations:**  
People take flowers with them when they visit friends, relatives, etc. This can be a happy occasion like weddings, parties, receptions, etc., or they can be sad occasions when visiting someone in hospital. Carrying flowers is becoming increasingly popular.

**b) For Beautification:**  
Flowers are also used to add beauty to one's home, office or any other habitat. Various colors and shapes of vases and pots are used. Modern homes, offices and public places now have a distinct place for flowers.



**c) For Expressing Feelings:**  
Yemenis increasingly send flowers to express their sentiments and feelings. It is one of the best expressions of love and caring.

**2) KINDS OF FLOWERS:**



**3) PRICES:**  
Prices vary depending on many things. In general, however, local products are much less expensive. One can buy a string of half-meter jasmine pendant to be used by a woman, for example, for about YR 500 (less than US\$4). If one wants a bouquet, the cost could range from a few hundred Riyals to a few thousand.

It is possible to order flowers and specify the types and colors one wants. This service is now available in Sanaa, and possibly in the other large cities such as Aden and Taiz.

**4) OCCASIONS:**  
Weddings and holiday seasons are the best occasions for flowers. But there are also many other times when flowers are exchanged. A promotion at work, success in school, coming back from a trip, and personal anniversaries (birthdays, etc.) are all occasions for flowers. Inauguration of projects is also an important occasion for flowers.



**5) PRIVATE GARDENS:**  
In the cities as well as the countryside, well-to-do families have vast arrays of flowers in private gardens in their homes. They are rich in color and smell, and are used by the family and its friends on various occasions.

**6) NOW THAT YOU KNOW...**  
Now that you know, how about getting out there and getting a bunch of flowers. Send them to a close person you have taken for granted for a long time. Or simply tuck them in some corner of your office or home to add an extra meaning to the place.

By: Aneesa Ghanem

## More Arab Studies in US

Ms. Barbara Stowasser is the director of the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University, Washington D.C. She teaches Arab and Islamic culture at Georgetown University. Ismail Al-Ghabiri of Yemen Times talked to Ms. Stowasser, and filed the following interview.

**Q: What are your impressions of Yemen so far?**

A: This is my first visit to Yemen which has been absolutely delightful. I've met many wonderful people and scholars. I met Sheikh Ismail Al-Akwa'a who is quite a famous scholar. I had a wonderful discussion with him about Yemeni culture. I've been received by H.E. the Prime Minister who is an old friend of my center and who actually invited me to come to Yemen this time. I'm very very grateful to all of them including Mr. Khalid al-Akwa'a who is also responsible for this trip and your ambassador to Washington, Mr. Abdulwahab Al-Hajri who is also a friend of this center. I've met a number of Yemeni graduates of Georgetown University as well as of other American universities and I feel very much at home. It's really a wonderful visit. It is like a home coming.



very open, quite critical articles in it and some are quite satirical, which I found very positive.

**Q: How do you see the future role of the Yemeni women?**

A: I don't know much about that. That is why I didn't speak of women issues in my lecture. I've very much wanted to but I'm not familiar with the social reality of the country. I would like to study it. I would like to come back, interview women and find out women's role in the political process, in the economy and so on. But I am too ignorant at present to say anything much about it except that I was impressed by the fact that some of these young women today in the lecture had some extremely intelligent questions. So, apparently women are taking full advantage of the educational opportunity that has been given.

**Q: What studies are currently being prepared by your center?**

A: Yes, we have done a lot of work. Our specialist on Yemen is Michael Hudson. He has written seven long analytical pieces about the country including a very nice piece, about the last elections when he was here as an observer. I myself, after this lovely visit, have decided to have a Yemen Day at the center in spring,



**Q: About what is the lecture you gave in Sanaa university?**

A: I called it "A Study of Arab and Islamic Issues in the United States." I tried to speak about all the programs that we have in the US for the study of Arab politics, culture, and Islamic issues. Then I spoke of the political role of establishments such as the one I work with in educating the American public and administration because these are issues on which the general public is not fully informed.

during this spring semester. We'll discuss the history, politics, economy, and social development in Yemen. And we will invite both American politicians and also people from the media to attend in order to spread information about the Yemen.

**Q: As an American intellectual how do you see the American**



**Q: How do you assess the democratic process and the general political situation in Yemen?**

A: Well, I just got here; it's very early to ask me this question. But I was very impressed by the free speech allowed in Yemen. I was also impressed by a visit to the Consultative Council where I've found out they are dealing with human rights questions in a major way. I got a newspaper this morning and there were some

**policy concerning the conflict in the Middle East?**

A: It is a biased policy and there are however, people who are very concerned with rectifying the bias. I think that we will see progress. I think that the development is hopefully toward greater justice in this issue in the US.

Continued from page 3

# YT Person of 1997

**Q: How many cases of leprosy have been treated so far?**

A: We have been successful in treating 6,000 cases of leprosy. I believe that there are about 1,200 hidden cases left in the country. We aim for a leprosy-free Yemen. In order to raise doctor awareness of this disease, we are conducting special training programs in Hodeida, Sanaa, Aden, Shabwa, and Lahaj.

**Q: What other social and humanitarian activities do you have?**

A: I am the head of the Committee of Environmental Health and Sanitation. Since we are not an environmental law enforcement agency, we try to persuade factories and stone quarries to eliminate or even reduce the pollutants they emit. I am also a member of the Society to Combat Begging and the Society of Benevolence and Social Solidarity. As far as health is concerned, I am also working on a project to fight tuberculosis in Taiz where we detected 110 cases so far. We give TB patients free medication through the GLRA. Other diseases we are currently trying to control in Yemen are scabies and leishmaniasis and onchocerciasis.

**Q: What are the main obstacles and problems that you face in your work?**

A: The most pressing problem we face in the City of Light today is a land dispute. Leprosy patients started to settle in that area back in 1964. They started building homes for themselves, and the area was fenced off by the Ministry of Health. Some of the old leprosy patients got cured and returned back to their original areas, others died. The sons of some former patients returned to claim plots of land in the City of Light, which of course still belongs to the government. When a patient dies, his or her heirs come to us demanding their rights. Seeing that there are no longer any leprosy patients left, even local tribal sheikhs started claiming the land. These people are causing much trouble for us. The state just looks on while all this is taking place. Other problems include lack of qualified staff. The pay is very small, thus it is difficult to get hold of the needed trained doctors and nurses.

**Q: Can you specify the kind of support provided by the government towards combating leprosy?**

A: We can use all state hospitals in the country as outlets to provide medicines for the patients. Without these facilities we would not have been able to conduct our campaigns. Also, all those who work with us get their salaries from the Ministry of Health which also gives us a token budget. Low pay, however, has put many people off working for combating leprosy. The municipalities where we work provide us with free water and electricity.

**Q: Services in state-owned health facilities have visibly declined. Private hospitals have yet to fill the gap. What do you think must be done to remedy the situation?**

A: This is a general trend. Almost every public service is on the decline. Health services in particular are suffering. Most of the

country's national income is spent on security and defense, and very little on health and education. Protecting and preserving the regime is paramount. They don't realize that all public organs are essential for the smooth running and the future of the country. The rich and powerful members of society can get all the medical help they need abroad. They never think about their less fortunate brothers. They will never work for the establishment of decent and modern health or education systems inside the country, because their needs are covered.

**Q: What is an issue that you wish to raise in this interview?**

A: I believe that the greatest scourge of Yemen is qat! Every single day, millions of people chew qat which is a waste of time and resources. Qat makes us dream of building castles in the air. After the effect wears off, we become depressed and start looking for means to sedate our frustrations. Our backwardness stems from qat and so do several nutritional, gastro-intestinal, respiratory, and mental illnesses. About 50% of our precious water resources are used to irrigate qat farms. We have a duty to take the initiative to fight the qat chewing habit of Yemen.

Continued from first page

## Top Ruling Politicians...

The frustrating part in all of this is that these thieves often blame the tribesmen and sheikhs who rob and steal. I asked one of them, why? He had no answer except looking away. All these individuals are well-off. They do not need to rob the state simply because they are in charge.

I then raised the issue with the prime minister. "How can you ask the people of Yemen to accept making sacrifices when the top politician are stealing government property in broad day-light?" He had no adequate answer.

The confiscated houses where originally built with Libyan aid to facilitate the re-settlement of the then leadership of southern Yemen in Sanaa.

I ask all these crooks to hand back the deeds of the properties they confiscated or else, the following will happen:

- 1) The Yemen Times will run pictures of the palaces and the names of the top politicians who have confiscated them, even if that happened with the president's nod of approval.
- 2) We will mount a campaign to expose the wealth of these individuals to the general public and ask, "How, when and where they got it from?"
- 3) We will talk to everybody - locals and foreigners - and expose the unsatiable greed of these politicians who wear cloaks of decency and integrity.

I hope we are all spared more grief on this matter and that these guys will see the light. I sincerely pray that the message gets across.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf  
Professor, Sanaa University.

## Dutch Assistance for COAC to Better Enforce the Laws

Laws are made to be enforced. That is sort of the general rule. In some countries, and Yemen is one of them, it seems the rule is "Laws are made to be neglected."

In Yemen, the entity responsible for serving as the state watchdog and to make sure that laws are enforced is the Central Organization of Audit and Control (COAC). Unfortunately, the efficiency and reach of the COAC is very limited.

The organization is now trying to extend its reach and improve its efficiency. Towards that end, it has obtained the support of the Netherlands Court of Audit (NCA), which sent to Sanaa a delegation headed by Mr. Hink Koning, the NCA President, during 14-18 December, 1997.

Discussions between representatives of the two organizations concentrated on possible cooperation. The first step was to evaluate COAC activities, as included in the project YEM-93-007. The aim is to continue to develop the administrative and technical skills of COAC personnel, which has yielded encouraging results in the past.

During the visit, the two sides signed of a memorandum of understanding which further allowed for more cooperation, especially in the field of exchanging experience in modern audit and control methods. This will be achieved through a project in which the NCA will organize several control activities. These will include:

- performance evaluation
- reviewing projects sponsored by international donor organizations
- reviewing quality control of control and audit results
- improving the system of accountability in organs controlled by the COAC
- reviewing exploitation of natural resources.
- improving the English language abilities of controllers in the COAC.
- improving audit administrative and technical skills.

The NCA and COAC teams went over several potential fields of joint effort. The newly-built training center in Sanaa was a key point of interest.

The NCA delegation also visited Aden where it met with the head of the COAC branch and held fruitful discussions.

The delegation also met with the Prime Minister and the Speaker of Parliament. It also attended a parliamentary session held on December 18th.

At the end of the visit, Mr. Koning expressed his appreciation for the generous hospitality and the good working meetings. He praised the efforts of the COAC leadership in working to improve and modernize the organization. He emphasized the NCA's commitment in continuing cooperation with the COAC.

By: Mohammed Sufian Al-Dobai'

## "Let Them Know it's Christmas"



For the inmates of Mother Theresa's home it is not often that people share moments of joy with them. This Christmas the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel shared Christmas with the children and other brethren at the home and hope that many people in the country will follow suit.



This is an *OPINION* page.  
Every week, a different intellectual writes a *FOCUS* on a pertinent issue!

## Monotheistic Religions and their Origin



By: Ismail Al-Ghabiriy

The Quran's account of the history of Noah and his people is narrated in Surah Hood in considerable detail. There are, however, several points which merit further comment, since their significance is not confined to the story or to the people of Noah. Indeed historical accounts are given in the Quran because they are relevant to all mankind and they have a direct bearing on faith. We will discuss these points so that the full significance of the story is fully absorbed. Many people ask whether the floods actually engulfed the whole earth or whether they were confined to a certain area where Noah and his people lived. What were the boundaries of that area in the ancient world? We have no definite answer for such a question. But that is irrelevant because the world at the time was

confined to Noah and his people. Secondly, the floods must have swept this whole area, drowning all creatures, except those who were saved by the Ark. This is a great event which we are certain to have happened, since many sources besides the Quran tell us about it. The people of Noah were immersed in ignorance. Hardened in their evil ways, they stubbornly rejected the message of Noah based on the Oneness of God. This message was first revealed to Adam. We know from history, the reasons for the fall of Adam - temptation. After him, his offspring were charged with the task of building the earth. This is the purpose of our existence. God has given us the qualities and abilities necessary to do this task. This submission to God's purpose and will is known as faith. Hence, this submission, or Islam was the first faith ever known to man on earth. Hence, the people of Noah's sin was their refusal to submit to God's will. They were immersed in worship of idols, and most troublesome of all, the people did not respect the rights of each other. Man's deviation from Islam, in its broad sense, has taken place as a result of the machinations of Satan, the enemy of both God and

man. Satan exploits people's weaknesses whenever they become lax in their observance of God's commandments and deviate from his guidance. God has created man and granted him a measure of free choice, by which he is tested. Equipped with free choice, he can choose to hold fast to God's guidance, fortifying himself against evil. But when man deviates from God's guidance, Satan overpowers him until he eventually falls to a condition of complete ignorance. This fact, that the first faith ever known on earth is that of or submission to God - Islam - guides us through choice to our self fulfillment and elevation. Today comparative religious scholars know this submission as monotheism. Monotheism is not a latterday development of human religion. It is preceded, by several stages and forms, the polytheism worship of natural forces, spirits, planets, etc. Whatever modern research has done in this connection, it follows a line predetermined by historical, psychological and political factors whose aim is to destroy the basis of divine religion, revelations and messages in order to establish that all religions are a human product. Once this is established

it can be easily claimed that religions have developed in the same way as human thought. Some of those who write in defense of Islam, slip and endorse the theories established by those specialists in the history of religion conducting their research along the biased line. While defending Islam so enthusiastically, they unwittingly destroy the basis of the Islamic Faith as stated in the Quran with decisive clarity. The Quran states that Adam (peace be on him) descended on earth with the faith of Islam. It also states that Noah (peace be on him) faced the later generations of mankind, was deflected by Satan from the line of Islam to the line of ignorance, with the same Islamic faith based on the absolute Oneness of God. The same cycle repeated itself after Noah, with mankind abandoning Islam to adopt doctrines of ignorance. All prophets were sent with the same message of God's oneness, calling on mankind to submit themselves to God alone. The line of prophets from Ibrahim (Abraham), Mussa (Moses), all the way to Al-Maseeh (Jesus) and Mohammed carried the same message. An enlightened study of the development of religious doctrines does not lead to the conclusion that people reached the stage of monotheism on the basis of evolution and progress relating to

the essence of faith. It shows that the monotheistic faiths, preached by successive prophets and messengers, were complete in the message delivered by each messenger that had deviated from true faith. In other words, faith was complete right from the start, because it was not the result of human thinking or increased human knowledge. It was given to man by God and as such, it was true and complete right from the beginning. This is clearly established in the Quran. It was clearly established in the Bible, and the Old and New Testaments, etc. It is not for any scholar, especially if he/she wants to defend Islam, to depart from what is stated so clearly in order to follow the masters of comparative religion as they grope for a coherent theory.

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# Rural Women Development

The Rural Women Development Directorate (RWDD) with support from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, organized an exhibition on "The life and Production of Rural Women in the Republic of Yemen." The exhibition was inaugurated on the 7th of December by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Mr. Ahmed Salem Al-Jabali. The Minister emphasized on this occasion, the need to "support rural women and help alleviate some of their burdens because they do a lot of work at home and on the farm, especially when their husbands are working abroad. The assistance mentioned by the Minister includes providing rural women with farm tools and machinery, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, cattle fodder and other essential farming requirements.

Agricultural Engineers are working in the RWD sector.

The RWD activities implemented under the MAI used to include the following variety of activities:

- establishing home gardens;
- managing special training farms (vegetables, fruits and fodder);
- distribution of seedlings;
- training women on sewing, embroidery, knitting, food preserving and first aid;

- organizing illiteracy classes;
- raising women's awareness of public health, mother & child care and nutrition;
- organizing vaccination campaigns;
- implementing population education programs and
- providing veterinary services.

The RWDD was established in 1985 with rather limited resources and was covering only a small number of governorates. Currently, most governorates in the north and the south have a RWD section in the Agricultural Office and it is expected that also in the near future, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) will open a RWD section in Al-Maharah. Extension programs are implemented through 66 Rural Women Development extension centers and 132 Female Rural Extension Agents and 56 Female

In 1995 the Terms of References of the RWDD have been revised and were approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation. Accordingly, the RWD activities

to be implemented under the MAI should focus on the following three sectors only: agriculture (including forestry and environment), livestock and home economics (i.e. dairy production, food processing related to agricultural products and handicrafts of natural materials).

Under the Dutch funded project "Assistant to the Rural Women Development Directorate" (ARWDD) a policy and strategy will be developed in 1998 to direct the implementation of the



carry out cattle and sheep rearing projects through the Agricultural and Fisheries Promotion Production fund of the MAI.

Chronic lack of resources, as well as lack of proper means of transportation, impede the implementation of many of the above programs. During one of the field trips made by the staff of the RWDD one of the local Female Rural Extension Agents mentioned that they were going by cart and camel to the villages because other means of transportation are absent.

Fortunately, the MAI promised to allocated a budget in 1998 to enable various RWD sections to implement their activities. Furthermore, the team leader of the Dutch project "ARWDD" and the director of the RWDD are lobbying from their side with international donors to secure financial assistance for the implementation of RWD activities through the

RWD sections under the MAI.

According to the final results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 1994 77% of the total population live in rural areas, 50% of the total rural population are women, and 95% of the female economically active population in rural areas are involved in agriculture and livestock against 58% of the male economically active population. Accordingly, the food security will only improve if these facts are recognized and the following actions are taken:

- Extension in agriculture and livestock should focus on women
- More female RWD extension staff should be recruited by the Yemeni government; and
- Donor funded agriculture projects should have at least a major Rural Women Development component if a full-fledged project for Rural Women Development is not feasible.

**Lidwien Scheepers, Team leader "ARWDD".**  
**Bilquis Anwar Abdul Satta**  
**Director RWDD.**

## Importance of Economic Investment

The services and products offered by national investment projects will certainly help open the way to export our local commodities abroad, and bring in hard currency into the country. In addition, these projects can help reduce unemployment. Thus, the increase in investments helps raise the living standards of the people and consolidate the national economy.

As a result of this, the government pays great attention to investment. According to Law No. 22 of 1991, the government established the General Investment Authority (GIA) as an independent body to supervise investment projects. This law aims to encourage and organize the investing of national and international capital in the framework of the government's general policy and the goals of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development. The law has recently been amended in order to facilitate the setting up of investment projects, and to offer more tax exemptions.

The total number of projects licensed by the GIA and its branches in Aden, Hadhramaut, Taiz and Hodeida, right from its establishment until December 96, and the number of new job opportunities created by these projects are as follows:

Center	No. of Projects	No. of Employees
Sana'a	139	7,750
Aden	34	948
Hadramout	48	1,204
Taiz	9	389
Hodeidah	1	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>10,309</b>

These projects are distributed according to investment sectors and the number of employees in these sectors:

Investing Sector	No. of Projects	No. of Employees
Industrial projects	1,006	28,696
Agricultural projects	66	2,398
Fishery project	41	2,653
Service projects	533	19,357
Tourist	174	7,024
<b>Total</b>	<b>1823</b>	<b>60,128</b>

As a result of the facilities, privileges, services, and information given to investment projects in Yemen, the total number of projects licensed by the GIA and the number of new jobs created during the time between January and June, 1997 is as follows:

## Tender Announcement

The Ministry of Fish Wealth (Coastal Fishing Corporation) of the Republic of Yemen invites all dealers in the purchase of fish, whether domestic or international firms, to submit their bids for currently available quantities of rock lobster (tails) at Dhaboot cold stores Al-Mahra Governor.

**The lobster quantities are distributed according to the following standards:**

Size	No. of Cartons	Carton weight	No. of Cartons
2/3	706	10 Kgs	7060
3/4	524	10 Kgs	5240
4/5	1294	10 Kgs	12940
5/6	961	10 Kgs	9610
6/7	249	10 Kgs	2490
7/8	143	10 Kgs	1430
8/9	32	10 Kgs	320
9/10	11	10 Kgs	110
10/12	8	10 Kgs	80
12/16	2	10 Kgs	20
16/20	1	10 Kgs	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>3931</b>	<b>10 Kgs</b>	<b>39310</b>

### Bids Submission Conditions:

1. Bids must be submitted in closed envelopes at or before envelope opening.
2. The quantity of Lobster tails offered is from the production of 1997.
3. US\$ 10,000 in cash or bank guaranty must be submitted with the bid. This amount will be returned to the unsuccessful bidder.
4. We shall complete the quantity to 40 tons in end of December 1997.
5. Opening of the bidding envelopes will be at 10PM 10/1/98 in general corporation building at (Mualla - Hugaif).
6. The company which will be succeed in the bidder, will open complete credit 100% from any bank, which deal with central bank of Yemen, through two weeks.
7. The amount must be pay to our account within one week from received shipping document.
8. The shipping must be within one month from notice of the successful company.
9. For further information kindly contact the office of the General Manager, Coastal Fishing Co., Aden, on telephone Numbers 221123 or 213834 or by fax No. 211843.

Center	No. of Projects	No. of Employees
Sana'a	939	37,453
Aden	651	7,189
Hadramout	122	2,984
Taiz	83	1,666
Hodeidah	28	836
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>60,128</b>

The industrial projects are represented by a series of factories all over the country. For example, the GIA has during this year licensed factories to manufacture leather and plastic shoes, paint, soap and detergents, cement, gas cylinders and some other products.

The Agricultural projects are represented by several farms and nurseries and the fishery projects offers a series of fish canning factories.

To help the growing of tourist investment, several hotels, parks and beach cabins are being erected. Service projects include health projects represented by private hospitals and clinics which are opened throughout the country. Educational projects include the establishment of private schools, institutes and universities.

So, all of us hope that Yemeni emigrants will come back one day and, with their saving, share in improving the Yemeni economy.

*Jameel Moghram,*  
*Yemen Times*

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## Opinions on Genetic Engineering in Yemen and Abroad



People are talking about genetic engineering their uses and their misuses: some say that the cloning of cells is beneficial for the production and purification of cell products that then be marketed like biotin for example. Others want to produce harder varieties of plants; others want to develop new animal species that would be more productive agriculturally and others want to help infertile women to conceive and to control diseases by recognizing the genes responsible for them. Should science stop and ethics take over? Questions have risen as to the overall benefits of science and specifically genetic engineering to intervene on behalf of mankind.

### Humans

Today as a result man is ever so close as to recognizing genes that when activated cause diseases. Recognizing the gene causing rheumatism, for instance might enable scientists to prevent its expression. But genetic engineering also reminds of the stories of post-war Europe and the cloning of human cells from the leader of Nazi Germany. It reminds us of the potential the genetic research has over the masses and of being unaware and impotent to be able to control its misuse.

After Princess Diana's untimely death her fans suggested that her genes be implanted into another woman so as to produce a woman of similar characteristics.

When an elderly woman received a fertilized egg from her daughter in the Italy two years ago and then conceived, critics said that the woman recipient was to old to bear children.

Supporters are pressing for more research in America to isolate and identify the genes that cause different cancers, those effecting the blood pressure, that cause bone diseases in the elderly and many more.

### Religion

Criticism has also arisen from the oldest functioning university in the Arab world, the Al - Azhar Mosque and University. Genetic engineering is hardly popular there as critics state that this should not be conducted on humans. Criticism has also been expressed by the pope in Italy who is more in favor of natural child birth. Orthodox Jews are also against this sort of experimentation whether it be artificial transplants for women who cannot conceive or whether it be due to genetic manipulation which interferes with the normal child bearing process. Therefore there is a consensus among the three great western religions that genetic tampering is taboo. There are however liberals the world over that promote the artificial implantation of a fertilized egg into another woman. Success stories of women who no longer ovulate yet conceive will probably become more common in spite of the opposition of the traditionalists.

### Plants

The fact of many more predicted mouths to feed by the next century is reason enough especially for food experts to promote this kind of research. Food marketing experts will be behind this approach. New varieties of vegetable strains are being experimented on especially for the arid nations of the world that would germinate faster, be more resistant to plant viruses and withstand the arid climate. The artificial use of hormone effects on plant calluses has aided botanists to better understand how certain crop growth can be stimulated.

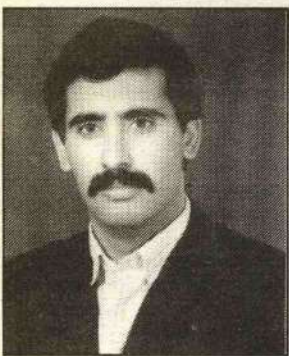
### Insects

Not all genetic crosses are success stories and the reader is reminded of a wild Brazilian bee type that was experimented on ten years back and escaped captivity. This type crossed with the domestic type and passed on its aggressive traits. Clearly the passing on of aggressive traits to domestic bees is of no advantage. And there are always incidents of hyper-allergic people dying of bee stings in the U.S. In any case there's no turning back the clock on genetic research.

Martin Dansky / Yemen Times

## Sanaa Sewage: Health & Environmental Risks

Valuating the quantity and quality of Sanaa sewage is a research done by Eng. Faysal Ahmed Nasser for which he got an M.Sc degree with distinction from Sanaa University. Supervised by Dr. Abdullah Ba'laqi, the research concentrated on the use of sewage water for irrigation purposes.



People living in and around Sanaa suffer from several environmental problems emanating from the bad sewage management, which has aroused much controversy within society. Research done in this field has uncovered many environmental acts hitherto unknown to the general public.

Eng. Faysal Ahmed Nasser spent two years to study the quantity and quality of sewage used for irrigating small farms in the Sanaa vicinity. Usually, sewage from Sanaa is first collected in treatment basins in the Al-Rawdha area, and is later sent to the farms in Wadi Hawat. However, some of the sewage is sometimes sent immediately to Wadi Hawat, without proper treatment. Crops irrigated by sewage include corn, wheat, onions, and barley and clover which are used as animal feed.

The overall daily sewage flux going into Al-Rawdha sewage works in around 14,000-39,000 cu.m i.e. 23-64% of the Sanaa sewage. The rest - 37-77% goes directly to irrigate farms.

Relying on accurate chemical,

physical, and microbiological analyses, Eng. Nasser's study uncovered several health and environmental problems related to inadequate sewage management and disposal. Fecal coliform bacteria is found to be quite

endemic in agricultural fields irrigated by sewage ( $17 \times 10^6$  cultures per 100 ml). Also, ten days after each irrigation process, 35 cultures of bacteria remain alive on every 50g of onions. Ammonium nitrate concentration was found to be 100mg per liter - quite harmful for nitrate-sensitive plants. Suspended solids in the sewage (352mg per liter) can lead to plugging the soil's pores thereby preventing air and water from permeating through. These organic materials then decompose in an airless environment causing foul odors.

Moreover, water wells 10-40 m deep that lie on the sewage route become completely contaminated. The extent of contamination decreases in deeper wells - 100-400m. The study, however, did not clarify any likely changes to the soil's characteristics. But the plant nutrient concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium were estimated to be 8, 0.5, and 2 tons for every hectare of land respectively.

Other important figures found by the study include the following:

- \* Concentration of organic matter: BOD = 324 mg per liter; COD = 1,100 mg per liter.
- \* Electrical conductivity = 2268 microsiemen/cm.
- \* Dissolved salts = 1725 mg per liter.
- \* Sodium, Fluoride, & Boron = 207, 250, & 1mg per liter, respectively.
- \* Heavy elements: Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Iron, & Lead = 0.25, 0.20, 0.13, & 0.18 mg per liter, respectively (acceptable levels).

The study concluded with a number of recommendations to improve the overall sewage management:

- Sanaa sewage must be treated to an acceptable level for farm irrigation;
- more studies should be conducted to ascertain the extent of health hazards caused by partial sewage treatment, especially among people living on or in the vicinity of farms irrigated with sewage water;
- the extent of sewage pollution of the underground aquifers must be further studied;
- changes in soil characteristics must be followed over a long period of time; and there are several other pertinent recommendations.

**Sadek Al-Osaimi,**  
Environment Protection Council

Mr. Al-Osaimi also wrote the article entitled Yemen Turtles & Tortoises on the last page of issue 51 of the Yemen Times. His name was omitted due to a technical error.

## Northwest arrives in Sana'a, Yemen Joins KLM to Offer Travellers Global Route Network

KLM and Northwest have celebrated on the eve of new year the first code-share flight to and from Yemen. It was attended by Ms. Barbara Bodine, U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Arend Meerburg, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Deputy Chairman Civil Aviation Engineer Mr. Hussein Al-Sayaghi, Capt. Bakker and his crew and sales and service team of KLM/Northwest Yemen.

Travellers from Sana'a will enjoy unparalleled airline access to cities around the world, from December 31, 1997, when KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Northwest Airlines begin their code-share agreement from Sana'a.

Travellers will be able to buy a single ticket from Sana'a to anywhere in the world with KLM and Northwest route system encompasses, including more than 400 cities in North America, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, Australia and the Middle East. "No other airline system in the world can provide passengers with the travel options available through KLM and Northwest", said **Abdallah Okasha, KLM Regional Manager for Yemen.**

Passengers can purchase a KLM or Northwest ticket from Sana'a to any city served by either airline under the agreement, called a code-share agreement. Passengers receive boarding passes on all flights, through check-in of baggage and other advantages.

The code-share agreement utilizes the fleets and routes of both airlines. For example, passengers buying a KLM ticket from Sana'a to Orlando, Florida would travel from Sana'a to Amsterdam via KLM's existing service, connect on KLM's and Northwest's joint non-stop service to Detroit, and then connect on Northwest's non-stop service to Orlando.

"Travelling on the KLM-Northwest system is much smoother than hassling with combinations of other airlines because our system is integrated specifically with the needs of international travellers in mind", said **Ray Nishihira,**



US Ambassador Ms. Barbara Bodine, Mr. Arend Meerburg, Ambassador of the Netherlands and Mr A. Okasha, Regional Manager, KLM Yemen cutting the ceremonial cake to mark the occasion

### Northwest's General Manager for the Middle East & South Asia.

Northwest and KLM have co-ordinated their schedules to provide Yemen passengers with quick connections to destinations beyond Northwest and KLM U.S. hubs.

"The code-share agreement between Northwest Airlines and KLM helps Yemen become more accessible to foreigners, particularly those whose travel originates in the U.S. and Canada. It will be good for Yemen's tourism industry, and will help bring potential investors to Yemen. Then they will be able to see for themselves

that it is a land of many opportunities", said **Ms. Barbara Bodine, U.S. Ambassador in Sana'a.** **Mr. Arend Meerburg, Ambassador of the Netherlands,** was equally optimistic. "I think this step will improve accessibility for international travellers to Yemen."

Passengers from Sana'a also benefit from KLM's Flying Dutchman frequent travel program, of which Northwest is a full participant. Travellers can earn and redeem awards on flights to over 400 cities served by either Northwest, or KLM world-wide. Passengers can also earn miles staying in hotels, renting cars and using telephone calling cards.



The crew of first code-share flight along with two Ambassadors and Civil Aviation authorities and service team KL/NW Yemen.

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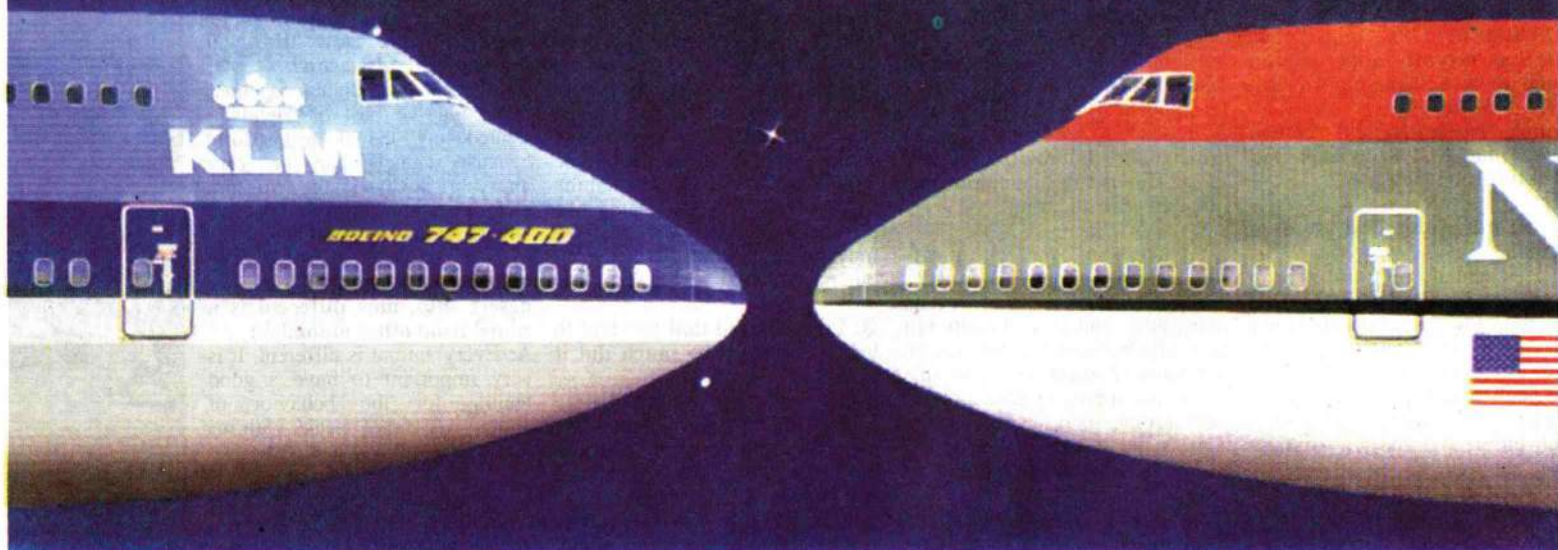
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**On the occasion of the first code-shared flight into Yemen on new year's eve, KLM and Northwest would like to wish all their customers  
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



# Old Sanaa: Frankincense, Gold & Mhyrr

## The Author . . .

Franc Mermier has been the director of the French Center for Yemeni Studies since 1991. While doing a field study about the old Sana'a, he got a doctorate degree in anthropology. His doctorate thesis was included in a book named *The Night Sheikh, Sana'a, the Organism of the Market and the Urban Society*, which was published in 1997. He is going back to teach Arab anthropology at Lyon University. In his book, Franc Mermier talked about the social organism of the market and the old Sana'a. He studied the changes in the social hierarchy since the Revolution of 26th September, 1962, and the development the witnessed by society between 1960-70. He studied the issue of modernization, concentrating on the element of civilization. He talked about old Sana'a as a city surrounded by a tribal society and the characteristics of that society in order to know the elements of civilization in the old city itself.

## Old City of Sana'a

It is a city located on the Zeidi hill. Unlike other societies, its society is a native one which differs in its organism and social classes. The market is the place in which



all social classes gather, the upper and lower classes as well as the craftsmen. Tribal and urban people, and people who left their villages to settle in the market are all there. A Sana'ani identity is developed out of the social organism. They share mutual concepts which express reactions against

the tribal environment. They say that the civilized man is more religious and more knowledgeable than the tribal one. They look at the tribal society as a society of violence and aggression (the incident of 1948, when the tribes attacked Sana'a and for that reason it was walled), and a society which does not apply the law of Islam. On the other hand, they appreciate the strength, courage, and honesty as an inherent nature in the tribesmen. In the society of

the old city there are different names associated with, or refer to, the social classes of the city: "Al-Arabi" is a one of a tribal origin, and "Al-Sadah", who are descendants of the Prophet Mohammed (P). There are also people who have not a specific origin.

## Market Organism through the law of the city

The market is a mirror which

reflects the consumption of people and the handicrafts they still acquire. It is, therefore, important that it maintains the traditional relations. For example, in the spice shops we find anything we need for weddings, funerals, circumcisions, and baby delivery. Some foreign people can be seen in the market, Jews and Ismaelites trade there.

Women have a significant presence in the market as consumers and shoppers, though indirectly they also work there. What a woman sews at home is later sold by some market traders. Her role is more significant, in the old city, than the role of other working women outside.

## Jambia Market

Since the Revolution of December 26th, the Jambia market has grown ever larger. A lot of shops are open. Jambia is no more a mere symbol of the social pyramid. It is now a sign of social identity and it is the only handicraft that has been continuously developed in the market.

## Qat Market

It is no more a big market because many other markets are open outside the city. These markets are considered to be the "doors" of Sana'a instead of Bab Al Yemen and Bab Sho'ob.

## Working Children

Seeing children working in the market is not that common a thing in the old city. They might help their fathers in the market when they come back from



school, but they do not undertake actual work as Egyptian children do.

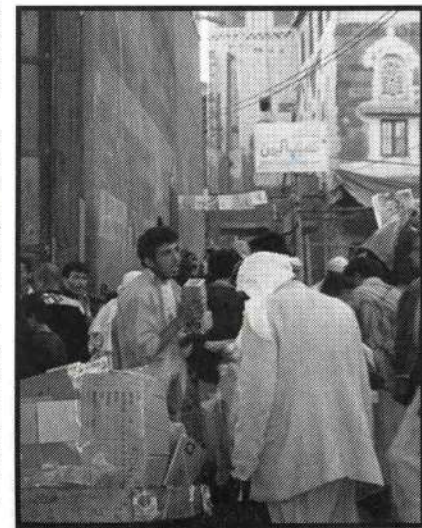
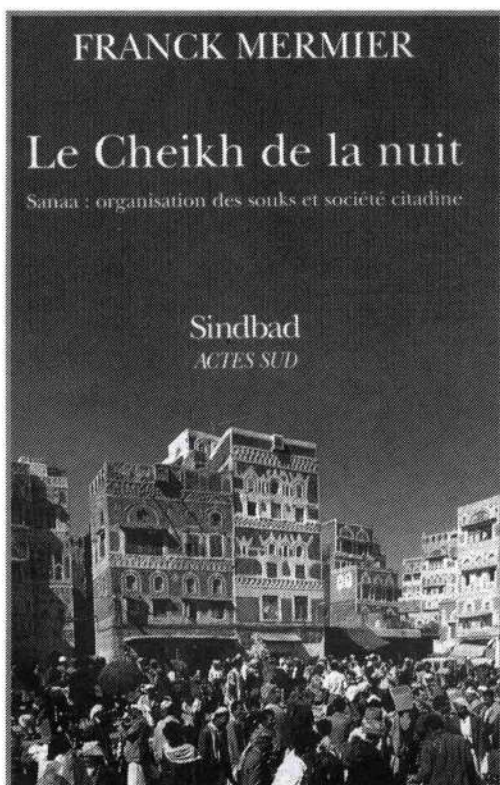
## Silver Market

The Silver market has not improved much since 1970, due to the immigration of some of its craftsmen to Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, it recently started to regain its importance. Because of high marriage dowries, people began to replace gold with silver in wedding ceremonies. The activity of tourism in Yemen also helped the recovery of the silver market.

Some families maintain a specific handicraft which they practiced one generation after another. For that they consider their workshop as a family endowment, not to be rented out or sold. There are nearly 40 specialized markets in the old city of Sana'a. These markets have links with some international markets by exporting goods through Aden and Al-Hodeida seaports.

Some people who used to practice traditional trading are now agents for international trading companies. They bring cars, refrigerators, televisions...etc. This openness started in Yemen directly after the end of the civil war 1970.

By Dr. Salah Haddash,  
Yemen Times Managing Editor



## Through Yemen On Camel Back

Carmen Rohrbach is a biologist who more than 10 years ago started writing books for children as well as taking photographs of many different countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe to hold her own photo' exhibitions.

She has recently gone around Yemen on a three-month trip on camel back.

Ramzi Al-Saqqaf of Yemen Times met Ms. Rohrbach and filed this interview.

**Q: Is this your first time in Yemen?**

**A:** It is actually my third time in Yemen. I first came as a tourist just for a few days, but this time I am going at a more leisurely pace. It is very beautiful to see the landscape, the people and the markets. My interest is to mix with the people and get to know more about them.

**Q: What has attracted you to Yemen?**

**A:** The most attractive thing is how friendly all people are. All men are very respectful and friendly towards me. They asked me where am I from and what was doing in Yemen. I was always very patient because I thought, when I am here in this country like a guest, the people have the reason to know why I am here. So I explained 100 times.

**Q: How were you treated as woman traveling alone?**

**A:** As a woman I could sit with the females of any household I visited I met very nice Yemeni women who asked me many questions which I could not understand. I communicated with

smiles and laughter. I was very surprised how powerful Yemeni women are. They are not oppressed by their menfolk. It is sometime the opposite. They are powerful, strong and beautiful. Rural and bedouin women are very eager to learn, but it is a very hard life in the countryside. Development, however, cannot be stopped.

So I looked to see how it is, not to criticize. It is not my right to criticize. This is my intention in my book; to write the truth.

**Q: Have you ever felt unsafe during your journey in Yemen?**

**A:** Yemen is more peaceful than many other countries. I really felt very safe because I never heard a bad word. I heard before I came about kidnapping problems, but it has nothing to do with tourists. This is like a game between the government and the tribes.

**Q: What do you think of the Yemeni folklore?**

**A:** The singing, dancing I saw in some weddings in different parts of the country were very interesting. Yemen is so different. The people speak, look, and behave differently. The food is good.

**Q: How did people relate to you as a foreigner?**

**A:** They were very curious to know how is life in Germany, about religion and why I am not a Muslim. They could understand after a short time that there is only one God, but we have different ways of praying to God.

**Q: How do you record your travel experiences?**

**A:** I memorize the events I witness and take photo's. Later,

when I am resting from my travels, I write down my experiences in my notebook.

**Q: What have you come out with from your trip to Yemen?**

**A:** I will tell the German people and European people in general how life is here in order to help bridge the culture gap. In Germany and in Europe people have wrong ideas about not only Yemen, but about the whole Arab world as well. They think that women here are treated like prisoners, a wholly false idea. We must all begin to understand each other.

**Q: I understand that you had to buy a camel. How much did it cost you?**

**A:** I bought it and sold it after the end of my journey. I lost some money, but not so much. It would have cost much more than if I did not buy it. I could not take a camel without its rider as well as another man to act as a guide. Then I have to pay the rider and the guide. If I hire a camel I would also have to hire the rider.

**Q: Did you not have a guide?**

**A:** I had a guide in Shabwa who led me from Wadi Ridhwan to Wadi Hadhramaut. I went alone to Shibam. I got permission from the police to go where I like. I told them that it is important for my book to have experiences with camels. It is very nice to have a camel or any other animal as a companion, to be together with the animal the whole day and night. I said I was together with my al-wasim (the handsome one) which is the name of my camel. He was sitting there near the fire and I brought my tea and

it was a full moon.

Most time, I slept alone outdoors. As a biologist, I am not afraid of animals. If there are mosquitoes in the area, then I pitch my tent, otherwise I like to sleep outdoors.

**Q: Camels can sometimes be quite moody. How did you manage with al-wasim?**

**A:** We spent 3 months together, becoming the best of friends. I treated my camel respectfully because camels can be very angry. I always spoke with him and never hurt him. It was sad when I had to say good bye.

**Q: Known for Arabs as the desert ship, how different is a camel from other animals?**

**A:** Every animal is different. It is very important to have a good feeling for the behavior of animals. A camel speaks with his body, with his eyes and ears.

**Q: What did you learn from the bedouins?**

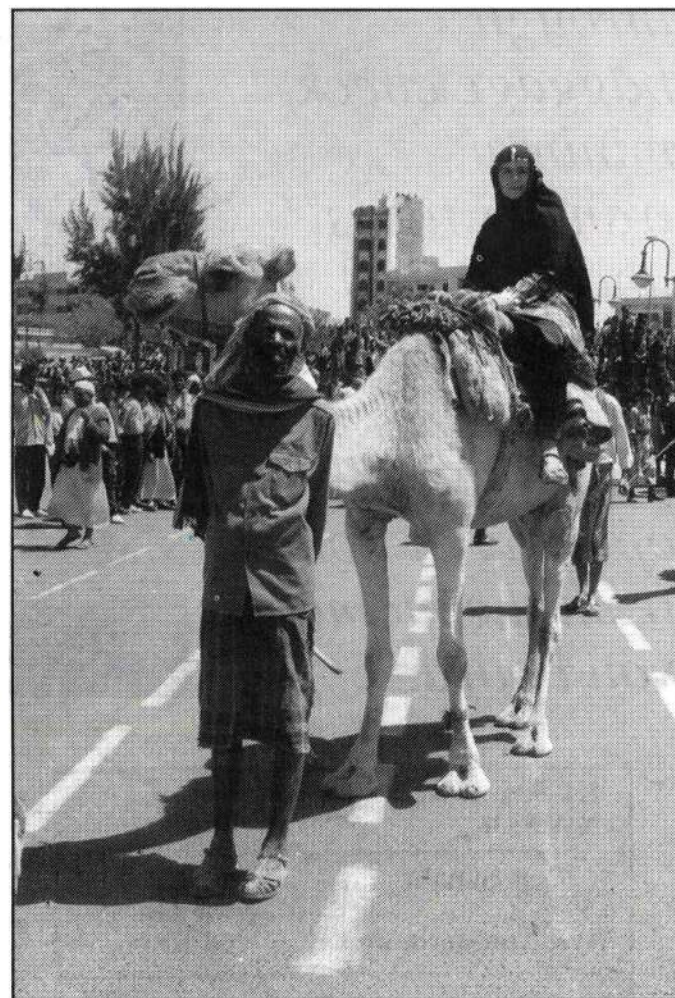
**A:** They taught me everything; what is the best food, what I have to do in the night and how to take care of myself. They taught me very well.

**Q: How did you manage, water-wise?**

**A:** I had a water filter with me. When I wanted tea I boiled some water; there was no problem. I never had problems with illness, sickness and I have a lot of medicines. I gave some sick children the medicines they needed.

**Q: When are you going to publish a book about your travels in Yemen?**

**A:** The book, in German, will come out in the autumn of 1998. It can be translated into English



and may be other languages. I have not decided yet.

**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** Yemeni people are wonderful. I can make a comparison between other people from other countries. I know many different

countries. But here it is very special. I do not know why but you can meet nice people in every country but here everyone is so kind and helpful. You make friendships immediately, and are treated as a member of the family.



# Hyundai: 30 Years of Strength

### The Establishment

The 1000-mile journey starts with one step. Since its establishment in 1967 until it became an international company, Hyundai has made great efforts to offer luxury cars at reasonable and competitive prices. Customer satisfaction is Hyundai's top priority. This has certainly been achieved through many new finely and harmoniously designed models.

Through its high-quality product, Hyundai is aiming to become one of the top ten auto manufacturers in the world by the end of this century. Hyundai has invested billions of dollars to modernize its assembly lines so as to honor its commitment to its customers by continuously improving its product.

### 2nd & 3rd in Auto Speed Test

Competing with other top auto brands, the famous Hyundai car came in second and third positions in the speed of test held on Friday, December 26th in Al-Sabeen Stadium. Mr. Tarek Abdulwasi' drove the car which came in second position and Mr. Hisham Khorsheed drove the other Hyundai.

This is quite a feat, considering that the Hyundai car company

drivers were able to circumnavigate all man-made obstacles and ridges on the race track.

This racing event was organized by the Yemen Club for Touring and Automobile, and was attended by a number of officials, businessmen, and fans of this sport.

Capable of achieving the greatest of victories, Hyundai goes from strength to greater strength. Getting a first position is not a far off proposition for a car such as Hyundai.

Describing this big victory, Mr. Tarek Abdulwasi' Hayil, who came in second position, said: "I'd like first to thank the organizers of this race - the Yemen Club for Touring and Automobile - for their great support of such events which greatly attract Yemeni youth.

"This is the second time we - Ford and Hyundai group - take part in such a race. We were able to get in third position in a record in the 1996 race, another great achievement for Hyundai. This happened despite not being fully prepared for the event. The same applies to this race.

"We decided to enter the race one day before it took place without much preparation. We were able to get in second and third positions due to Hyundai's great power and efficiency."

able air bags, for the driver and for the front-seat passenger as well in order to lessen the impact of any possible crash. An extra system to prevent the accidental locking of the brakes (ABS) is also offered"

### Multi-Purpose Vehicles

Whether the Hyundai vehicle is used as a family or a business car, it is always reliable, functional, luxurious, safe, stable on the road, fuel economical, and simply fantastic. Hyundai vehicles are available in all colors, shapes, and sizes to suit all needs and tastes. A wide range of additional accessories and extra features can be added on the client's request by the manufacturer or the dealer. The Hyundai dashboard provides all the necessary information and much more to allow the driver easy and comfortable control of the vehicle at all times.

The power engine, fuel economy, the aerodynamically streamlined body, the functional design which combines aesthetic and sophisticated science, the comfort and luxury all make Hyundai the car for the future.



The other Hyundai victor, Mr. Hisham Khorsheed said: "We should have got in first position, considering the record time of 1 min. & 49 sec. we achieved. Also, we were able to maneuver our cars without hitting or even slightly touching the artificial obstacles on the race track.

"This great victory can be attributed to the strength of Hyundai's top-quality cars. It gives us more incentive to take part in similar events in the future."

### Promising Future

As far as marketing Hyundai cars is concerned, Mr. Ameen Ba-Hammam, the Ford and Hyundai company Sales Manager, said: "Being a new car in Yemen, Hyundai has a bright future in this country. We can confidently say that it has a very big presence in the Yemeni auto market. It is a highly successful car characterized by strength, durability, and ability to withstand all types of climate, making it quite suitable for Yemen's rough terrain and climatic diversity. "We at the National Trade Company (Natco) stock large numbers of this Hyundai model which is comparable to many German and Japanese cars. We always try give our clients the best we have. Hyundai provides a guarantee for two years or 50,000 km, whichever happens first. Staffed by highly qualified and experienced engineers, our maintenance center is regarded as the top in Yemen.

"Moreover, we aim in the near future to introduce new and varied Hyundai models into the Yemeni market. Big trucks and all types of lorries and transport vehicles will be included. Hyundai's big successes and the customers' trust in the strength of its product are two big encouraging factors in this respect.

"Safety is paramount. Hyundai's top engineers are absolutely committed to guaranteeing the safety of the passengers by making the car's structure a strong and powerful metal cage. Hyundai vehicles' beautifully sculpted bodies border onto perfection. A Hyundai car doors are further enforced with strong iron bars to minimize the danger of side collisions and impacts. "Hyundai also offers inflat-



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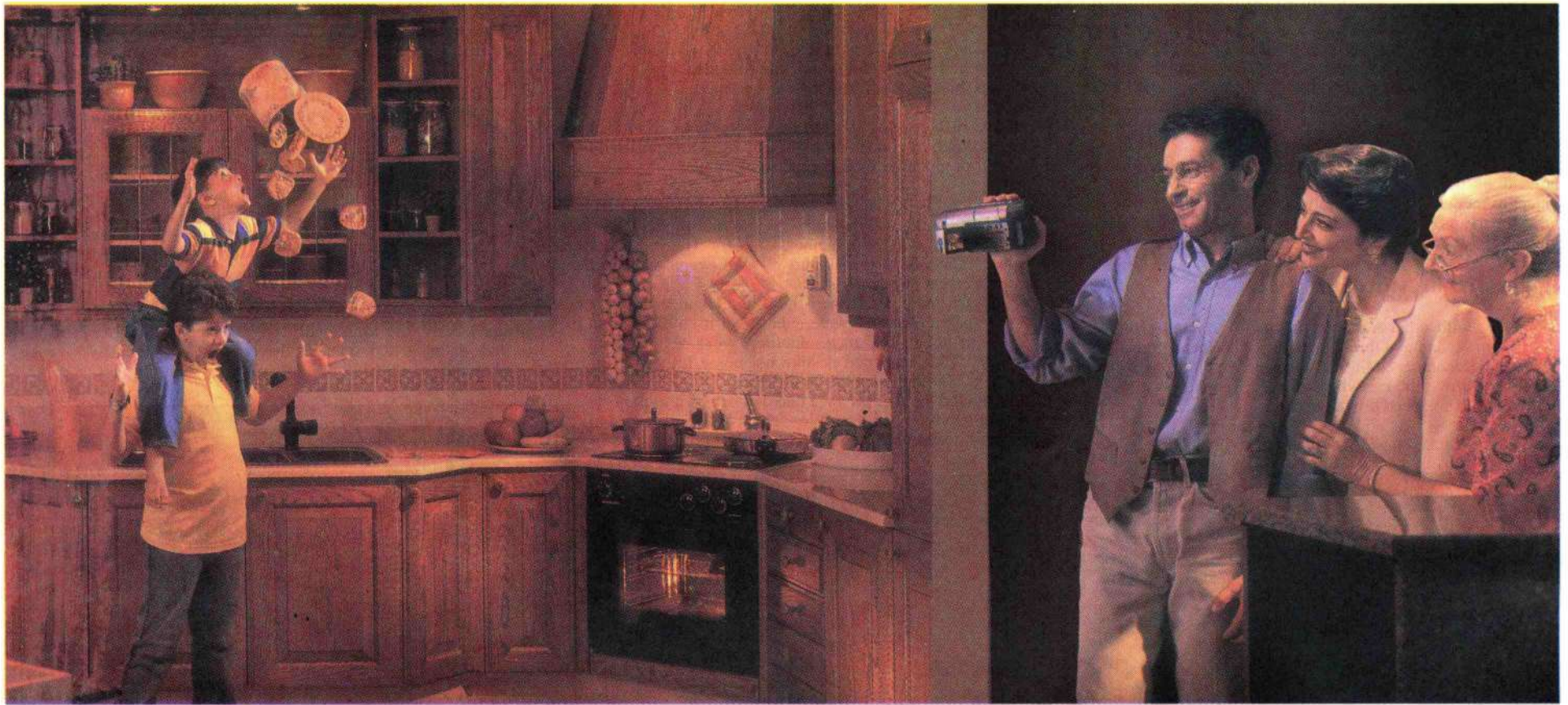
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# Is Traditional Mail Out of Fashion? Will Yemeni Sweethearts Send 'love e-mail'?

Dr. Salah Haddash  
& Adel J. Moqbil

With the invention of the telephone, the fax machine, and now the e-mail, the traditional way of communicating through hand-written paper letters seems to be on its way out. For communicating words only, as opposed to sending parcels, the e-mail is faster, cheaper, less cumbersome, and can be done in the privacy and comfort of one's own house.

### Hamam Zajel

The earliest references to postal systems are from Egypt at about 2,000 BC and the Chou dynasty in China 1,000 years later. China is also believed to have developed the first post house relay system. Various centralized systems for relaying messages were instituted, culminating in the Roman *curus publicus*. The Himyarite civilization had its special postal service, as indicated by the Ibraha inscription. The kings of Himyar inscribed their letters on wood using the "zaboor" or minuscule type of calligraphy. During the Middle Ages there were no centralized postal systems, but royal houses, especially during the ascendancy of the Arab and Muslim civilization, maintained corps of messengers. Carrier pigeons (*hamam zajel*) were very much employed by Muslim caliphs and their "walis" (provincial representatives), especially during times of war. The post of "sahib al-bareed" or post master was introduced and relay post houses were very common along the roads connecting the far flung corners of the Muslim empire. However, this service did not cover ordinary citizens who had to rely on trustworthy travelers and merchants to carry their mail with trade caravans. Known as *al-Tabal*, such a service continued in Yemen up to the early 1970s. During the European Renaissance, the growth of trade as well as the development of the printing press gave rise to private postal services. The rise of nation-states led to government monopolization of these services and the establishment of national systems.

### A penny for your mail

A major landmark in postal progress was the idea first proposed by the British educator and tax reformer Rowland Hill in 1837. He called for charging a single uniform rate of delivery based on weight rather than distance, using prepaid adhesive postage stamps. Before that the receiver, not the sender, had to pay the postage fee. This exposed the postman to various unpleasant situations in addition to being the target of highwaymen. So the famous one-penny stamp first appeared on 1 May 1840 in England, showing the head of Queen Victoria. Hill became a celebrity.

### International Treaty

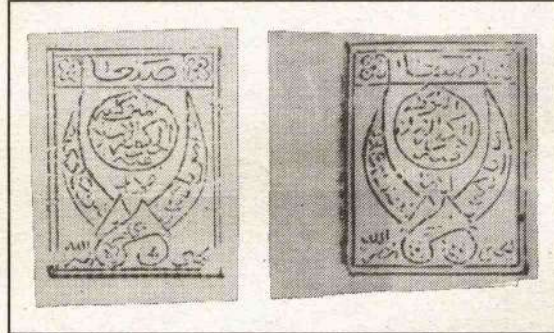
Until the mid 19th century, there was no real international cooperation. Postal relations between states consisted of bilateral treaties which were further confused by the diversity of currencies and units of weight. In 1875, the Treaty of the General Postal Union was established. Each member country was allowed to retain the postage it collected on international mail while agreeing to treat foreign mail the same way it treated its own. The only major alteration of this convention was made in 1969, when it was decided that redress payments would be made to certain countries where there was an imbalance between incoming and outgoing mail.

### Automation

The 20th century saw the introduction of mechanical equipment to handle mail in bulk form, cull letters from other mail, face and cancel letters, and code and sort letters. Machines have also been devised to read elements of a letter's address electronically.

### Ottoman Mail

From 1849 to 1918, most of Yemen was under Ottoman rule. In 1868, the Turks started postal services, and a network of post offices gradually appeared in major cities. Stamp usage was imposed in 1888, and letters were carried and delivered by special Ottoman officials on horseback through what was known as the "basta" system. Any citizen caught, at a checkpoint, carrying a letter without an official stamp, was liable to be imprisoned or fined. Travelers going from Sanaa to Hodeida, for instance, were searched



for unstamped letters. Not enough records have survived to indicate the volume of internal mail during that period. The busiest postal route administered by the Turks was the one stretching between Sanaa and Hodeida, which replaced Mokha as Yemen's major port due to Turkish improvements. Imam Yahya, a prominent provincial leader then, maintained a royal courier post to

was moved to Al-Tawahi.

Stamp cancellation was used for the first time in 1840, and in 1854 Indian adhesive stamps came into circulation in Aden. When Aden became a proper colony in 1937, the postal service in the area came under the direct administration of the British government, and more post offices were opened in Sheikh Othman, Khormaksar, and Mualla. The first set of Aden stamps was issued in 1937 at 12 different Indian currency denominations. The centennial anniversary of the British presence in Aden was commemorated by issuing new ordinary stamps showing the head of King George VI and several Aden landmarks. Other commemorative stamps depicted the allies victory in the 2nd World War, the marriage and coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1949 and 1953, respectively.

In 1951, the Indian currency was replaced by the East Africa currency of cent and shilling, changing the stamps denominations accordingly.

In time, more post offices were opened including the architecturally beautiful Crater post office, which was opened in 1959. In 1963, with the formation of the South Arabia Federation (17 protectorates plus Aden), the post office authority, transportation and other media and communication organs came under one ministry.

### Is Yemeni Mail Volume Diminishing?

Following the revolutions in northern and southern Yemen, big changes took place in the postal services. "We now have the express and electronic mail which is gradually becoming more widespread," said Mr. Yahya Abbas Amer, the Director of the Commercial Department at the Post and Postal Savings Corporation. "But this does not entirely abolish the role of the ordinary mail service." However, many of the services that used to be provided by the post office are now the provided by banks and private courier companies. "We can say that the present volume of mail going in and out of Yemen is about 10% of what it used to be in the early 1970s."

"Other factors that led to the decrease in Yemeni mail volume include the return of Yemeni migrant workers following the Gulf War and the reduction in the numbers of Arab teachers working Yemen," explained Mr. Amer.

### A Matter of Customs Duty

Is it true that letters and parcels are opened by postal security officials? "No, only in the presence of the person to whom the parcel is addressed," indicated Mr. Fayiz Saif Abdu, the director of Postal Investment. "This is primarily done for customs reasons, not security." If a person is to send a parcel out of Yemen he or she has to bring it open so that post office officials would see its contents and later have it sealed in their presence." Have there ever been any prohibited material sent by post? "Yes, alcohol, video tapes, English and French clothes labels and empty medicine packets, which were all officially destroyed," announced Mr. Abdu. Qat sent by Yemenis to their relatives living abroad is also strictly prohibited. As for drugs and firearms, "we rarely get them sent through the post."

### Tariffs Fluctuate

"Since mail is sent abroad by airplanes, we are charged in dollars which makes that tariff levied locally change with rise in the dollar exchange," explained Mr. Khalid Al-Da'ari, the Director of Public Relations at the Post and Postal Savings Corporation. "However, the last reviewing of postal tariffs took place towards the end of 1995." It is now calculated as YR100 to the dollar.

### Future Prospects

With the postal service now covering all parts of Yemen, including faraway islands, what will its future be? "We still need to raise public awareness concerning the postal service. Many people still try to send strange material such as honey, dangerous liquids, etc," said Mr. Al-Da'ari. "The Postal Corporation has to work hard now to provide swift services for its customers. Gone are the days when a person can wait for two or three weeks to get a letter." Teams of postal security are being formed in all governorates to ensure the safe and honest handling of people's mail," announced Mr. Al-Da'ari. Future plans include opening new post offices and connecting them with a wide computer network.

carry his own correspondence in confidentiality, a Turkish recognition of his importance.

### Half an Imadi for your thoughts?

When the Ottoman left Yemen at the end of the First World War, many Turkish civil servants including postal officials remained in Yemen at the request of Imam Yahya. From 1918 to 1926, some form of postal service existed, modeled on the Ottoman system. In 1926, the Imam authorized the creation of two kinds of stamps for public use. The design of the two issues depicts two crossed *janbias*. Both stamps were printed on white paper and sold without adhesive and unperforated. The print quality was rather poor, some copies had ink spots on them. As for the denomination, it was either 1/2 or 1/8 imadi, a common currency at the time.

### Yemen Goes International

The Imam who was anxious to gain international recognition for the newly independent Yemen was persuaded that joining the International Postal Union and issuing a set of stamps conforming with Union regulations for worldwide circulation, would do much towards enhancing Yemen's image abroad. Accordingly, the Ministry of Communication was empowered to study the ways and means of joining the Union and of producing a suitable series of stamps which would replace the then current domestic postage set.

In 1930, the first issue of Yemeni stamps to be printed abroad appeared. It consisted of six denominations (in imadi and bogsha), and was printed in Germany. It was reported that this and the other 1931 issue became very scarce in Sanaa that as early as 1933 unused and used stamps were sold for one and a half imadi each. In 1935, the Assistant Post Master General of the Mutawakliat Kingdom of Yemen, Sheikh Kamel Abdulwasil wrote that these stamps were selling locally in Sanaa for "two Saudi riyals each." At the time, the Saudi Arabian currency was vying with the Ethiopian thaler and the Maria Theresa dollars along with the native imadi.

By the summer of 1935, the lower values of a new set of stamps replaced the 1930 issue. "The postal service then, however, did not cover all Yemen," said Mr. Saleh Al-Sindi, the Deputy General Director for Regional Affairs at the Post and Postal Saving Corporation. "Remote areas such as Hareeb and Mareb, for example, were out of reach of the national postal service."

Mr. Al-Sindi further explained: "in the 1950s, mail used to be taken abroad from the old Hodeida airport via Ethiopia by the Ethiopian airlines. A decade later, Yemeni post to Europe was first taken to Rome, Italy, and distributed from there."

### Something to Remember

Yemen's first, commemorative set of stamps in Yemen was issued in 1939 to commemorate the second anniversary of the Arab Alliance of April 25th, 1937, between Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. National occasions and anniversaries and patriotic figures On 28th of April, 1939, a lithographed set of six-value "bogsha" stamps were issued. "We now issue stamp sets commemorating such occasions as the ring victories of the world champion boxer Naseem Hamed, or depicting Yemeni fauna and flora, etc," Mr. Al-Sindi pointed out.

### Cancellation

The local Yemeni cancellation (post office stamping) used on domestic mail in the 1920s came in two general types. Both types were circular with an outer ring of uncolored inscriptions and an inner circle of black lettering.

### Aden's Different Story

The Aden Camp Post Office was opened in 1939, the year British forces occupied the area. It was directly run by three British officers and four Arab assistants. Aden's postal service was later placed under the India post authority. In 1868, this post office



# CHILD BEATING: Abuse or Necessary Means of Rearing?

Athena Al-Absi,  
Yemen Times

## Means of Punishment

A teacher father of three sons aged 5, 3, and 2 years punishes his children by using a thundering voice, beating their buttocks, slapping their faces, or simply glaring. "I use a belt or a stick," he said.

"We beat them with a qat stick, a belt, use a lighted match, or frighten them with fire," admitted the illiterate gas station attendant and his wife as to how they punish their 3 girls and 4 boys.

## Reasons for Punishment

The teacher does not punish his eldest son often. It is only when he misbehaves such as playing with an electrical appliance, following his father around the house, insisting on going to see his friends while the family has other engagements, going out of the apartment or playing on the balcony, etc. "It is especially annoying when he wants to go chewing qat with me or when he is jealous of his brothers and wants me to buy things just for him."

The mother, a housewife, gave an example. "Once when we were having dinner at a restaurant, our eldest threw a tantrum. When my husband tried to stop him, he smashed a valuable crystal vase on the ground. So his father had to beat him up violently in front of all the people there."

"I don't beat him unless he comments a horrible mistake," said the wife. "I get really angry when he gets up in the middle of the night, insists on going to see our relatives, and keeps crying. I

try to calm him down for sometimes more than two hours. If this doesn't work, I have to beat him."

"Most of the time we beat them because they create problems with our neighbors, they lock the neighbors' house doors from the outside, beat each other, or beat their pals in the neighborhood," the gas-station attendant and his wife said as they justified punishing their kids.

"They sit in the street the whole day, they do not obey their father, they break our neighbor's windows and do a lot of mischief."

"When my husband chews qat, he does not want his kids to be with him in the same room. He wants them to stay at home to avoid making problems outside."

## Age Range

The teacher said, "I started punishing my son after he became 4 years old." He added, "I think that a child should be physically punished up to the age of 12 or 13 years because after puberty a son must be treated as a man who has his own independent personality." His wife added, "after that age, I believe we just have to advise him to help the growth of his character."

The gas-station attendant's wife disclosed that she and her husband started to beat their children from the age of one year till they are as old as 12 for the boys or 18 for the girls or when they get married.

## Punishing in Front of Others

"My husband becomes more violent while chewing qat, but he very rarely beats his son in front

of his pals," said the teacher's wife.

However, she added, "I usually beat him at home and not in the street, but when there is need, I beat him in front of other people. For example, when I once bought toys for him and his brothers, he angrily asked me to keep his and return his brothers' back. I then had to beat him in front of all the people in the market."

"In order to educate my son, I am ready to beat him at home, in the street, or at the school to make them realize their faults," revealed the gas-station attendant. "Isn't this our role as parents?" she asked indisputably.

## Who is More Severe?

"I am violent when the occasion merits it, but my husband is more strict and usually beats them up," admitted the teacher's wife.

"I really beat him much but his father beats him much more," said the wife of the gas-station attendant. However, she said that the father is more violent in beating his children.

## Is it a Suitable Means of Bringing UP Children?

"It does work," said the teacher's wife. "When my kid started to behave badly, becoming selfish, dominating his younger brothers, and crying to get attention, it was only possible to correct him with punishment. He started to give up some of his bad habits."

"When you beat them, they behave themselves. But later on, they begin to make trouble again and for that we have to beat them continuously. They do not learn



unless they are beaten," announced the gas-station attendant's wife knowingly. "Beating is necessary to educate them," added her husband.

## Injuries

"Once, my husband punished our son with a lit match, seriously injuring him. We had take him to a hospital for treatment," recalled the teacher's wife, sadly.

On her part, the gas-station attendant's wife said: "For me, I've never injured them. Once, while my husband was beating one of our sons, he ran away and fell down the stairs, breaking his arm. His father refused to take him to a hospital. I begged him to do so, but he was adamant. I went to my neighbor and asked her to have her husband convince my

realize the problem. So he began to take him for a walk or to play in city parks. We started to pay more attention to him, to have him less punished, and to take him out with us. Personally, I was against not allowing him to join us but his father asserts that the kid should learn to obey his parents."

The gas-station attendant's wife affirmed that none of her children suffer from any psychological condition as a consequence of beating. "I've never heard about something called psychological condition," she said quizzically, adding, "I don't think that my children complain about such cases." But, she said: "they started to refuse to go to school, saying that they are not feeling well." When the parents beat up the elder sons, they would take

children are brought up," commented her husband.

Yemen Times has visited one of the preparatory schools in Sana'a and there we came by two tragical cases of kids who have been awfully beaten up by their parents. The first case was of two brothers studying in the same class. They were usually seen injured, with their faces wounded and sometimes burned. They did not talk about their problem and when teachers asked them how they got injured, they pretended that they fell down or something of this sort. The teachers, knowing about their problem, tried to talk with their father who refused to meet them. Moreover, he threw the medicines the teachers bought to treat the boys. "What happened after that" says

## A Stroke of Fate

"May you speed up, please? I'm really in a terrible hurry," I kindly asked the taxi driver. He leaned at me and cried with a sharp accent; "It does not work man. Do I have to fly?! You see, it is crowded all the way."

I hardly tried to control my temper for it was better to arrive late than to have a fight with such a foolish driver. I just hoped to arrive before the seminar came to an end. I promised my friend that I would be present at her seminar when I ran into her yesterday. Her voice was full of happiness and she was about to cry remembering that she would be home again after four years of working to get a doctorate degree. She said that she would no doubt be home whether she is granted the degree this time or not... "Well?!..." cried the taxi driver. I then got out and threw him 2 pounds.

Suddenly, I heard her calling me from the other side of the street; "I got the degree. I made it Mahmood." She was addressing me happily waving with some paper in her hand.

She, then, without looking, crossed the street. It was a speeding mercedes car and....

..... and papers scattered all the way as her dreams all scattered hopelessly in the air.

It was night.. the sky was dark and vast as if it were to swallow the poor city.

"O, gloomy destiny, how cruel you are to pluck such a flower!"

A horrible feeling of emptiness filled my soul. I was searching for tears to flow from my eyes but there were none. I put my loaded head between my hands and tightly closed my eyes for I couldn't stand the image of that painful, bloody sight.

"Open your eyes." Some one was calling me from afar. His voice was deep and sad. When I opened my eyes, I saw her face fixed in the sky. One of her eyes was gone, with the other she was looking at me. When she was about to say something, the whole sight disappeared as my friend knocked the door and came in...

"What is this supposed to be?!" with a surprise he asked me, seeing that many papers were scattered on the floor. I couldn't answer for there was a big

lump in my throat. I just clowned my head.

"Isn't this the research work of your doctorate degree?!" he digressed.

"And suppose it is!" I carelessly answered.

There were moments of silent then.. He was staring at me.

"Why are you staring at me? Don't you like me?" I scornfully asked.

He was still staring at me as if he had heard nothing.

"I don't know you," he answered in a hushed voice. He put his hand on my shoulder..

"I know that you still can't believe what happened. But it is God's will. We have nothing to do with it."

"Why then did she spent her best years running after a mirage? Why did your merciful god have her indulge at such a delusive labor," I cried angrily

"She will be rewarded," he calmly said.

"Don't make me laugh, boy. I'm not in the mood."

He turned his face away from me, walked to the window and quietly looked towards the sky for a few minutes.

"You know, it's a pity about you, friend. You've taught me so many great things, but this time I really don't know you." His voice was down and tender this time.

I opened my lips to say something I did not know and tried to catch his hand but he was not in the room anymore.

... I felt as if there was something lying heavily on my chest. I walked to the window in dull steps and stood there looking at the sky. The stars this time were everywhere trying hard to light the earth in absence of the moon.

There was some light sneaking warmly into my soul. I could not stop the tears from running down my cheeks and onto the floor. I felt that something unknown was uplifting me....

I did not know how it affected me standing at the window, but I started to collect the scattered papers from the floor. Daylight was finding its way into my life.

A short story by Ms. Nadwa Younis,  
Student of English - Sanaa University



husband to take the boy to hospital. My husband, though, refused. At the end he agreed after the boy had been injured for about 7 hours."

## Psychological Consequences

The teacher's wife said: "Lately, my eldest became more annoying and his father had to beat him many times. The kid has become withdrawn and doesn't talk with his father and is not the first one who runs to meet him when he comes back from work as he used to. Instead, he goes back to his room whenever his father comes into the house."

"My husband and I began to

revenge by beating their younger brothers.

Well, I don't believe in what we see in films or television.

## Impartiality

"I treat my three sons equally, unless one of them becomes more annoying, then he deserves more punishment," commented the teacher's wife.

"I treat them equally. But I beat them hard because they always make trouble with the neighbors," said the gas-station attendant's wife. "We beat them with the same stick because we want people to appreciate the way our

one of the teachers "was that their uncle came to take their files and when we asked them why, he said that they stole 10,000 Riyals from their father and therefore they had to be taken back to their village where they would not continue their study."

The second case was of a boy whose mother-in-law used to treat him badly. Despite that his father was a highly cultured person, he usually practiced his sadistic pleasure on his son, beating him with sharp objects. As a result of that, the boy, became very annoying and even aquired bad behaviors like stealing money.



### Indians Prepare for Elections

Indian political parties last Thursday geared up for the general elections due to be called in February-March amid criticism over the length of the balloting. Most of the parties criticized Thursday's announcement by the Election Commission that the polls, involving around 600 million voters, would be held on four days between February 16 and March 7. The result is expected by March 12 and a new 545-seat parliament is due to be in place by March 15. The polls had been organized over four days to enable hundreds of thousands of police and paramilitary forces to rotate between regions during the voting. An estimated 4.5 million officials will man 900,000 polling centers all over India. A 60% turnout is expected - voting will begin on March 8. The elections were called after the collapse of Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's minority United Front coalition in November after the Congress withdrew its support.

### Khartoum & Cairo Normalize Relations

Egyptian and Sudanese security officials are holding intensive talks to try to normalize relations. The New Year will witness "a full normalization" in relations between the two countries, Mustafa Osama Ismail, state minister for foreign affairs said. Last week, a top Egyptian security official met with Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir in Khartoum. Details of the meeting were not released. Relations between Egypt and Sudan have been sour since the 1995 assassination attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Egypt accused Sudan of aiding the militants who tried to assassinate Mubarak and giving them shelter. Sudan has denied the allegations and says its investigation has not located the men within its borders.

### Mass Prayer in Al-Aqsa

Over 100,000 Palestinian Muslims flocked into Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque to attend the first weekly Friday prayers of Ramadhan as Israeli police were on high alert in the holy city. Israeli police allowed Palestinians to enter Jerusalem from the West Bank for the prayers and

deployed hundreds of reinforcements in the area to prevent violence by Palestinians and provocations by Jewish extremists. In his sermon to worshippers, Sheikh Hamed Al-Beitawi issued a dire warning to Israel after two Jewish extremists were arrested last week for planning to desecrate Al-Aqsa, Islam's third holiest site in Jerusalem's old city. Israeli police 12 days ago arrested two Jewish extremists for plotting to throw a pig's head onto the mosque during Ramadhan in hopes of sparking riots. Israeli police, armed with batons and riot gear, were deployed over the walls and alleyways of the old city and throughout east Jerusalem. On the occasion of the first weekly prayers for Ramadhan, Israel lifted the ban on West Bank Palestinians from entering Jerusalem for most of the morning.

### Corruption Cases Filed Against Benazir

The Pakistan government has filed corruption cases with the country's accountability commission against former Premier Benazir Bhutto and her husband and mother. The commission, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, is empowered to forward a corruption case to a high court for trial after looking at evidence given by the government. Bhutto, her spouse Asif Ali Zardari and mother have been accused of corruption practices in award of contracts when Benazir Bhutto was prime minister. Bhutto last month challenged the government, which has accused her and her close relatives of stashing millions of dollars in banks in Switzerland and other countries, to bring cases before a court. The accountability commission sent 12 cases of alleged corruption against Bhutto to its chief to review and decide whether to lay charges. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, in jail since her dismissal, is charged with murder in connection with the shooting to death of her estranged brother, just two months before her government was sacked.

### Hutu Rebels Kill 150

Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army is hunting a group of at least 1,000 Hutu rebels who killed 150 people in an attack on a village and military camp near Bujumbura airport last Thursday. The army had stepped up operations against the

rebels, and engaged them in a fierce hour-long battle. State radio in neighboring Rwanda said the rebel force caused mayhem as it retreated after a fierce battle with Burundi's army. The radio quoting, Burundian officials, said shells landed at Bujumbura airport during the fighting which caused panic in the lakeside city.

### Turkey Cold-shouldered Again

Since the EU summit in Luxembourg in mid-December, tension has been running high between Turkey and the European Union. Heads of state from the 15 EU member countries invited 10 Central and East European countries as well as Cyprus to begin negotiations with the prospect of becoming EU members. Turkey has waited for more than 30 years for admission to the European Union and all they got was an invitation to a broad and vaguely defined European conference where the EU member states, the 10 chosen applicants and Turkey can discuss issues such as foreign policy and organized crime, a fair and realistic offer to Turkey, but it was taken as an insult. So offended was Turkey's Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz that during a visit to Washington last week he said that the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants to turn the European Union into a "Christian Club." The message from the EU leaders is clear: Ankara has to improve its human rights record, stop oppressing its Kurdish minority and settle territorial disputes with Greece at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Before Turkey seriously addresses these issues, they need not think of applying again. Another problem is the malfunction of the Turkish political system. Democracy in Turkey is still immature, as was exemplified when the powerful Turkish military forced the democratically elected government to resign last spring. Again, without a working democratic system Ankara need not make the international call to Brussels.

### Old Skull Found in Ethiopia

A nearly complete 1.4 million-year-old skull of Australopithecus boisei has been found at Konso in southern Ethiopia by a team of paleoanthropologists led by Gen Suwa of Tokyo University and Yonas Beyene of C.R.C.C.H. of Ethiopia. Known as KGA10-525, the new specimen is the first to be found with both jaw and cranium. With a capacity of 545 cubic centimeters, it is the largest A. boisei

cranium ever found. A. boisei belongs to an extinct group on a branch of the hominid tree that split from the modern human line between 2.8 and 3 million years ago. It had a massive skull and broad, concave face with prominent flaring cheekbones, a large jaw with thickly enameled molars three times the size of our own, massive chewing muscles, and a relatively small cranium. More than 100 specimens have been found in Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia. The bony crest atop its head, for example, is far more pronounced at the back of the skull than at the front, a trait common in A. aethiopicus. According to Suwa, KGA10-525 bears some distinctive boisei traits, including features of its dentition, but lacks some of the species' diagnostic features, such as protruding cheekbones. In addition to KGA10-525, Suwa and his team found the remains of at least eight other A. boisei in the same fossil bed, which four years ago yielded remains of H. erectus and one of the richest and oldest assemblages of hand axes ever found. The new finds point to the coexistence of A. boisei and H. erectus.

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**SPIN MOVIES**

**05 January 1998**  
1430 E! Behind The Scenes  
1900 The Witch's Daughter  
2100 Target For Rage

**06 January 1998**  
1100 Memoirs Of An Invisible Man  
1500 Three For The Road  
1900 Whiskers

**07 January 1998**  
1100 The Legend Of Gator Face  
1500 Batman  
1700 Best Of The Best II

**08 January 1998**  
2100 French Exit  
2230 E! Coming Attractions  
2300 Batman Returns

**09 January 1998**  
1100 Narrow Margin  
1500 Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead  
1900 The Father Of The Bride

**10 January 1998**  
1500 Into The West  
2100 Swearing Allegiance  
2230 E! Coming Attractions

**11 January 1998**  
1100 Loose Connections  
1700 Just Ask For Diamond  
1900 Second Best

**ORBIT NEWS**

**05 January 1998**  
0730 CBS Face the Nation  
1130 CBS Up to the Minute Live  
2200 CBS 48 Hours

**06 January 1998**  
0730 ABC Nightline Live

1700 News Hour with Jim Lehrer  
2330 ABC Nightline

**07 January 1998**  
0930 ABC Nightline  
2000 ABC Good Morning America  
0000 NBC Dateline

**08 January 1998**  
0900 NBC Nightly News  
1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live  
2100 ABC Primetime

**09 January 1998**  
1400 CBS Morning News Live  
1800 CBS This Morning  
2200 ABC 20/20 (Thu)

**10 January 1998**  
0900 NBC Nightly News  
1900 News Hour with Jim Lehrer  
2200 ABC 20/20

**11 January 1998**  
0730 Wall Street Journal  
0930 Wall Street Week  
1600 NBC Weekend Today Show Live

**MUSIC NOW**

**05 January 1998**  
1600 Rock Raiq  
2100 Haneen  
2200 Awtar

**06 January 1998**  
1200 In Motion  
1800 Vital Soul "soul Shack"  
2200 Awtar

**07 January 1998**  
0900 The Rush Hour  
1600 "360" Degrees Paul Weller  
2100 Rsvp Arabic

**08 January 1998**  
1700 R.s.v.p.  
2100 Haneen  
2200 Awtar

**09 January 1998**  
0900 The Rush Hour  
1600 "360" Degrees Paul Weller  
2100 Rsvp Arabic

1100 American Chart Show  
1700 Conversation With..  
Chain Reaction #2  
1800 Musabaqa

**10 January 1998**  
1200 In Motion  
1300 Cosmix  
1800 Vital Soul "soul Shack"

**11 January 1998**  
1600 Ultra Violet  
2000 Freeze Frame#1:  
2030 Chain Reaction #1

**HOLLYWOOD**

**05 January 1998**  
1200 Alive  
2000 Pictionary  
0030 E! Coming Attractions

**06 January 1998**  
0830 Wheel of Fortune rpl  
1400 Arthel and Fred  
1900 Jeopardy

**07 January 1998**  
0900 Pictionary rpl  
1600 Globetrotter  
2230 America's Dumbest Criminals

**08 January 1998**  
0930 Crook and Chase  
1500 E! In Focus rpt  
1930 Wheel of Fortune

**09 January 1998**  
0800 Jeopardy rpl  
1230 Sunshine Cuisine  
1930 Wheel of Fortune

**10 January 1998**  
0930 Crook and Chase  
1200 Alive  
2030 Judge Judy

**11 January 1998**  
1330 Garden Variety  
1930 Wheel of Fortune  
2230 E! Model

**FUN CHANNEL**

**05 January 1998**  
1120 Adv of Madeline  
1430 Tattooed Teenager Alien Fighters  
1830 Dexter's Lab

**06 January 1998**  
1225 Richie Rich  
1930 Anti-Gravity Room  
0140 Mary Tyler Moore

**07 January 1998**  
1030 Ankar Al Koala  
1500 Pinky and the Brain  
2050 Too close for comfort

**08 January 1998**  
0950 Alf Tales  
1300 Roadrunner Show  
1930 Muppets Tonight

**09 January 1998**  
1330 The Jetsons  
2000 Love Boat  
2300 WKRP

**10 January 1998**  
0945 Leo and Popi  
1120 Happily Ever After  
1705 Superman

**11 January 1998**  
1000 Ahlann Anbar  
1525 Animaniacs  
1930 Tattooed Teenager Alien Fighters

**ORBIT ESPN SPORTS**

**05 January 1998**  
1100 Corporate Sports Battle  
1830 NFL Primetime  
2330 College Basketball: Nebraska at Kansas

**06 January 1998**  
1100 College Basketball: Duke at Maryland  
1700 College Basketball: Nebraska at Kansas  
1900 SportsCenter

**07 January 1998**  
1100 Bobsleigh  
1300 NHL Power Week!  
1730 College Basketball: Michigan at Indiana

**08 January 1998**  
1500 College Basketball: North Carolina at State Duke  
1800 Argentine Open Polo Championship  
2100 Latin Football Weekly

**09 January 1998**  
1000 SportsCenter Live  
1600 Wrestling  
2100 NFL Blast

**10 January 1998**  
1100 College Basketball: Illinois at Iowa  
1700 Premier League Highlights  
2200 90 Minutes: Spanish Football Live

**11 January 1998**  
1000 90 Minutes: Spanish Football  
1430 ATP Tour Tennis: Qatar Open Semifinals  
1800 SportsCenter

**AMERICA PLUS**

**05 January 1998**  
1530 Camp Wilder  
2300 Raven  
0000 Chicago Sons

**DISNEY**

**January 8, 1998**  
1025 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh  
1530 Gummi Bears  
2000 Movie - Newsies

**January 9, 1998**  
1000 Five Mile Creek  
1515 Timon & Pumbaa  
2000 Movie - I-Man

**January 10, 1998**  
0935 Little Mermaid  
1310 Movie - Mother's Courage: The Mary Thomas Story  
1735 Ducktales

**January 11, 1998**  
1050 Adventures in Wonderland  
1555 Goof Troop  
2000 Movie - Bride of Boogedy

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## Journey with an Artist



Mohammed Saad Abdullah presented everlasting works of art and formed a special Musical school. Many singers chant his lyrics such as Hiyam Yunis of Lebanon and Talal Maddah and Abadi Al-Johar of Saudi Arabia. The first famous song he wrote was "Rudo habibi and Rohi" which means bring back my sweet heart and soul.

Our great artist Mohammed Saad Abdullah was born in 1938 in Lahaj. He led a very hard life during his childhood, considering that his father died while he was still 10 years old. He was artistically influenced by his father Mr. Saad Abdullah, the outstanding artist.

After finishing his secondary schooling, Mohammed Saad left his birthplace with his mother and went to Aden.

He worked as the director of the music department in Channel 2 in 1982. He represented the state in many Arab and international festivals.

Mohammed Saad later immigrated to Saudi Arabia where he lived for about 4 years. There he presented several musical recitals. He also published his first collec-

tion of poems - "Fires of Longing." It includes all of his lyrics. He produced a collection of songs on a cassette tape entitled "Jawal." It included classical songs performed with modern musical instruments. He returned to Yemen in 1990 and as far as I know that the Ministry of Culture has not yet finished his employment procedures.

He made numerous artistic contributions through patriotic songs and musicals. He translated his ardent patriotism into songs at the beginning of 26th of September revolution in order to establish the republican regime. Some of these songs are "Republic Republic, we made it" and "Ours is the country of revolutionaries."

### His artistic birth

Mohammed Saad Abdullah became a companion of several old artists such as Ahmed Al-Qatabi, Al-Makawi and Anwar Ahmed Qassem. He also worked with artist Ahmed Awad Al-Jarash as a drummer. A rhythm controller was supposed to be fully knowledgeable of some of post classical forms of Yemeni poetry (muashahat), which are called "Sana'ani songs." So he was one of a few singers who are able to sing, and play music for, Sana'ani songs.

In the mid 1950s, modernization hit the musical scene in Aden and other southern regions. Music circles and forums sprouted here and there. Mohammed Saad joined the Aden Music Association which was headed by Mr. Khalil Ahmed Khalil and Mr. Hussien Khadabakhas Khan. This group was formed following a long period of stagnation after the

death of champions of Aden's musical renaissance, Ahmed Fadhl Al-Qomandan.

The first modernist song to be performed by Mohammed Saad was written and set to music by Dr. Mohammed Abdo Ghanem. This song, "Mahla assamar janbak" or how beautiful it is to spend an evening chatting with you, received much approbation by the audience.

Mohammed Saad produced some sophisticated modernist tune. He was musically influenced by famous Arab singers and musical composers such as Mohammed Abdulwahab and Farid Al-Atrash. Also, he was memorized many songs from musical Egyptian and Indian films during the 1950s.

The people received the song "bring back my sweetheart" with great enthusiasm. Some composers, however, considered this song as part of a particular sentimental experience the enveloped Mohammed Saad at the time. In spite of the fact that he was criticized by the press in the fifties because he composed poems and sang them himself, he went on unperturbed.

At that time, Mohammed Saad said, "I was forced to attribute my words to other people to make the anti-modernists know that I compose poems not for fame but out of a desire to do so."

In spite of all that, Mr. Mohammed Saad Abdullah did not care about those considerations but continued to write lyrics. He achieved a wide fame in Yemen and the Arabian peninsula.

By Saleh Abdulbaqi - singer & musician



**TOP 5 MUSIC ROCKS**

- 1) Back Street Boys [Every Body]
- 2) Elton John [Candle In The Wind]
- 3) Mariah Carey [Money]
- 4) Spice Girls [Spice Up Your Life]
- 5) Michael Jackson [Ghost]

### Song of the Week

By Michael Jackson

Smile!

Smile though your heart is aching  
Smile if you know it's breaking,  
When there are clouds in the sky  
You'll get by.  
If you smile with your tears and sorrows,  
Smile then maybe tomorrow,  
You'll find that life is still worth while  
If you just light up your face with gladness  
Hide every trace of sadness  
Although a tear maybe ever so near  
As the chime you must keep on trying  
Smile what's the use of crying  
You'll find that life is still worth while if you just smile.  
Though your heart is aching  
Smile even though its breaking  
When there are clouds in the sky  
You'll get by if you smile,  
Through your tears and sorrows  
Smile then maybe tomorrow  
You'll find that life is still worth while if you just smile  
That's the time you must keep on trying  
Smile what's the use of crying  
You find that life is still worth while if you just smile.

### ابتسمي

ابتسمي بالرغم من الام قلبك  
ابتسمي برغم انكسار قلبك  
حينما تتلبد السماء بالغيوم  
سوف تعبرين الزلماة  
اذا ابتسمت برغم دموعك و احزانك  
ابتسمي فقد تجددين غدا  
الحياة تستحق ان تحببها  
لبشع وجهك سرورا  
خذي كل اثار الاحزان  
حتى لو كانت دموعك تكاد تنهمر  
استمري مع رنين النواقيس  
ابتسمي ما جدوى الكفاء  
ستجددين الحياة تستحق العيش اذا ما ابتسمت  
ابتسمي بالرغم من الام قلبك  
ابتسمي برغم انكسار قلبك  
حينما تتلبد السماء بالغيوم  
سوف تعبرين الزلماة اذا ابتسمت  
عبر دموعك و احزانك  
ابتسمي فقد تجددين غدا  
ان الحياة تستحق العيش اذا ما ابتسمت  
فهذا وقت الاصرار على المحاولة  
ابتسمي ما جدوى الكفاء  
ستجددين ان الحياة تستحق العيش اذا ما ابتسمت

## Arab Bank

plc

Top Management, staff and workers of

Arab Bank present their sincere wishes and congratulations to

**Marshal Ali Abdullah Saleh,**

Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim and his

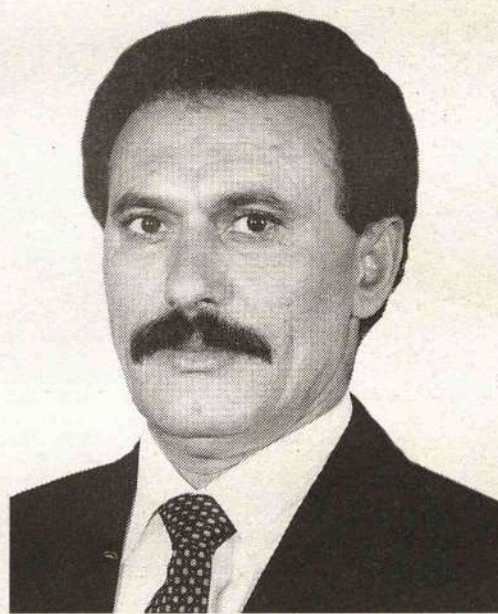
Government, and the Yemeni people on the occasion of the

Holy month of Ramadan and the new year

Many Happy Returns to All

**Arab Bank plc**

Profound Experience & Strength in Origin



## البنك العربي

ش م ع

اسرة البنك العربي في الجمهورية اليمنية ترفع أسمى التهاني وأطيب التبريكات لقائد المسيرة

**المشير علي عبدالله صالح**  
**رئيس الجمهورية**

وإلى الحكومة اليمنية الرشيدة برئاسة الدكتور فرج بن غانم، وإلى الشعب اليمني الأبي

بمناسبة حلول شهر رمضان المبارك وبمناسبة مقدم العام الميلادي الجديد ١٩٩٨م

كل عام والجميع بخير

البنك العربي ش م ع

العمق في الخبرة والمتانة في الأصل

فروع المدن الأخرى:

عدن: شارع مدرم المعلا ٢٤٢٠٩٩  
الحديدة: شارع صنعاء ت: ٢٣٩١٦٦/٧  
إب: شارع العدين ت: ٤٠٨٣٦٨/٧٠  
تعر: شارع جمال عبد الناصر - ت: ٢٣١٥٢٣ /٥ المكلا: حي العمال ت: ٣٠٤٤٥٤, ٣٠٤٤٥٦

فروع مدينة صنعاء:

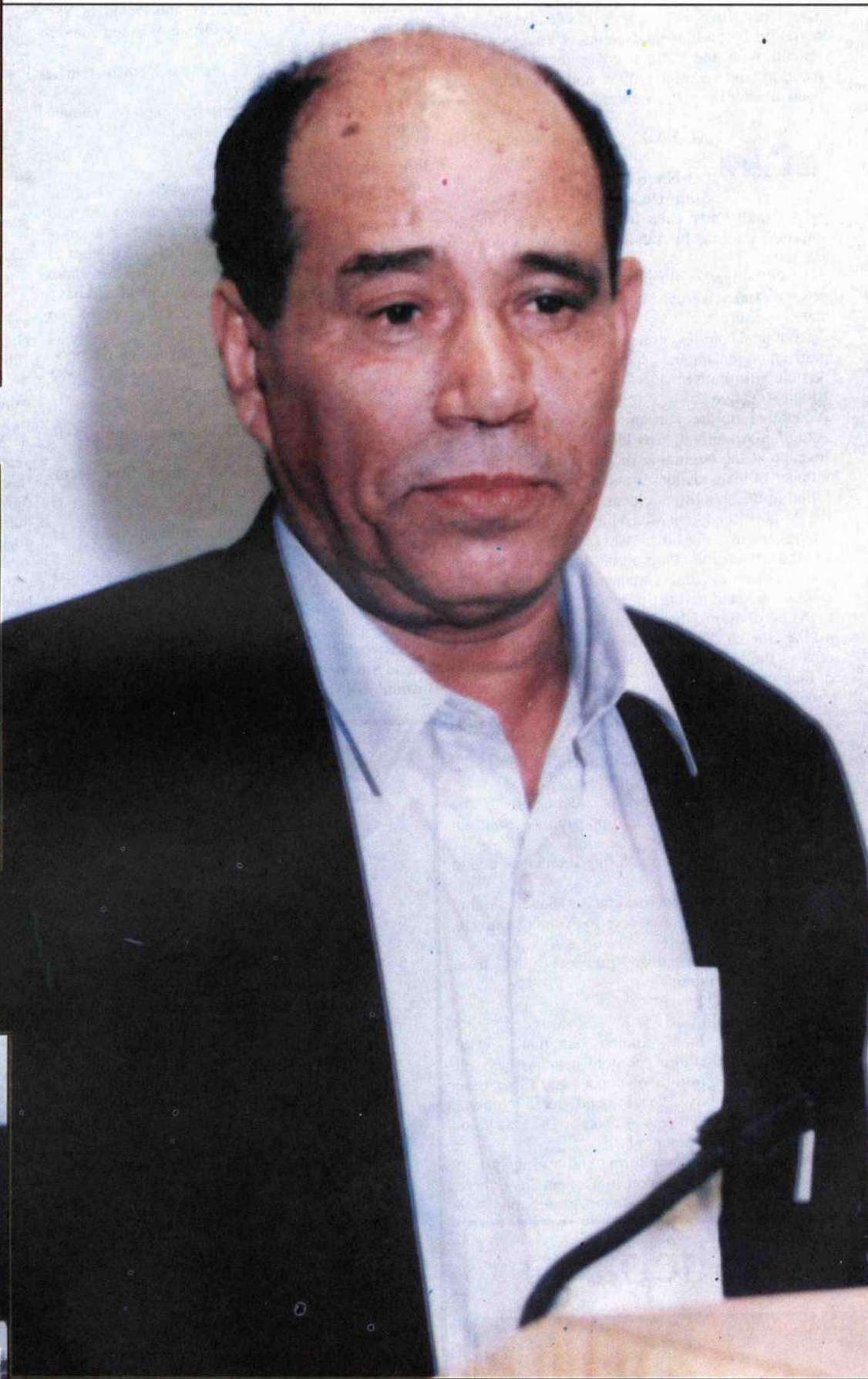
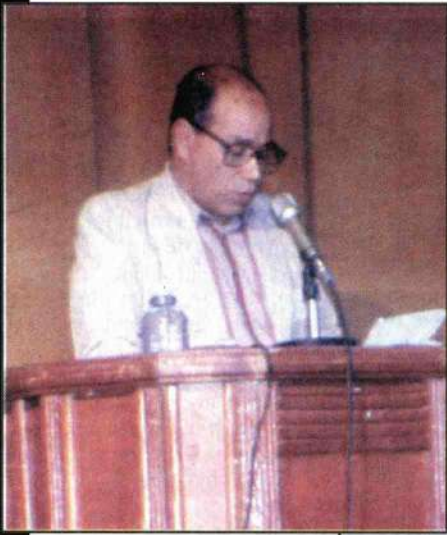
شارع الزبيري - ت: ٣٧٦٥٨٥  
شارع تعز - ت: ٢٦٢٣٣٧ /٩  
الحصبة - شارع القيادة - ت: ٢٢٧٠٣٦/٨

فروعنا العاملة بالجمهورية -:

إدارة المنطقة  
صنعاء - ص. ب (٤٧٥)  
ت: ٢٧٦ ٥٩٢ /٣



## الأستاذ الكبير عمر عبدالله الجاوي السقاف رجل السياسة والأدب والكلمة عاش قنوعاً مترفعاً، ومات فقيراً نظيفاً في زمن الفساد هذا



**The Late Omar Abdullah Al-Jawi Al-Saqqaf  
1938-1997**

ولد في منطقة الوهط في محافظة لحج في عام ١٩٣٨ م .  
تلقى علومه الأولى في القرية ثم إنتقل للدراسة إلى القاهرة ، ثم وأصل في موسكو .  
شارك في الدفاع عن صنعاء أثناء حصار السبعين يوماً ،  
وساهم في المقاومة الشعبية ضد الإحتلال البريطاني للجنوب .  
أول المؤسسين لحزب العمال للفلاحين وإتحاد الأدباء والكتاب اليمنيين .



**AL-WAHDAMI:** Sanaa weekly, 3-12-97. (Nasserite Unionist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1- The government starves the people to spend budget money on defense & security
- 2- Nasserite bloc in parliament voted in favor of agreement with OPEC International Development Fund to finance vocational training
- 3- Nasserite Secretary-General, Abdulmalik Al-Mikhlaifi extends his condolence to the family of the late patriotic figure Omar AL-Jawi
- 4- Fears are expressed of a Jordanian involvement in a possible US attack against Iraq

**Article Summary:**

**Bribery & Constitutional Violation - editorial**

Parliament, by endorsing the 1998 budget despite all its shortcomings, has proved to be one side of a coin whose other side is the government. Parliament always accepts what is proposed by the government, notwithstanding the "hot" debates. All MPs know very well that the recommendations and reservations they expressed - enough to reject the proposed budget altogether - will not be heeded by the government. The most shameful aspect in all this is that parliament got a "bribe" for ratifying next year's budget.

Most MPs were mainly concerned with increasing the annual parliamentary allowance from YR 999 million to YR 1,130 million, which received the government's immediate approval. To add insult to injury, the constitution strictly prohibits parliament from adding to, or deducting from, the annual state budget.



**AL-SHOURAH:** Sanaa weekly, 28-12-97.

(Federation of Popular Forces)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1- FPF Secretary-General holds the government responsible for the fall of Hunaish Island
- 2- Emir of Kuwait to respond to President Saleh's letter applying for GCC membership
- 3- Bomb explosion in Nasab, Shabwa, killed 1 person, injured 2 others, & destroyed part of the Urban Planning Office
- 4- About 31,000 crimes - murder, kidnap, assault, & robbery - took place in Yemen during 1995-96.

**Article Summary:**

**End of Trial Demanded**

Lawyers defending 31 men accused of Mahara bombings have demanded that the trial should be speedily concluded with a court decision. Other suspects in the case, including military personnel, have failed to appear before court, explained the defense council in a hearing held in Sanaa. Ten hearings on, and the prosecutor has failed to submit the damning evidence he claimed to be available. The prosecutor's requests to get certain material evidence from the Mahara security organ were hindered by alleged bureaucratic wrangling.



**AL-THAWRI:** Sanaa weekly, 1-1-98.

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1- US State Department warns American citizens in Yemen against possible "terrorist attacks"
- 2- YSP Secretary - Hadhramaut branch - was arrested for distributing a number of copies of AL-Thawri back issue which was banned for publishing 'phone conversation between the President and an imprisoned opposition figure
- 3- Six opposition parties signed agreement of principles on trade union and mass organization activities



## Yemini Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

**Article Summary:**

**Hopes of Local Government Decline**

In a seminar held in Sanaa last week, the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reform indicated that the first stage of decentralization will involve appointing governors until such time that local elections can be carried out. This shows that the government is not serious in establishing a local government system with big enough powers. The local government draft law currently being reviewed by parliament guarantees large powers to remain with the central government. It fails to mention full administrative and financial independence for the governorates.



**AL-UMMA:** Sanaa weekly, 1-1-98.

(Al-Haqq Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1- Al-Haqq Party calls for breaking the blockade imposed on Iraq by sending food & medicine to Baghdad
- 2- 1998 budget, a 4th dose of "economic reform," relies on financial resources that will never enter the state's treasury
- 3- Political parties concluded joint seminar on partisan organizational aspects

**Article Summary:**

**Blood Revenge**

A relative of the Parliamentary Speaker, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmer, was killed in an act of blood revenge at the beginning of this week in Sanaa. A number of his bodyguards and a passerby were also killed in the shooting incident, which took place on the Airport Road - near the Ministry of Interior! Andulkareem Al-Ahmer was leaving the Sanaa Central Prison following a visit to a jailed relative. Although the assailants managed to escape, police sources indicted that the perpetrators could be from the tribe of Bani Dhabian of Khowlan. They were asking Sheikh Al-Ahmer to punish one of his relatives - the brother of the deceased - for killing one of their clansmen.



**AL-JAMAHEER:** Sanaa weekly, 1-1-98.

(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1- Eritrean president allowed the establishment of Yemeni opposition group in Asmara with foreign aid
- 2- Food prices rose sharply during Ramadhan due to merchants' greed
- 3- Continuing its encroachment, Saudi Arabia grants Saudi I.Ds & passport to Yemeni citizens living near its borders
- 4- Ugly US imperialism prevents milk from reaching Iraqi children

**Article Summary:**

**Adulterated Gold**

Market sources have pointed out that several jewelers are adulterating the gold jewelry they sell with various proportions of copper and other base elements. They buy 21-carat gold, melt it down, mix it with other elements to make it 18-carat gold, and re-sell it as 21-carat gold.

There is no effective monitoring and testing system to control the jewelry market in Yemen. Also, there is no jewelers' guild to regulate this profession.

**AL-TAREEQ:** Aden fortnightly, 28-12-97.

(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1- Despite \$500,000 provided by Dutch Embassy and UNDP, seminar on Socotra women development was below standard
- 2- Few poor Aden families received YR3,000 each from YR15 million allocated by the President, rest of sum went to Presidency Office & Aden municipality
- 3- Rosa Mustafa becomes the first Yemeni female civil pilot
- 4- Emirates Diving Society to explore Yemeni shores & Socotra Island in a sailing boat

**Article Summary:**

**Journalists Go Tribal**

Employees of Sawt Al-Ummal weekly (voice of the workers) have recently demanded that they should be put on the tribal payroll. They had their salaries suspended since the civil war of 1994. In a letter to Al-Tareeq, the journalists indicated that all of them belong to influential Yemeni tribes and should have their salaries added to the special budget of the Tribal Affairs Authority.

The Ministry of Finance has not heeded all the presidential and governmental directives to pay these journalists their suspended salaries.



**AL-SAHWA:** Sanaa weekly, 1-1-98.

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

**Main Headlines:**

- 1- Islah bloc in parliament condemns proposed 1998 state budget as impoverishing the people
- 2- Court hearings on Aden bombings adjourned until February 10 due to judiciary recess
- 3- In a meeting with Islah leaders in Aden, the President of Islah Shoura Council, Sheikh Al-Zindani emphasized adherence to Yemeni unity

**Article Summary:**

**Dubious Oil Deal**

In extremely suspect circumstances, an oil deal with the British Dove oil company was ratified by parliament. The Islah bloc abstained during the voting, which took place on a Thursday - a day normally allocated for discussing general issues. Certain MPs insisted that the TV team covering parliamentary proceedings should leave while the deal was being discussed. The company that won the deal belongs to the wife of the Yemeni ambassador to a European country, whose daughter is married to a 'famous' Yemeni ambassador.

The government has refused to present to parliament the tender documents on the basis of which that unknown British company was chosen, despite it having little experience in oil business and small financial resources. The company's letter of credit was transferred from the US, which means that there is another company that will implement the deal without any accountability to the Yemeni government.

**26 SEPTEMBER:** Sanaa weekly, 1-1-98.

(Yemeni Armed Forces)

**News Review:**

- 1- The President: "Let's make

fasting in Ramadhan a starting point for spreading justice, affection, fraternity, and good deeds."

2- The President ratifies a number of funding agreements made with international organizations & PSA with Dove petroleum company.

3- Islah bloc withdrew from parliamentary sessions in protest over inclusion of scholastic institutes (Islah controlled) within the general Ministry of Education budget.

4- Council of Ministers endorsed draft decree to establish the National Supreme Human Rights Committee.

5- Abdulkareem Al-Iryani: "1998 will be a decisive year for implementing administrative and financial reforms."

6- Ministry of Education to study educational policy during 1998, based on computer data collected during 1997.

7- Amran & Bajil cement factories to be expanded and 5 industrial regions to be established in Hodeida, Lahaj, Abyan, Aden, & Hadhramaut.

8- Lands owned by Ministry of Endowments to be fully documented and more mosques to be built.

9- 113 communication projects to be implemented & 82,000 telephone lines to be installed in 1998.



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### Records Management Supervisor Yemeni Nationals

A record management supervisor is required for our Operations in Masila Block, Hadramout. The Successful Candidate will supervise the development, implementations, and daily activities of the Yemen Operations Records management Program at the four locations (Sana'a, Terminal, CPF, Dubai). This position is resident in the Mukalla area.

**Accountabilities:**

- Supervise the records management staff, (filing clerks and scanning staff) at all four locations.
- Supervise the training of staff on the file system, procedures, equipment and computer software (versatile database).
- Setup schedules and supervise implementations for the regular transfer of the company's records to the main central records facility (Terminal).
- Analyze the records management needs of the Yemen operations and make recommendations to the management regarding comprehensive records management's practices and procedures.
- Supervise the Disaster Recovery Program Implementation.
- Insure all records retention requirements of Yemen Government, joint venture partners and income tax authorities are fulfilled.
- Provide records management assistance for the audits of Yemen operations (cost recovery, internal, external, and income tax).
- Present to and train the employees across the organization on the use of the records management system and facility.
- Supervise the recruiting and training of employees.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Education:** College diploma or certificate in records management, or the equivalent experience.
- Experience:** Minimum 10 to 15 years experience.
- Knowledge:** Business Records and Oil & Gas Technical Records Applications (Excel, MS-Word, Versatile).

If you obtain the above qualification and work experience, please send your CV to the following address by 19 January 1998:

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen  
Human Resources  
P. O. Box 15137, Sana'a, Yemen  
Fax No. 269897

## Iftar at the Taj Sheba



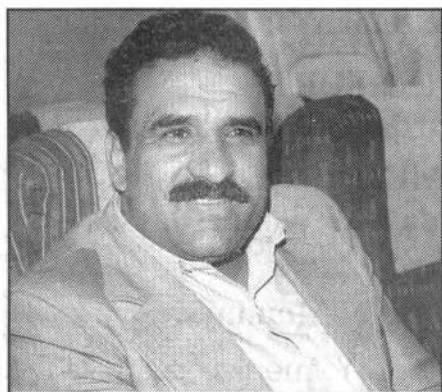
The Yemen times staff have enjoyed a delicious iftar meal on Thursday, December 25th at the Taj Sheba Hotel. Upon the invitation of Mr. Shanakar, the Tja's sales manager, all YT members and a few guests were treated a number of tradi-

tional Ramadhan dishes as well as few other international ones. It was a pleasant Ramadhan evening spent in a traditional Yemeni ambiance. Oriental music and hubble bubble were also available.

Sameer Al-Aqr:

## "There are no training halls or playing fields. Some of these have turned into student cafes."

Sport activities in Sana'a University are facing many obstacles which are gradually leading to their decline. In spite of the fact that the rector of the university, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh decided to make the sports department in Sana'a University into administrative offices. The situation needs urgent support and attention. Yemen Times met Mr. Sameer Al-Aqr, the General Director of Sports activities in Sana'a University and an old sportsman with a bachelor degree in Physical Education from Cairo University.

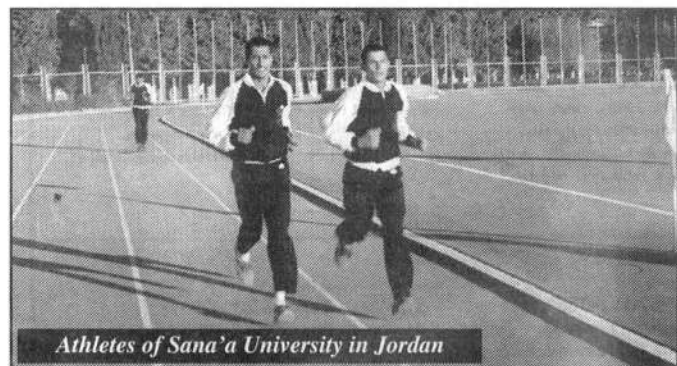


training halls. But we established a training team consisting of Yemeni and Egyptian coaches.

**Q: Are there sport teams representing the university in various sport activities?**

**A:** Yes, there are. They participated in football, table tennis and track and field games. We are about to form a table tennis female team. Some of the teams participated in Arab champion-

**Q: Which sport games are presently practiced in the university?**



Athletes of Sana'a University in Jordan

**A:** For example, football, Volley ball, basketball, handball, Taekwondo, Karate and wrestling are practiced as extra sport activities in Sana'a University. These games are for male and female students. Most of the sportsmen and women get their training outdoors because there is a shortage of

ships in Egypt, Jordan and Iraq. Sana'a University will participate in the tournament for Arab universities which will be held from 3-5 March, 1998, in volleyball, tennis, basketball, and chess.

**Q: Do you receive enough**

**support to cover the sports activities in the university?**

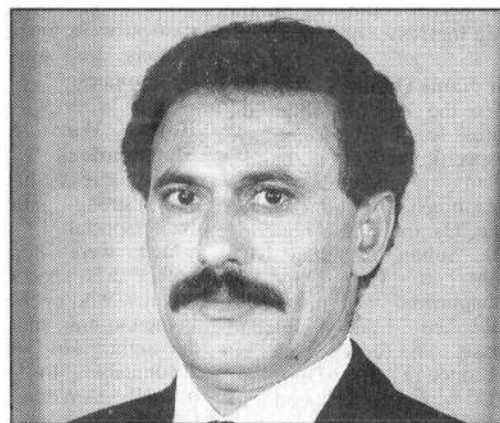
**A:** We do not receive enough support. Financing the sports activities depends on the mood of those responsible for this field in the university. If their mood is bad, there will be no agreement on any sports program. Otherwise, we will be able to discuss with them the programs which are to be presented during the academic year.

**Q: Are the sports halls and stadiums large enough for sports students?**

**A:** There are no proper sports facilities within Sana'a University. The basketball and volleyball field at the Arts Faculty was converted into a coffee shop,

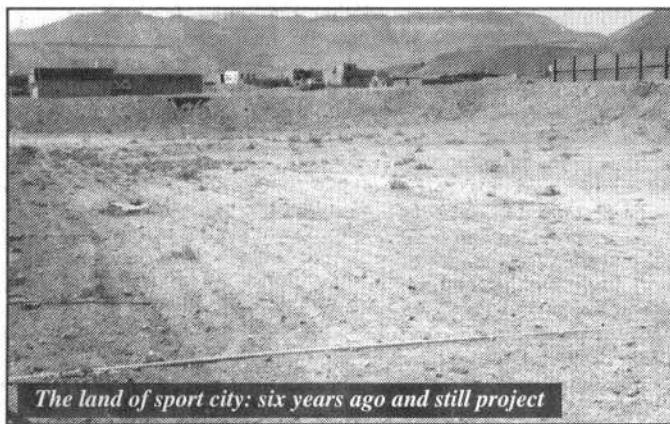
## The President Supports Ibb Sports Clubs & Funds Building a Sports Stadium

During the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of independence on November 30th, 1997, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced donating to big buses to the Ittihad and Shaab clubs in Ibb. He was prompted by the knowledge of the two clubs' need for appropriate means transportation. The governor of Ibb, Mr. Abdulqader Hilal received the two buses on Thursday, January 1st, and handed them over to the clubs concerned. On another level, the Ibb sports and scout clubs received sport outfits and training equipment also donated by the President. The President's greatest gift to the Ibb governorate is his directive to allocate a special budget for completing the construction of the first sport stadium in Ibb - 22<sup>nd</sup> May Stadium.



**which was supposed to be established in 1988 within the university?**

**A:** This case has taken a long time since it was announced.



The land of sport city: six years ago and still project

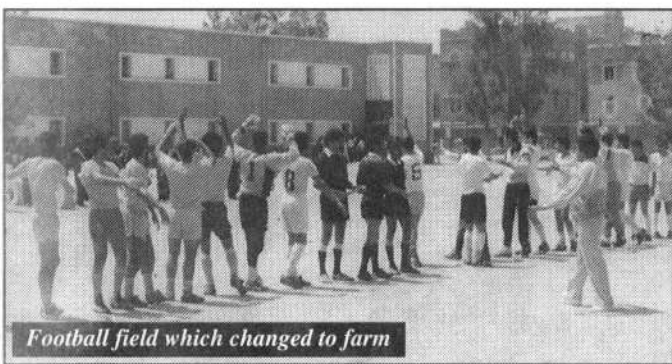
sisting of abandoned play fields where speeches are delivered and buildings.



Female activities in the past

and its only football stadium was left to become a waste land. The number of female and male students, who are interested in practicing sports activities, is steadily increasing. This has

There was a lot of cheating in this case where there were several announcements for the tender in the official newspaper Al-Thawra. We heard that a certain contractor was the successful

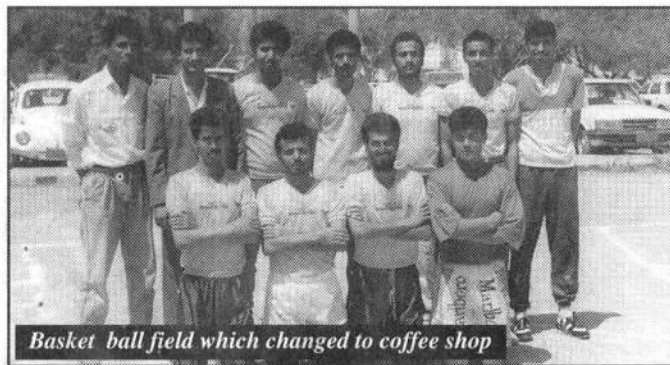


Football field which changed to farm

motivated us to reform the sports conditions in the university.

bidder and this contractor brought suit against the University because he did not receive his rights. The sports city is now con-

**Q: What about the sports city**



Basket ball field which changed to coffee shop

**Q: What is your contribution towards solving these problems?**

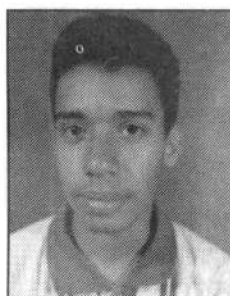
**A:** We get to know the deficiencies and explain them to the officials of the university, in order to take corrective decisions on organizing sports activities, depending on proper planning. We have to support the reform programs implemented by the government we hope that play fields be established within faculties because sport activities are just festivals or celebrations

**Q: How do you think the sport condition in Sana'a University can be developed in the future?**

**A:** I invite all professors, who are interested in sports, particularly Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf to hold a symposium in order to discuss sports conditions within the University and to explain the importance of sports activities and to support sports. I think such a symposium will surmount many impediments facing the sports not only in Sana'a University but in other universities.

## Yemeni Karate Kid

Mohammed Abdullah Mohammed Siyam, 18, is a budding kata champion on the Sana'a level. He participated in the military championship in 1997, achieving third position. The first position was achieved in the Police Association championship on Thursday December 25th. All the championships took place in the military hall in Sana'a. Mohammed is a secondary-school student.



fighting him. Motions of this game are pre-arranged.

**Q: What motivated you to learn this game?**

**A:** Karate is considered to be one of the best fighting games. I learnt karate out of self-defense.

**Q: What are your ambitions?**

**A:** I aspire to participate in championships abroad.

**Q: What are the problems that you face?**

**A:** The training halls are too small and not suitable for training. There are not enough sports equipment and also there are not well-qualified coaches.

**Q: Is this game becoming more popular?**

**A:** It is still at its beginning. The number of kata players does not exceed 300 players in all Yemen, unlike Taekwondo and Judo.

**Q: Do sports clubs provide facilities this game?**

**A:** No they do not. If all clubs exercise it, the number of players will not be low as it is now.

**Our champ took some time of his training schedule to talk to Waheed Sami of Yemen Times who filed the following interview.**

**Q: When and where did you start training?**

**A:** I started training in mid-1996 in Al-Shaab club of Sana'a with captain Ibrahim Al-Walid.

**Q: What does Kata mean?**

**A:** Kata is a stimulating fighting during which the player imagine that a group of persons are

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## Qala'at Al-Qahirah: Overlooking Taiz

This is the second of a five-part series reporting on the main fortresses of Yemen.

### The Name Qahirah

Since the hill on which the fortress was built did not have a specific name, it builder Sultan Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al-Solaihi, named it the "Qahira" (the conquering one). Sultan Abdullah is a brother to king Ali Bin Mohammed, the one who established the Sulaihid dynasty. The fortress was first mentioned in 1014 AD. Ibn Al-Mojawer described it as a strong and a well-fortified bastion. He called it "the Green Mountain" saying that it is "the luckiest in Yemen because it is the home of the monarchy and the bastion of kings."

### Functions & Purposes

In its early times, the castle witnessed some bloody days though it provided no real defense against the enemies of the city itself. On the contrary, the castle sometimes became a refuge for rebel army commanders, who used it as a base to launch raids of pillage on its neighbors.

For a long time, the castle was an abode for kings, especially during the reign of Rasulid rulers. Therefore, castles were built for them and their families there. These castles often had beautiful names such as the "abode of emirate" or the "abode of arts" and so on. This was a reflection of the urbanization which the city of Taiz witnessed during the

Rasulid period. Some of those castles were made prisons for some royal rogues.

### Royal War & Machinations

The fortress has very strong gates with special keys which were kept with a special warden, who opened the doors in the morning and closed them at night. He was directly accountable to the Sultan himself. Anyone who contemplated conquering the castle had to first think of killing the Sultan. It happened once between servants of king Al-Mojahid and his nephew Al-Mansoor Ibn Al-Modhaffar who, being a failure king, sought a refuge in the castle. After the Taherid state was conquered by the Mamelukes of Egypt and after the Mamelukes were themselves defeated by the Imams who reached Taiz, prince Al-Motahar Bin Sharafuldeen decided to have the rest of the city walled. It was walled by Yahya Al-Nasayri in 1525. It took nearly 7 years to complete the job, the castle thus became a point of strength for the city during the subsequent conflicts and wars. This was proved more than once. When king Al-Majahid was besieged inside the castle for months, his enemies tried to damage the wall, but to no avail.

### Blood Down the Mountain

During the Turkish period, the



fortress witnessed several bloody incidents. When prisoners in the castle rebelled against their unjust agha or prison warden and stoned him to death, the Turkish ruler Hassan Pasha ordered all prisoners to be thrown off the top of the castle. This massacre took place in 996 A.H. The second incident was a kind of a unique socio-politics. In 1020 A.H, the Turkish rulers asked every sheikh in the area to bring his wife, a daughter and a son to remain as hostages in the Qahirah. The aim was to secure total loyalty and obedience to the state. The refusal of some of the sheikhs to comply to this demand led to brutal massacre.

### Just a Prison

With time, the castle became a mere prison. Therefore, it was neglected and became ruined. Even though, three of its gates and its south side remain intact until today. The fortress played very significant roles in the history of the liberation movements against the regime. One such event took place in 1955. When the revolutionary Ahmed Al-Tholayya led his

revolt against Imam Ahmed Hameeduldeen, it was the fortress which led his failure.

### Call for Renovation

After the September Revolution of 1962, the strategic importance of the castle disappeared and so did its garrison. It has increasingly become the domain of the tourist or archeological authorities, although they have yet to take full control. For touristic use, renovation is needed. I would like seize this opportunity and call, through Yemen Times, on President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the prime minister and all responsible authorities to rescue the remains of the castle in order to make use of it in fields of historical research and tourism. Renovating the castle is also important to prevent hundreds of houses located down the hill from being damaged. In 1996, for example, crumbling rocks from the fortress caused great damage in that area.

By: Mohsen Mohammed Al-Mojahid,  
General Manager,  
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