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Successful Visits to Malaysia & China

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's airplane has touched down in Shanghai on Saturday, February 14th. In five days, the President and the accompanying delegation will then fly to Jakarta. The days the President has spent in Malaysia have been described as "very successful" in further strengthening the bilateral relations. President Saleh called on HM the King and held official talks with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed and members of his cabinet. Malaysian officials briefed the Yemeni side on the recent financial crisis - their cause and the steps taken to remedy them. The two countries also exchanged views on recent political developments in the region. Yemen and Malaysia agreed to further expand their trade volume from its present level of US\$ 350 million per year. The President also officially inaugurated the newly-opened Yemeni embassy in Kuala Lumpur. During his visit to Malaysia, the President met several representatives of the Yemeni community there. He also

met the Arab ambassadors to Kuala Lumpur, and informed them of the outcome of his talks with Malaysian officials. On another level, Yemen and China have now agreed to execute a number of private joint industrial and commercial projects, many of them to be based in the Aden Free Zone. "China has important relevant experience in free zones (called Special Administrative Zones in China). We know how to contribute to the growth of Aden," said a senior Chinese official. The Chinese have also agreed to increase their contribution of official development assistance. The main areas of focus are health, technical/vocational education, and road/bridge construction. The number of Chinese doctors and medical staff working in Yemen will be doubled, the number of scholarships for Yemenis to do technical training in China will be increased, and a contract for the construction of a bridge over the intersection of Zubairi and Abdul-Moghni Street has been con-

cluded. The project's cost, some US\$3.6 million, is a gift from Chinese people to Yemen. Yemeni businessmen have also struck many deals with their Chinese counterparts. In addition to joint investments, 18 trade agreements have also been concluded. President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, and their assistants, are to hold many extensive talks on regional and international political issues. In Indonesia, the Yemenis will seek to strengthen cooperation with Jakarta in different fields. The two sides will also mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Yemeni businessmen say that trade and business with the 3 countries will witness visible growth. "The price levels for quality goods in those three countries are at least 30% lower than the average world level. We have also signed agreements to avoid double taxation," they said. The President and the accompanying delegation are due back on 21st February.



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World Bank Executive Directors Conclude Successful Visit

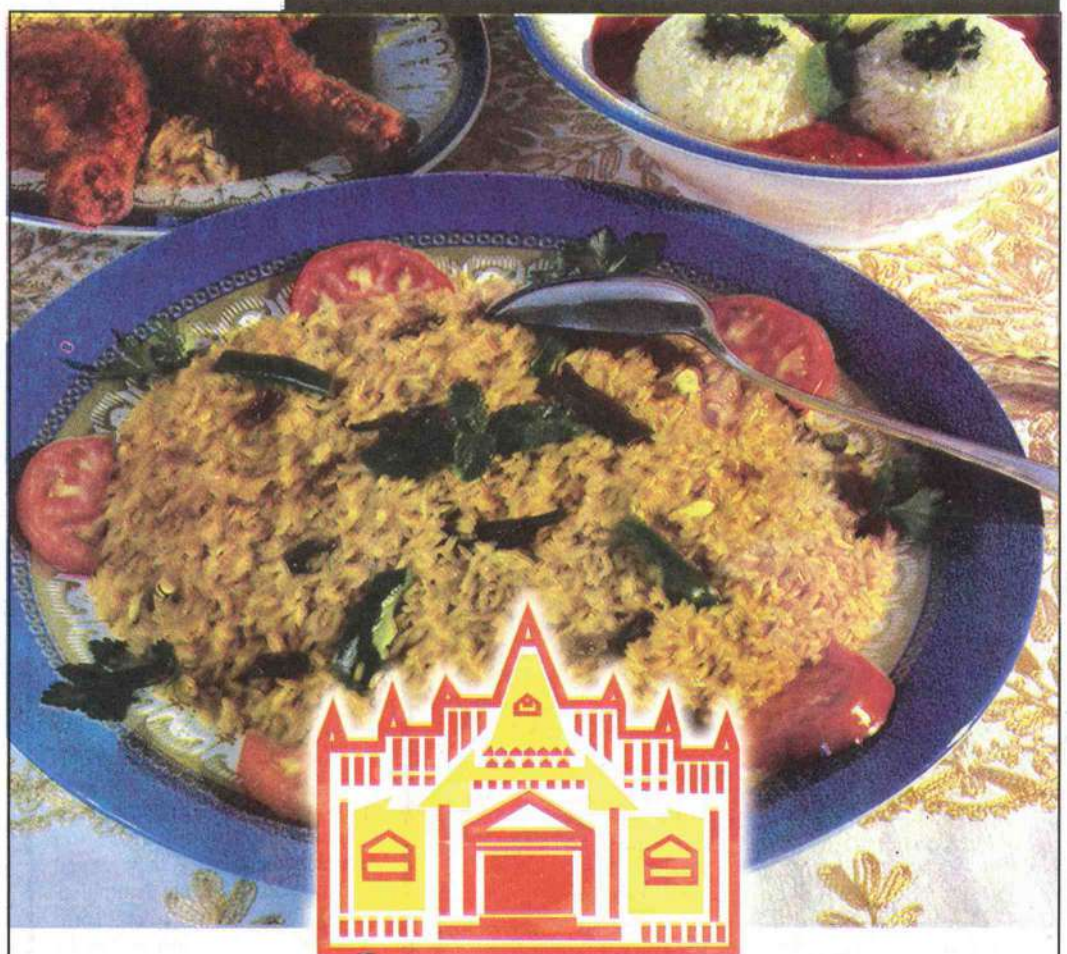
Seven World Bank executive directors leave Sanaa today, Monday, February 16th at the end of a 6-day official visit to Yemen. Khalid Al-Saad, Juanita Amatong, Joaquim Carvalho, Franco Passancantando, Helmut Schaffer, Pieter Stek, and Eugene Miagkov, accompanied by a high-level World Bank staff held extensive talks with Yemeni officials. "It is the first time that Yemen receives such a number of high level visitors from the World Bank. Out of 24 executive directors, 7 were here," said Dr. Osman Ahmed, Head of the World Bank office in Sanaa. "It is a sign of interest in Yemen."

Indeed, in terms of the level of activity, number of projects, and number of staff, Yemen is the most active country in the World Bank's MENA region. The executives will visit Jordan and Tunisia after Yemen. In addition to working closely with the government, the WB officials also showed keen interest in working with NGOs and other voluntary grass-roots efforts. Mr. Khalid Al-Saad, who represents Yemen in addition to other countries, re-affirmed continued WB support for Yemen. "I believe Yemen's performance in the reform program has been very good," he said.

Woman Shot Serious Precedent Set

While walking down the crowded Hadda Road, near Al-Komaim Trade Center, on a busy Ramadhan night, Ms. A. was followed and harassed by a number of young louts in a car. They demanded that she should join them in the car, Ms. A. alleged. Refusing to comply made the louts persist. She insulted them. They shouted obscenities. One of them pulled his ever-ready weapon and fired

one shot. It pierced her back, and passed near her lung. The bullet was later taken out by surgeons. Ms. A. has now left hospital. Out of respect, women are never shot at in Yemen. To do such an evil act in a busy street in full view of many people, is indeed a very serious precedent. It can be an indication to deterioration in moral standards, and adds another means of abusing women.



دعي أرز القصر الذهبي
ينور مائدتك

OUR VIEWPOINT

Our Politicians and Their Endless Lies

Are politicians by necessity liars? The record of our time and what history tells us, seems to indicate that politicians in general lie more than other people. Throughout history and up to now, to be a politician really meant to dish out lies on a regular basis. That is why people, in general, and scholars, in particular, draw a distinction between a politician and a statesman or stateswoman. The difference is in the level of personal integrity and decency, and in the sense of mission and degree of vision. A statesman is a politician with a high level of integrity and one with a vision and sense of mission.

At this juncture of human history, the lies of politicians have hit record levels. It may be that the lies of politicians have been at about the same level throughout history, but that now we are more aware of them given the extent of information flow. Even if that were the case, I contend that Yemeni politicians are working hard to hit the Guinness Book of Records in this aspect. Our political structure is so corrupt that not one day passes by without a dose of lies (they call them promises) from our politicians. This phenomenon is true whether you are talking of politicians in power or those in the opposition. Lies permeate all levels of bureaucracy and authority. Let me give a few examples:

1. Foundation Stones of Projects:

Many villagers and tribes are showered with promises of development projects. They are given explicit orders and promises to implement schools, clinics, roads, water supply projects, etc. They are asked to process the necessary paperwork. They are told everything is ready for implementation. In fact, a senior official even goes through project initiation ceremonies; e.g., to lay down foundation stones, getting a lot of media coverage, etc. Those are big lies. The foundation stone for some projects have been laid down several times. It is very frustrating when senior government officials look at people straight in the face, and dish out a lie.

2. Better Times Ahead:

Many times, senior officials tell the public that good times are ahead. "Better times are there, just beyond the next corner," they say. They have been talking about so many corners to cross that they describe a very strange geometric shape. These lies are about the economic reforms, about decentralization, about law and order, about checks and balances in the system, about fighting corruption, about the coming fortunes from oil and gas, about respect for human rights and civil liberties, about fair democratic practices, etc.

3. Lies to Foreigners:

Our politicians have not only been lying to the Yemeni public, but their lies have also colored our relations with foreign governments and international agencies. Many a foreign diplomat or official would tell you about the so many promises that were broken, and the outright lies they were told.

The final result of this lie-telling approach is loss of credibility. The number of jokes circulated among the Yemeni public about the lies of our politicians attests to the level of trust they have in them. Unfortunately, the dose of lies increases when there are national occasions. Last week was one such occasion.

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Birds Found Dead

Two birds were found dead on a farm in Hajjar Arrak, Hajar, Hadhramaut. The farmer, Mr. H. Ba-Rajjash found a silver rings around the left leg of each of the dead birds. The ring carries the inscription 'Riks Museum, Stockholm.'

Birmingham Seeks to Expand Commercial Relations with Yemen

A delegation of members of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce & Industry arrived in Aden on Saturday February 14. Mr. D Chambers is leading the 12 man mission. A number of British companies are represented by the delegation. The aim of the mission is to expand commercial relations with Yemen.

This is the first of a number of British Trade Missions to Yemen planned for 1998. Future missions include a Tourism Mission (March 1-5) and the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mission (April 24-30).

The Birmingham Mission has met members of the Aden Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Saturday, February 14 at the Aden Chamber. They traveled to Taiz on Sunday, February 15 and met members of the Taiz Chamber of Commerce & Industry. They will return to Aden on Monday, February 16.

Marketing Seminar

The University of Aden, in cooperation with the Arab Management Society in Cairo, is organizing the first seminar on marketing in Yemen. Due to be held during 10-12 May, the seminar will cover several topics concerning various marketing aspects.

"A large number of managers and administrators from different Yemeni and Arab establishments as well as specialized university lecturers, students and other people interested in marketing will take part in the seminar," said Dr. Mohammed Abdulrasheed, head of the seminar's information committee.

"The seminar will concentrate on identifying the Yemeni market characteristics through establishing a comprehensive framework encompassing the marketing problems in Yemen," explained Dr. Abdulrasheed. The participants will also try to "determine the necessary mechanisms to deal with the rapid changes and predicts the future developments in the Yemeni market."

Teachers to Go on Strike

Teachers and educators all over the Republic of Yemen are preparing to go on strike if the government does not respond to their demands. They started on Saturday, February 7 to wear red badges, and distribute pamphlets calling for a partial strike - form 4th to 6th lesson - during 7 to 19 February. They are to go on a total strike from 24 to 28 February, and then on an indefinite strike as of March 1st.

The teachers are demanding a 110% wage increase, which means an additional YR 8 billion to the general budget. The Ministry of Finance has suggested that the wage increase

should be institute on 3 stages: 40% increase this year, 30% next year, and 30% in the year 2000.

Yemeni Intellectuals Accuse

'We received with great astonishment the news of the trial in France of the French thinker Rajaa Garoudie,' started a letter signed by several Yemeni organizations and intellectuals.

'The astonishment stems from the fact that the trial is taking place at the end of the 20th century, not at the time of Copernicus or Galileo,' continued the letter. 'His trial is a brand of shame and an insult to all the principles and values of which the French nation prides itself. It is a return to the age of the Spanish Inquisitions...'

'We still hope, however, that the spirit and principles of the French Revolution, which have been a beacon for all free people of the world, will not be obscured by Zionist idols.'

Investments in Yemen on the Rise

Statistics released on January 10 by the General Investment Authority (GIA) indicate that 1189 projects were licensed by the GIA's head office up to November, 1997. With a total cost of investment of YR 330,206,005, these investment projects have created 59,167 new jobs. The fixed assets of these projects stand at YR 3,030,424.

In December alone, the GIA licensed 22 new investment projects with an investment cost of YR 4,696,812. Of these December projects, 16 are indus-

trial, 1 in agriculture, 2 in fisheries, 1 in services, and 2 in tourism. The new job opportunities created in December were 673.

Yemenia Increase Business

Yemen's national carrier, Yemenia Airlines, made record ticket sales during 1997. With an increase of 18% over 1996, more than 694,000 passengers were transported by Yemenia last year. The airline sources indicated that the company will improve its financial system through expanding its computer capacity, and improve passenger service by issuing automated tickets. Plans for 1998 include the intro-

duction into the service of four new Boeing 727s, three Boeing 737s, and a modern Dash 7.

Muslim Choir in Paris

As part of the activities of the Yemeni Exhibition at the Arab World Institute in Paris, the Yemeni Chanters Troupe presented a number of religious chants with a distinct Yemeni character.

The Chanters Troupe also recorded several of their religious songs for the French TV's second channel as well as recording solo chants on laser disc.

The Radio of the Orient made interesting interview with the troupe's maestro, Mr. Ali Mohsin Al-Akwa'.

Announcement

The Sanaa Chamber of Commerce and Industry announces to all proprietors of companies and trade establishments that it is in the process of issuing its Commerce and Industry Guide of 1998. All people concerned should submit the necessary correct information to the Chamber within two weeks of publishing this advertisement. Otherwise, the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce and Industry will publish the available information. All those wishing to advertise in the new guide, from the public and private sectors are requested to speedily provide us with the necessary information and reserve the required spaces.

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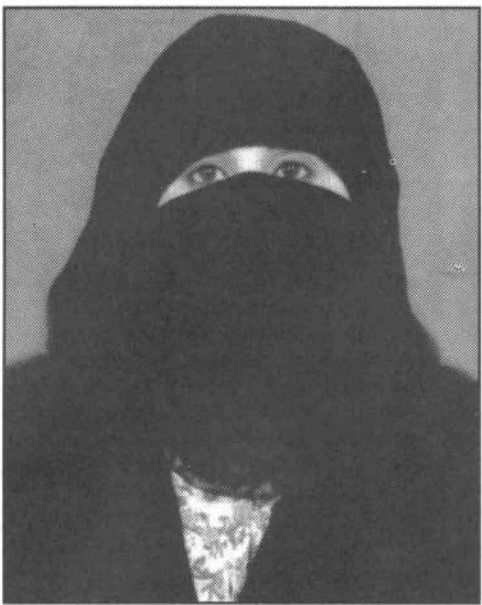
Sayida Al-Haylana:

"The best times in Yemen's history were when it was ruled by women."

Ms. Sayida Yahya Al-Haylana is the only female chief editor in Yemen of a publication wholly devoted to women issues - Al-Mar'a (the woman) Newspaper, of which she is also the publisher. Being Assistant General Manager for the state's general budget at the Central Bank, Al-Haylana, 37, she has a BA in accountancy from Sanaa University, a diploma in international politics, and a diploma in journalism also from Sanaa University. In addition to being a member of several charities and NGOs, she is also an active member of the Yemen Women's Union and a staunch supporter of the empowerment of Yemeni women.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, talked to Ms. Al-Haylana about her conquering this field which has been exclusively controlled by men.

(Ms. Al-Haylana categorically refused to have her photograph taken without a veil)



very understanding and appreciative family.

Q: To what extent has Al-Mar'a been successful in representing Yemeni women issues?

A: Al-Mar'a newspaper is now read by women and men alike. We consider this publication as a message directed towards all society, men and women. Al-Mar'a is the mouthpiece of all Yemeni women. We bear in mind in each

issue that we are not just providing a momentary service, but also a message for the future. The written word has a transcendental influence. That is why it is a heavy responsibility to shoulder and why the work should be presented at a good level to gain the respect of the reader. You can refer to Al-Mar'a back issues to see examples on what I have said. During the last elections, for instance, Al-Mar'a published special editions in support of various female candidates, irrespective of their partisan affiliations.

Q: There are some women's organizations and associations which publish their own newspapers or bulletins. How do

these publications fair, as compared with Al-Mar'a?

A: Al-Mar'a is an independent newspaper dedicated to the women's social, economic, and political issues. Its journalists and reporters write freely without any 'instruction' from outsiders. Al-Mar'a was established solely through individual efforts to support and encourage women. On the other hand, the activities of the women's organizations mentioned are wholly governed by their internal charters and other rules and regulations. Al-Mar'a is the only independent publication specializing in women's issues.

Q: Are you sometimes faced with any restrictions in freely expressing your opinion? Have you ever faced a law suit for something you published?

A: Never. We had never encountered any such restrictions. It is actually quite the opposite of that. Al-Mar'a often receives letters and other communications praising our work and providing a lot of constructive criticism, which has helped improve the paper. I agree that journalism is a double-edged sword, and a journalist must be up to what he or she publishes. Many people consider female journalism as requiring extraordinary efforts that strongly merit its makers a lot of appreciation and commendations. Our aim is to provide our readers - men and women, ordinary and government official - with balanced reporting.

Q: As a journalist, how do you evaluate the role of women in the Yemeni cultural life?

A: I am afraid that the cultural role of women in Yemen is still somewhat limited. The number of Yemeni women involved in journalism, art, literature, and other fields of artistic endeavor is

rather small. The reason lies in the numerous difficulties that women still face in their professional life. Many old customs and traditions are still effective in keeping many women from taking their rightful place in society. Yemeni women still, to a certain degree, find it difficult to get the education they need and even far more difficult to go to work.

For women to have an appreciable role in the country's cultural life, they must be prepared for that by their families early in their childhood. Society in general must also be educated to consider women as active partners of men.

Q: Would you like to send a message through Yemen Times?

A: The President of the Republic has already done a lot to support Yemeni women. We ask for more. There should be more women at decision-making levels. Why can't Yemen has its female ministers in the government? There many highly qualified women who are quite capable, just like their men counterparts if not better, of occupying top positions in the government and other official organs.

I'd like to say to the President that it is just not enough to have two women MPs in our parliament. Love of one's country and the desire to serve is not a male prerogative. Women can also do it just as good, if not better. If we refer back to the Yemeni history, we can find many good examples of women who confidently reached the top and remained there. We will also find that the best times in Yemen's history were when it was ruled by women such as Queen Bilquis and Queen Arwa who reigned in Yemen for half a century. Their rules were characterized by justice, prosperity, enlightenment, awareness, etc.

Q: You call for the liberation of women. Doesn't the veil you wear impede your freedom?

A: The veil has never been an obstacle in the way of women freedom. I myself wear it because its part of the Yemeni traditions.

Q: Have you called, through Al-Mar'a, other women to lift their veils, considering that it is not really a Muslim tradition?

A: No, because such a call will raise the indignation of the conservative and influential elements in society as well as some members of my family.

Q: What has motivated you to become a journalist and publish a women's monthly newspaper?

A: I entered the world of journalism purely by chance. Some time after my graduation from the College of Commerce, I took part in a course to prepare women to be active in the political arena, which was organized by Al-Mithaq Al-Watani Institute in Sanaa. In other words, I became a student again. At the conclusion of the course, I got a diploma in international politics. One of the lecturers at the course, Dr. Mohammed Al-Mutawakil who lectured us in media and information got me very interested in this subject.

With the opening of the Media Faculty at Sanaa University, I immediately enrolled with the encouragement of Dr. Raoufa Hassan. Step by step, I became more involved in journalism. However, since I am an employee at the Central Bank, and have been since my secondary school days, most of my journalistic work had to be conducted in the afternoon.

Q: When did you first get the idea of publishing Al-Mar'a and what developments or improvements have taken place in the newspaper since then?

A: When I was a student in the Media Faculty at Sanaa University, a group of students and members of the staff used to publish a bulletin called Minbar Al-I'lam (the media forum), which had Dr. Ahmed Al-Sayyaghi as its chief editor. We hit upon the idea of also publishing a supplement devoted to women's issue. So Minbar Al-Mar'a was published in 8 pages, and I was chosen as its assistant chief editor. This publication later developed to become the independent Al-Mar'a newspaper. In 1994, I got a license from the Ministry of Information to publish the fully fledged Al-Mar'a monthly newspaper in 16 pages. Since I assumed the full responsibility for this paper, I worked hard along with my other female colleagues to develop this publication. All of our work was wholly voluntary. Al-Mar'a was first published in 24 color pages starting at the tenth issue.

Q: What are the goals of your newspaper?

A: There are specific goals and others, more general ones. The first include supporting Yemeni women's issues, calling for the women's rights to work and education. It is all part of the democratization process currently underway in Yemen. We also aim, through Al-Mar'a, to raise women's awareness of their legal rights, present the role and activities of intellectual Yemeni women, presenting the opinions, ambitions, and problems of Yemeni women, and focusing on the activities of women's organ-

izations in Yemen. As for the general aims, we hope to participate in directing society's attention towards several important social issues such as caring for the handicapped, looking after mothers and children, etc. We consider our work as an essential part of the overall development process taking place in Yemen.

Q: Is there a particular message or cause you want to convey to society through Al-Mar'a?

A: Our main message, which would like to convey to the people as poignantly as possible, is that the role of a woman can never be restricted to being a housewife and a source for human reproduction. A woman is human being with rights as well as duties, and must be treated as such. Women have, throughout the ages, proven themselves worthy of the responsibilities they shoulder, and, if given the chance, they can outdo their men counterparts.

Q: What major difficulties do you face in your work as a journalist and publisher?

A: Any type of work is bound to be impeded by certain hindrances, major or otherwise. Journalism in particular is notorious as being the profession of problems. With help and encouragement from many people and organizations, including Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Yemen Times, we have been able to surmount many of our difficulties.

Journalism puts a heavy responsibility on the individual journalist towards his or her society.



Q: What does your family think of your work as a journalist?

A: My parents, four brothers, and my sister Amatulateef - Al-Mar'a managing editor - have all taken positive stances towards me. In fact, I would not have been able to continue my work and achieve what I have been able to do in my professional life without their constant encouragement and support.

My late father, in particular, had been very supportive of all his offspring, without any discrimination between the sons and the daughters. Although my father was conservative tribal sheikh, he treated us quite democratically. Throughout his life, my father respected women and treated them human beings worthy of acquiring education and having their individual and independent entities, separate from men. I consider myself very lucky in this respect, having a


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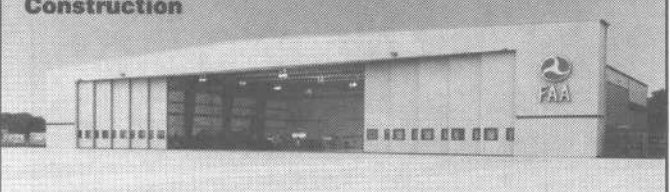
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Aghabira & Aarooq Charity Opens New Office

The Aghabira and Aarooq Charitable Society is to open its new offices in Sana'a today, Monday February 16th.

Inaugurated by Mr. Mohammed Abdu Saeed Anam MP, the President of the society, the event is to be attended by a number of senior officials, prominent figures in Yemen society, and a large number of Mr. Anam's constituents who are staying in Sana'a for this occasion.

These new premises will enable the society to better carry out its charitable activities. The previous premises were blown up in bomb explosion which killed three people. Some benevolent people have donated the money for the new building.

More than 60,000 needy people

living in and around Constituency #44 in Taiz benefit from the Aghabira and Aarooq Charitable Society. It has two other offices in Taiz and Aden.

The Aghabira and Aarooq Charitable Society is one of the most successful and active NGOs in Yemen, for which it has a wide good reputation. This made many Yemen governmental and international organizations.

Mr. Mohammed Abdu Saeed Anam has made great efforts to make the work of this society a big success. It has achieved a lot in fields of human resource



development, social security, the environment, and other important social issues.

Rural people, especially children, women, and old people stand to benefit most from the activities of Aghabira and Aarooq Charitable Society.

Mr. Anam is characterized by endless energy and numerous activities in serving his fellow citizens and his country. He is a member of several NGOs working to make life better for the Yemeni people.

Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaq,
Yemen Times

مركز العيسائي لصيانة السيارات

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Alternative Methods of Dispute Resolution

Defined by the Law as "the resolving of dispute between two parties at their own consent, as long as it does not contradict the Shariah (Islamic Law)", arbitration is becoming one of the most active mechanisms to resolve disputes between parties in the Republic.

The court system, being what it is, is infested with corruption, and encumbered with unnecessary delays thus burdening the parties with frustration and cost. We then as lawyers, find ourselves drafting into most contractual agreements arbitration clauses that aim to end disputes, whether minor or major, between parties through arbitration. This guarantees to the parties a much favorable outcome / decision, at a fraction of the time and cost, in comparison with resolving the dispute before the courts.

Agreeing to arbitration, however, may not be as simple as including an arbitration clause in an agreement or contract, as in some instances such clauses may be rendered void by the local courts.

To insure that the process of arbitration is not abused, a law has been passed, and recently amended in 1997 which sets out the procedures for arbitration.

The law, on the one hand gives freedom to the parties in dispute

to resolve their misunderstanding outside the courts, avoiding the disadvantages referred to above; at the same time the Law continues to leave an open door for the local courts to have some jurisdiction in the event any of the parties to the arbitration abuse or do not show a real intention to follow the procedure of arbitration, or if the parties disagree on the application of the arbitration agreement.

Although an arbitration clause in an agreement is considered to be an agreement in itself, it is still advisable for the parties to agree, and set out the full procedure to be followed including the time limits that will regulate the appointment of arbitrators, their remuneration and the place of arbitration.

The rules according to which the arbitration will be conducted should be agreed upon and attached as an annex or schedule to the main agreement signed, and must at least include the following.

1- The number of arbitrators to be appointed.

If the parties do not state the number of arbitrators, the law presumes them to be 3, one to be appointed by each party and the third (the Umpire) to be agreed

upon.

The appointment of arbitrators is in my opinion one of the most important items in the arbitration. Parties should carefully set out who they want their dispute to be resolved by and his/their qualifications if necessary.

The arbitrators should be professionals of a high standing in the community, with knowledge of the law, legal or otherwise, and well versed in the subject matter of the dispute.

If the parties, after they each appoint their representative arbitrator, fail to agree on appointment of the umpire, and if the arbitration clause / agreement does not mention the body which would appoint the umpire, then in such an event the law gives the court the jurisdiction to intervene and appoint one on their behalf.

As it is advisable to avoid the courts, the parties should set out in the arbitration agreement words to the effect that "... if the parties cannot come to an agreement on appointing an umpire one shall be appointed for them by an independent body, such as the chamber of commerce, or the commercial department in an embassy.

Having agreed on the appointment of the arbitrators the courts also have jurisdiction to remove an unfit arbitrator. Again to keep away from the courts, the parties should state, even briefly, the characteristics of the arbitrator to be appointed including if necessary his qualifications and occupation, as well as on condition that he must have a good command of the English language.

Parties are permitted, if they jointly decide, to remove or change the umpire, if they both come to the conclusion that he is unfit to make a decision in the ongoing dispute.

2- The procedure which the arbitration is to follow.

It is advisable to set out the arbitration procedure, either by referring to international arbitration rules such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), or the rules of any other Chamber of Commerce.

For minor disputes such as lease or construction agreements setting out high-powered arbitration rules does not serve the purpose of resolving the problem. For such minor agreements it is not a bad idea to refer to the Yemeni Arbitration Law or an amended version of it, as it is simple and fair, at the same time it allows arbitrators the freedom of calling upon expert witnesses, if necessary.

The Yemeni Law also allows the Arbitration Committee to ask for certain guarantees from either

party prior to commencing the arbitration, in order to ensure that the decision reached is implemented.

3- Arbitration expenses and arbitrator's fees.

This sensitive subject is best being addressed and mentioned in the arbitration agreement as it is the one that almost always creates friction between the arbitration committee and the parties, and in some cases this particular issue becomes itself a dispute and is referred to the relevant courts to be settled.

As to arbitration expenses the parties may agree to split the costs equally and set a limit which is not to be exceeded.

The Umpire's fees may be decided on at a later stage after his appointment, as his fees will normally depend on the caliber of the umpire in question.

By: Khalid T Abdullah - Advocate B.A. (Hons), LLM (Lon)

Law Offices of Sheikh Tariq Abdullah

Iran & Yemen: Stronger Ties

The Iranian Ambassador, Mr. Murtadha Raheemi talked to Mr. Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times, who filed the following interview. Excerpts:

Q: What is the anniversary you have recently celebrated?

A: As you know, the Iranian revolution achieved victory 19 years ago. The Muslim people of Iran won their independence and freedom.

Q: What kind of Iranian investment projects are being implemented in Yemen?

A: There is the Iranian medical center in Sana'a which was opened four years ago. It has been developed and expanded to include many new departments, and we intend to expand the center's medical services in the future.

We have a new project which is establishing a library in Yemen bearing Imam Khomeini's name.

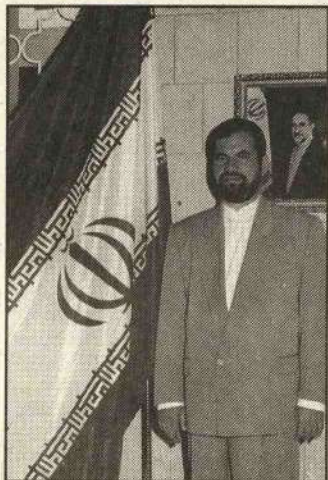
We have joint investment projects in many fields such as housing and electricity. We encourage mutual visits by businessmen of both countries to facilitate the investment process.

Q: How do you evaluate the cultural ties between Iran and Yemen?

A: There are several agreements signed about 4 years ago. The Iranian Guidance Minister visited Yemen and his counterpart visited Iran. A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Higher Education in Iran visited Sana'a last year to test the Yemeni students who wish to study in Iran.

There are about 50 Yemeni students in Iran now studying medicine, engineering, science and arts. Many scholarships have been offered to Yemeni students. There is a department in Sana'a University to teach the Persian language.

The Yemeni-Iranian Fraternity Association will be formed in the near future.



We sent 10,000 copies of the Holy Qura'an as a gift from Iran to our brothers in Yemen.

Q: What is the Iranian position regarding the current crisis between Iraq and UN?

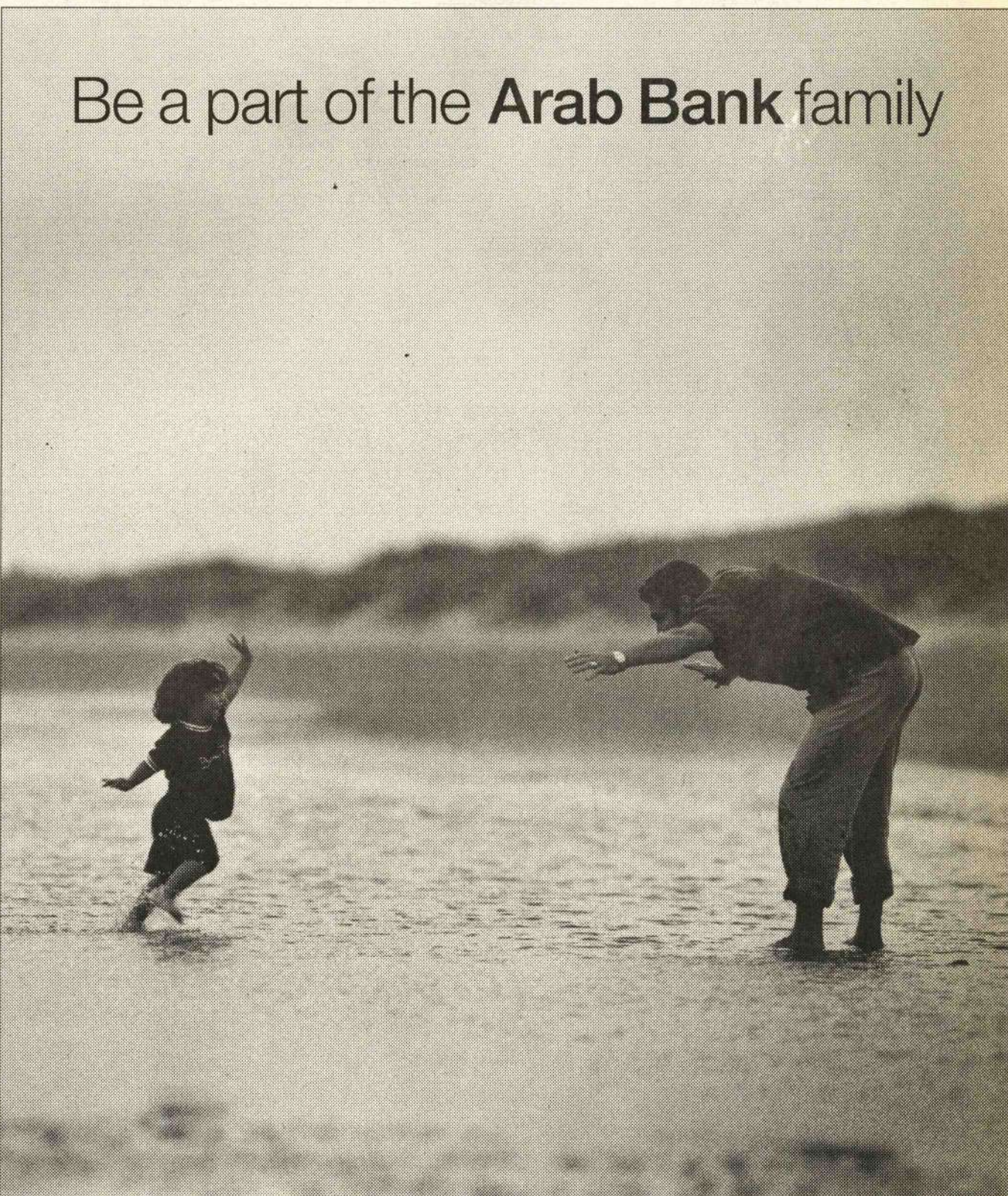
A: The current crisis is not between Iraq and UN but it is between Iraq and USA. In spite of the 8 year war with Iraq, the position of Iran concerning Iraqi problems is positive.

We say to the whole world let bygones be bygones and we wish to open a new page in our relations with the Muslim countries.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister has recently visited Iran. We favor the peaceful solution to settle the dispute and not military action.

Q: How could you explain the recent approach by the president of Iran to the USA?

A: The president addressed his speech to the American people, not to the American administration. The purpose of this speech was to make the American people aware of what is going on and to uncover the American Administration's actions towards others, especially Muslims and Iranians people in particular. More than 89% of the American people are satisfied with Mr. Khatemi's speech and his initiative.



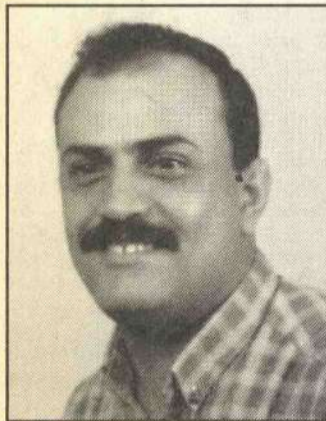
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This is an *OPINION* page.
Every week, a different intellectual writes a *FOCUS* on a pertinent issue!

The Future of Party Politics in Yemen



Dr. Fouad Abduljaleel Al-Salahi,
Dept. of Sociology, Sanaa University

positive alternative was to unify the two states and start a comprehensive process of democratization.

In addition to all of that, the world was then witnessing the demise of the totalitarian regimes, symbolized by the fall of the Berlin Wall. This gave an historical opportunity for many societies to move towards democracy, and establish regimes based on political participation. In such states, individuals and groups are given the chance to express themselves within modern civil institutions, forming the civil society that was hitherto obscured by totalitarian regimes.

Therefore, in view of the local, regional, and international developments, the declaration of unity and democratization in Yemen was a logical response and an informed decision by the 'engineers' of unification.

It must be noted, however, that political pluralism is not something new to Yemen. There were many political parties with diverging ideologies, especially in Aden before independence.

Even within the northern republican state (1962-1990), political parties existed despite the fact that they were constitutionally banned. These were active parties, with which all governments were keen to hold a dialogue and take into considera-

tion in all political balances.

So the new development here is that political plurality and opposition is now legally recognized and accepted. This is included in the constitution, and relevant laws were introduced to guarantee and regulate pluralism: laws of elections, political parties, and the press. Despite some criticism of these new laws, they remain a first practical step towards forming an establishmentarian state that transcends individual loyalty to a more public one. This step has bestowed a new legitimacy to the rulers who started to govern with a more open and democratic mentality.

The adherence of the ruling elite to democratization was reinforced by holding the last parliamentary elections on their set date with the participation of all political parties and organizations as well as independent candidates. Also, these elections witnessed a marked increase in the number of eligible voters, male and female, who took part and reacted positively with the process. However, the last parliamentary elections have uncovered the important role played by prominent figures in society and their tribal allegiances, as opposed to their partisan affiliations. This can, of course, be attributed to the generally traditional social and cultural back-

ground, which is still plays an influential role in the modernization process in Yemen.

Political plurality in Yemen is still in need of a lot of support and continuous re-assessment by the social activists who are closely associated with these parties. An agreement must be concluded between all political parties and organizations to honor and respect the national fixed principles in order to establish two dimensions.

The first dimension is to disseminate the values of democracy and its civic culture which calls for liberty, equality, plurality, and tolerance. The second dimension is represented by expanding the social base that practices democracy in its broader concept. This is a horizontal expansion characterized by the increase in partisan numbers and voter participation. Vertically, there should exist a peaceful transference of authority, whether inside the political parties themselves, on the local administration level, or of the state and government authority.

Such transformations require a lot of time, effort and a qualitative change in general culture and social attitudes. The logical instituting of such a change must start now with clear and organized steps that are liable to create a legal and establishmentarian base, within which political plurality can be practiced. Both these concepts - a legal framework and political plurality - are essential for building a modern state and a developed society.

The goal of constituting a modern state necessitates transcending the traditional establishments and their associated cultural systems, which are closely connected with a past mentality and an old production style. An active role by the political parties is required to inject the values of modernity and its establishments to replace those of the old decaying system. One of the major functions of political parties is to develop society, not to further personal political interests as is sometimes witnessed. A modern model must be supported by the political parties in establishments and in attitude.

Thus, political plurality in Yemen has become, after seven years of unity, a social and political reality that can no longer be abandoned. Discarding this reality has serious consequences on the future of the state and the society. Moreover, political plurality in Yemen is now strongly supported by foreign democracies, which makes the ruling elite internationally responsible since foreign aid and assistance are now closely subject to the progress in the process of democratization.

Since democracy does not provide a magic solution for all society's problems, finding a solution for these problems can only be done through more democracy and recognizing the legitimacy of the other parties. Therefore, expanding the opportunities for constructive dialogue and cooperation among the various sides of the political game will very likely create wholesome relationships between the two active sides in society: the political side, represented by the state, and the civil side as represented by parties, trade unions, etc.

Such healthy relationships will constitute a suitable framework of the stability needed to achieve

development and economic growth and guarantee a certain level of social justice to protect the citizens' dignity. The modern Yemeni state cannot have the necessary legitimacy without the agreement of the civic society with all its establishments and its active participation in implementing the state's tasks.

The Yemeni opposition parties, which are part of the overall political system, must play active roles in entrenching the democratic process and consolidating the concepts of political plurality among the people. This can be done through disseminating a political culture that strongly calls for equality, liberty, political plurality, and tolerance.

Opposition parties in Yemen, in their present state, are seemingly unable to activate their political and cultural roles due to weaknesses in their organizational structures and lack of communication with the people. Some opposition parties in Yemen are plagued by conflicts within its ranks or among its various factions. This can be ascribed to the lack of democratic practices within the parties themselves and the appearance of various power centers that have traditional tribal allegiances, not modern civil relations.

In addition to the ruling elite having to support political plurality, the opposition parties themselves also have to support the democratization process by more active means. They have to start with renewing their political and cultural ideologies and modernizing their means of communication with the masses. They must also establish more democratic relations within each party and disseminate a civil culture that supports political plurality. Moreover, all opposition parties must present to the people their ability to understand and positively react with the regional and international changes and their effect on the future of the democratic process in Yemen.

Thus, the future of political plurality in Yemen is subject to the following considerations:

- 1- The ruling elite must continue to support the process of democratization and protect its essential constitutional and legal framework.
- 2- The political plurality base must be expanded through more participation in local and parliamentary elections and widening

the political party membership for both males and females.

3- The economic problem must be solved by creating a balance between wages and the overall cost of living to guarantee a fair standard of living for most of society.

4- A suitable political culture must be founded to facilitate the democratic transformation.

5- By practicing democracy within their own parties, leading partisans will provide positive establishmentarian and attitudinal models for the rest of society.

6- A modern state must be established on the basis of law and civic establishments, as opposed to traditional individual and tribal allegiances. This is bound to strengthen the public's loyalty to the state.

7- Since the practicing of democracy is like a game in the political field, such a game must be played according to its rules by all the parties concerned. Elections and the ballot box become the criteria for the popularity of any party or organization.

8- Transformation to political plurality requires changes in the state's apparatuses and systems in order to support this transformation. The judicial system, for instance, must be independent as it is the adjudicator in the conflicts that are likely to arise among the various political parties. School curricula must be altered to include new social and cultural values closely associated with unity and democracy. The new generations must be taught to practice the values of liberty, equality, justice, and tolerance in all activities in all aspect of life. This is liable to create responsible social activists who work towards developing the state and the society.

9- The ruling party and opposition parties can be considered as two faces for the same coin. Therefore, dialogue and cooperation opportunities must be increased and more awareness of the importance of the supreme national interests must be created. People will never feel the value of any goal or practice without them being major participants in it.

10- To protect the liberal political system created by the unified state, political and economic establishments must be built in accordance with a rational, modernizing view. Such a view will have to take account of the developments in neighboring countries and their progress.



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ILO Provides Yemen with \$10 Million

The International Labor Organization (ILO) has agreed to provide Yemen with \$10 million by way of assistance in various fields. This was announced in a recent visit by an ILO delegation to Sanaa.

In response to an invitation by the Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayyib, a delegation headed by

the Assistant General Manager for Arab Affairs at the ILO, Dr. Ibraheem Al-Sous, has visited Yemen during 8-11 February. Dr. Al-Sous met a number of Yemeni officials to discuss aspects of cooperation between Yemen and the ILO.

A joint meeting was held by the representatives of the Ministry of Labor, headed by Eng. Al-

Tayyib, and the ILO delegation. It was also attended by the resident representative of the UNDP, Mr. Onder Yucer

The Minister of Labor and Vocational Training praised the close cooperation between Yemen and the ILO, especially its regional offices in Beirut. "This visit comes to further add to the projects that have been achieved

so far and the technical assistance provided by the ILO to Yemen," said Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayyib.

On his part, Dr. Al-Sous expressed his praise for the Yemeni experience in the field of development and labor.

The delegation also met the Prime Minister, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim; the Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdulkreem Al-Iryani; the Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs; and representatives of the General Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the General Workers' Union. They also visited the General Authority for Vocational Training, the Handicapped Rehabilitation Center, and Social Development Fund.

In addition to Dr. Ibraheem Al-Sous, the ILO delegates included Mr. Waleed Hamdan, the labor advisor at the regional office; Dr. Yousuf Al-Qayrooti, the training director; and Dr. Khowla Matar, the information advisor.

In addition to Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayyib, the ministry's side included Mr. Abdu Al-Jondi, the Deputy Minister for Labor Relations; Mr. Mohammed Al-Anisi, the Deputy Minister for the Workforces; Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, an advisor; Mr. Hamood Moqbil, Assistant Deputy Minister; Mr. Mohammed Othman Khalifa, PR General Manager; and

Mr. Moslih Al-Azeer, Director of Vocational training Research.

Discussions between the two sides covered the following projects, for which the ILO expressed its willingness to financially and technically assist:

1- Supporting and organizing the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, and raise its capabilities to better answer to the needs of employers and employees and the labor market;

2- Assisting in preparing a national strategy to limit child labor, and forming its executive program;

3- Cooperating in developing working women and integrating them within the labor market, implementing training programs for working women, especially in the countryside to support their participation in the economic and social life, and benefiting from the international program to create more job opportunities for women;

4- Supporting the vocational training program with technical expertise and reviewing the future plans and programs, in cooperation with the World Bank and the donor countries;

5- Providing financial and technical support for the tourism and hotelery project and developing the tourism project in old Sanaa;

6- Exploring the fields of supporting the vocational health and safety project and developing the work inspection apparatus;

7- Expressing the ILO readiness to take part in the national confer-

ence for vocational training due to be held during the first quarter of 1998;

8- Supporting projects to rehabilitate the handicapped and combat poverty in Yemen;

9- Expressing the importance of the private sector in organizing employment and developing job centers in all governorates to be able to better satisfy the work market's demands;

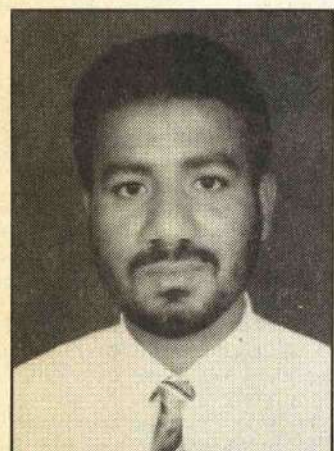
10- Activating and supporting the private sector and labor organizations as two productive parts in planning social and economic developments, to be able to deal with the new developments and the globalization of the economy;

11- Holding a symposium on cooperatives management with the participation of experienced parties such as the Dutch, the Danes and the Belgians;

The ILO is to send a multi-specialty team during the first quarter of 1998 to discuss with the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training the topics discussed during this meeting. The two sides will also prepare a comprehensive report on Yemen's needs in terms of programs, projects, and technical assistance. An executive plan will be drawn out for the period from 1998 to 1999. The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training has expressed its readiness to study international labor agreements and submitting them to the relevant and constitutional bodies for ratification.



Yemen's Experience in Tourism Statistics



By: Khaled Jomaan Salem

The importance of tourism for the Yemeni national economy and the process of development cannot be over emphasized. Worldwide statistics indicate the rapid expansion of this sector and show that in 1996, for instance, about 592 million tourists spent over \$423 billion, compared to 567 million tourists spending \$372 billion in 1995.

The following statistics give some idea as to the expansion of this important sector in Yemen.

Is Yemen a Tourist Country?

The cultural, social, and historical Yemeni heritage as well as its unique and widely varied nature and topography act collectively to make the country one huge tourist attraction. The climate is mainly mild throughout the year, to the extent of making the four seasons indistinguishable in some regions.

Tourism Activities Between '90 & '96

With the unification of the country in 1990, a unified ministry for tourism was established to replace the former

tourism authorities in the previous two parts of Yemen. Culture and tourism were later merged with the formation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, however, the General Tourism Cooperation has kept its very wide authorities to be able to implement the government's policy for developing the tourism sector in Yemen.

The 1996 statistics indicate that the number of Yemeni people employed by the tourism industry is around 7,000; while, only 314 foreigners are working in this sector. Despite the number of job opportunities being relatively low, the prospects are quite encouraging for those responsible for tourism training. In order to create more jobs in this sector, the following criteria will have to be observed:

- a- providing excellent tourist and catering services that local and foreign tourists will find satisfactory;
- b- the existence of a skilled local workforce; and
- c- the existence of an experienced foreign workforce that will help improve the tourism industry in Yemen.

In addition to being a time of exceptional tourist activity, the period from 1990 to 1996 was also characterized by the following:

- 1- an active cooperation with several international organizations (UNDP, ILO, EU, WTO, etc.) which funded and supervised a number of projects to develop human resources in the hotel and tourism sector;
- 2- clear goals towards developing human resources in the hotel and tourism industry; and
- 3- a tangible development in tourist training activities conducted by the Tourism Training

Directorate at the Tourism Corporation.

Major projects implemented during 1990-1996

* The Project to Train and Develop Hotel and Catering Staff (1st Stage), which was financed by the ILO in 1990, had the following objectives:

- re-training hotel and restaurant staff in Yemen; and
 - establishing a catering and tourism institute in Aden to be a nucleus to academically train Yemeni youths who wish to work in the tourism industry.
- This project made the following achievements:
- training 15 persons to become teachers at the Tourist and Catering Institute; and
 - admitting the first batch of 70 student into the Tourist and Catering Institute to train as receptionists, hotel keepers, waiters, and cooks.

* The Project to Train and Develop Hotel and Catering Staff (2nd Stage).

This project is funded by the Yemeni government and the ILO, and is implemented by the World Tourism Organization (WTO). Execution started on 15th of September, 1995. It has the following major goals:

- improving and developing the educational level at the institute and expanding its capacity to admit more students;
- training Yemeni staff in hotels and other tourist establishments; and
- training and improving the efficiency of the staff at the General Tourism Corporation and its branches in the governorates.

* Completing the Strategic Tourist Plan

Financed and implemented by the European Union in 1992, the plan has succeeded in achieving the following:

- specifying the volume of growth in the hotel sector by 1,500 beds during the five-year plan (1993-1997); and
- specifying a realistic criterion for the needs of the local workforce.

Tourist Activity in Yemen

A- International Tourism

The 1990-1996 statistics indicate that the international tourism movement has made an increase in the number of arrivals in Yemen, see the table below.

The main countries from which tourists come are Italy, Germany, France, and Britain. The tourism season in Yemen is usually the busiest during February, March, August, October, November, and December.

B- Internal Tourism

Statistics indicate an increase in the numbers of

Yemeni tourists and foreigners living in Yemen. International tourism is mainly centered in the governorates of Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hadramaut, Hodeida, Mahweet, Ibb, Hajja, Saada, and Mareb.

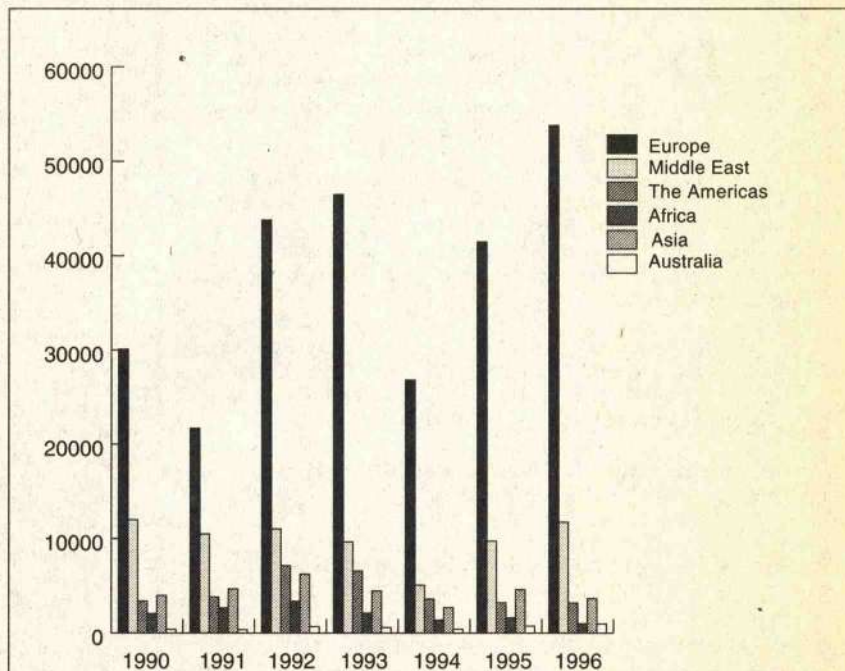
Tourism Revenue

The revenue from tourism activity during the period from

1990 to 1996 had reached about \$278 million (YR 33.36 billion)

Tourist Establishments

Tourist establishments include hotels, travel agencies, tourist restaurants, cafes, pensions, parks, clubs, geusthouses, etc. The total hotel capacity in Yemen has increased from 7793 beds in 1990 to 15005 beds in 1996.

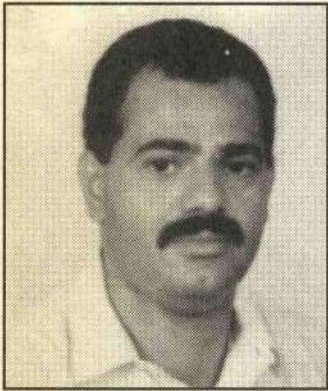


Arrivals in Yemen According to Region of Origin During 1990-1996

Region	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Europe	30,081	21,689	43,777	46,466	26,809	41,477	53,810
Middle East	11,980	10,487	11,008	9,641	5,052	9,720	11,730
The Americas	3,370	3,806	7,122	6,549	3,594	3,207	3,180
Africa	2,052	2,653	3,346	2,101	1,377	1,611	994
Asia	3,964	4,656	6,229	4,448	2,681	4,585	3,640
Australia	402	365	687	590	416	751	975
Total	51,849	43,656	72,169	69,795	39,929	61,351	74,329

Source: General Tourism Corporation - 1996 Statistical Report (pp.10)

Popular Medicine, Witchcraft & Sorcery



Popular medicine is a widely discussed issue, generally including customs, tradition and witchcraft. It can be divided into two parts. The first is physical, in which herbal compounds are used. The second part is non-physical, in which witchcraft is practiced in special ceremonies for the purpose of treatment. Both kinds of "treatment" are widespread across Yemen. Sometimes popular therapists try to relate their treatment to supernatural powers, this is what is known as sorcery. This phenomenon is very common in Yemen, differing from one region to another. It is more widespread in the rural areas where living conditions are difficult and people are generally uneducated.

If we look at a geographical map of Yemen, we will find that the coastal areas are where sorcery is practiced the most. The reasons differ from those mentioned above. Many years ago, these coastal areas were centers for Qura'an teaching. Popular medicine came as a religious means of curing people. In addition, medical services were very limited before the September Revolution, 1962. There were no medical institutions. In 1959, there were only 15 doctors in the entire country, all foreigners. That means one doctor for every 500,000 citizens. Another reason is that educated people who had knowledge of religion started

going through ancient Arabic religious books. With these books, they learned about many herbs used to treat people and turned their knowledge into a profession. But, sorcery was preferred over all their medical methods. This was due to ignorance, illiteracy and the predominance of myth in the Yemeni mind during that time. Therefore, people started attributing their illnesses to supernatural causes and so accepted the idea of faith-healing. On the other hand, some great authors and philosophers of ancient times wrote several books about sorcery and faith healing, like Aristotle and Ibn Al-Azraq. For example, Ibn Al-Bauni, an Algerian scholar of the 6th century, wrote a book that all popular therapists have. They use his methods of treatment on their patients.

Yemen, because of its trade activity and coastal location, opened the way for some African magic ceremonies to enter. One of these was curing through jinn. For a long time, people in Africa practiced such ceremonies seeking the favor of their god, Koushine. As time passed, people started using these ceremonies for medical purposes rather than religious ones. They are very similar in Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia, despite cultural differences.

In Yemen, the same thing takes place. Every popular therapist diagnoses his patients' conditions from his own beliefs. If a person suffers from lung or heart disease, a sorcerer may say that it is due to some evil spell. Another sorcerer may say that they are possessed by jinn or the devil. These sorcerers do exactly what people want. The people push them to treat them this way, since they have complete faith in the sorcerer.

Popular therapists must be very religious and simple people, who always pray and invoke God. In their speech they are unclear, leaving it to the people to under-

stand what they mean. They are very clever when it comes to having good relations with everyone they come across. None of these sorcerers ever ask for large amounts of money for treatment. They ask patients to pay whatever they can afford. Some patients are very rich, so they pay a lot. Others are poor and pay very little. They always try to develop friendships with their patients. The patients accept presents and are hosted generously at the sorcerer's homes. Patients are always welcome at a sorcerer's house to eat, drink, sleep, take a bath, or stay for days.

Sorcerers have their own methods of treating their patients. When they conjure, they may use a drum, a pipe and they might offer up a sacrifice. Some prescribe special kinds of herbs as medicine. They burn the herbs and then condense the arising vapors to form the 'tar,' which is the only way to expel jinn and devils. They also use a plant called Shadab for this purpose. They use dry cactus as an incense in ceremonies expelling jinn.

Customs and traditions are two things that directly contribute to the folklore. People tell tales of supernatural events that happened to their ancestors. As a result, some places are thought to be inhabited by jinn or devils and passing by these places could cause harm to the traveller. It is very hard to get people to believe otherwise. When a woman delivers a baby, it must be charmed for the first seven days. Shadab and cactus are used as incense for the baby. They might also put ambergris in the milk. They may even put an amulet on the baby until he is 15 or 16 years old.

The Almighty says in the Holy Qura'an "I have created jinn and man to pray to Me." Despite this, it is believed that relations between man and jinn are aggressive. They believe that man is weaker because he cannot change his shape. A jinn can be a rat, dog, snake and whatever it chooses. So it is believed that they are stronger.

Another contributor is astronomy and astrology. According to his star sign, a man is born in a time belonging to some kind of jinn or devils. Accordingly, if a man meets his jinn mate in a special time at a specific place, he might be possessed by him.

A lack of knowledge is the main reason for the spread of sorcery. When people suffer from a disease, they immediately go to a sorcerer for a cure. Through some of my studies, I saw that people know nothing about psychological or nervous disorders. This makes them more susceptible to such backward ideas. Another reason is differentiating between men and women.

Popular medicine is originally a science. Great philosophers of ancient times discussed this kind of medicine in their books. We have Aristotle and Abo-Ma'ashar Al-Falaki as examples of these philosophers. It is a very complicated science including astronomy and astrology. Several ideas were invented by people as time passed and they, unfortunately misused this science. If we use this science in the right way according to its original, non-distorted methods, we may achieve great prosperity in the field of medicine.

By: Dr. Abdullah Mo'amar
Medical Anthropologist,
Dept. of Sociology,
College of Art,
Sanaa University

Lymphatic Filariasis

Lymphatic Filariasis, known as Elephantiasis, puts at risk more than a billion people in 73 countries. Over 120 million have already been affected by it, 43 million of them seriously. One-third of the people infected with the disease live in India, one-third are in Africa and most of the remainder is in Southeast Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. In tropical and sub-tropical areas where lymphatic filariasis is well established, the prevalence of infection is continuing to increase. A primary cause of this increase is the rapid and unplanned growth of cities, which creates numerous breeding sites for the mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

In its most obvious manifestations, lymphatic filariasis causes enlargement of the entire leg or arm, the genitals, vulva and breasts. In endemic communities, 10-50% of men and up to 10% of women can be affected. The psychological and social stigma associated with these aspects of the disease are immense. In addition, even more common than the overt abnormalities are hidden, internal damage to the kidneys and lymphatic system caused by the filariae.

Cause: The thread-like, parasitic filarial worms *Wuchereria bancrofti* and *Brugia malayi* that cause lymphatic filariasis live almost exclusively in humans. These worms lodge in the lymphatic system, the network of nodes and vessels that maintain the delicate fluid balance between the tissues and blood and are an essential component for the body's immune defense system. They live for 4-6 years, producing millions of immature microfilariae, minute larvae, that circulate in the blood.

Transmission: The disease is transmitted by mosquitoes that bite infected humans and pick up the microfilariae that develops into the infective stage in a process that usually takes 7-21 days. The larvae then migrate to the mosquitoes' biting mouth parts, ready for inoculation into the bloodstream of the next unsuspecting individual, thus completing the cycle.

Signs and Symptoms: The development of the disease itself in humans is still something of an enigma to scientists. Though the infection is generally acquired early in childhood, the disease may take years to manifest itself.

Indeed, many people never acquire the outward clinical manifestations of their infections. Even though there may be no clinical symptoms, studies have now disclosed that such victims, outwardly healthy, actually have hidden lymphatic pathology and kidney damage as well. The symptomatic form of infection is most often characterized by the presence in the blood of thousands or millions of larval parasites (microfilariae) and adult worms located in the lymphatic system.

The worst symptoms of the chronic disease generally appear in adults, and in men more often than in women. In endemic communities, some 10-50% of men suffer from genital damage, especially hydrocoele (fluid-filled balloon-like enlargement of the sacs around the testes) and elephantiasis of the penis and scrotum. Elephantiasis of the entire leg, the entire arm, the vulva or the breast -- swelling up to several times normal size -- can affect up to 10% of men and women in these communities.

Acute episodes of local inflammation involving skin, lymph nodes and lymphatic vessels often accompany the chronic lymph edema or elephantiasis. Some of these are caused by the body's immune response to the parasite, but most are the result of bacterial infection of skin where normal defenses have been partially lost due to underlying lymphatic damage. Careful cleansing can be extremely helpful in healing the infected surface areas and in both slowing and, even more remarkably, reversing much of the overt damage that has already occurred.

In endemic areas, chronic and acute manifestations of filariasis tend to develop more often and sooner in refugees or newcomers than in local populations continually exposed to infection. Lymph edema may develop within six months and elephantiasis as quickly as a year after contact.

Diagnosis: Until very recently, diagnosing lymphatic filariasis had been extremely difficult, since parasites had to be detected microscopically in the blood, and in most parts of the world, the parasites have a 'nocturnal periodicity' that restricts their appearance in the blood to only the hours around midnight. The new development of a very sensitive, very specific simple 'card test' to detect circulating parasite antigens without the need for laboratory facilities and using only finger-prick blood droplets taken any time of the day has completely transformed the approach to diagnosis. With this and other new diagnostic tools, it will now be possible to both improve our understanding of where the infection actually occurs and to monitor more easily the effectiveness of treatment and control programs.

Treatment in communities where filariasis is endemic: The primary goal of treating the affected community is to eliminate microfilariae from the blood of infected individuals so that transmission of the infection by the mosquito can be interrupted. Recent studies have shown that single doses of diethylcarbamazine (DEC) have the same long term (1-year) effect in decreasing microfilaraemia as the formerly recommended 12-day regimens of DEC, and, even more importantly, that the use of single doses of 2 drugs administered concurrently (optimally albendazole or DEC with ivermectin) is 99% effective in removing microfilariae from the blood for a full year after treatment. It is this level of treatment effectiveness that has made feasible the new efforts to eliminate lymphatic filariasis.

Treatment of the Individual: Both albendazole and DEC have shown to be effective in killing the adult-stage filarial parasites (necessary for complete cure of infection), but ideal treatment regimens still need to be defined. Clearly this anti-parasite treatment can result in improvement of patients' elephantiasis and hydrocoeles (especially in the early stages of the disease), but the most significant treatment advance to alleviate the suffering of those with elephantiasis has come from recognizing that much of the progression in pathology results from bacterial and fungal 'super infection' of tissues with compromised lymphatic function caused by earlier filarial infection. Thus, rigorous hygiene to the affected limbs with accompanying adjunctive measures to minimize infection and promotes lymph flow result in both a dramatic reduction in frequency of acute episodes of inflammation ('filarial fevers') and in astonishing degree of improvement of the elephantiasis itself.

WHO'S Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

The strategy of the program in the Division of the Control of Tropical Diseases (CTD) to eliminate lymphatic filariasis has two components: first to stop the spread of infection (i.e., interrupt transmission) and, second, to alleviate the suffering of affected individuals (i.e., control morbidity).

To interrupt transmission, communities where lymphatic filariasis is endemic must be identified, and then community-wide ('mass treatment') programs should be implemented to treat the entire population at risk of infection. In most countries, annual administration of one or two medications given together will be required for four to six years.

To alleviate the suffering caused by the disease, efforts must be made to educate communities and affected patients about the tremendous value of intensive local hygiene and the improvement possible both for the damage that has already occurred and for prevention of the debilitating acute episodes of inflammation that accompany it.

Working with WHO's country, regional offices and collaborating centers, CTD encourages and supports endemic countries in their efforts to revise national programs and formulate plans of action that take advantage of the new tools and approaches to eliminate lymphatic filariasis. By January 1998, 13 countries had revised their national plans of action, and elimination programs had already been initiated in seven of these.

To provide much needed support for these filariasis elimination efforts, SmithKline Beecham PLC has generously agreed (in January 1998) to collaborate with WHO/CTD in the program to eliminate lymphatic filarial disease. The company will donate through WHO quantities of albendazole sufficient to eliminate the disease globally and will, additionally, provide financial support, human resources and expertise in support of this elimination goal.

The World Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development have joined these collaborative efforts. WHO has invited both organizations of the UN family and other partners in health to join similarly in this international program to eliminate lymphatic filariasis. Indeed, it is this new partnership now being forged among scientists, health workers, the public and private sectors, affected communities and patients themselves that will provide the necessary impetus to achieve by 2020 the goal, recently enunciated by the 50th World Health Assembly, of eliminating lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem from all endemic countries.

WHO Fact Sheet No. 190 January 1998

2nd Death Anniversary 19-2-98

Mathew Kurian

The memory of your life with us is eternally presented in our hearts.

We will always be reminded of you, for you brought joy into our lives.

Varghese Chandy

Vacancy for a Female Doctor



ICD (International Cooperation for Development) - a British based non-governmental organization - is looking for a female doctor for a primary health care project which offers services to the refugee population in Sana'a.

The Refugee Health Project requires an experienced female doctor with experience in MCH or gynecology. The doctor will be required to provide curative treatment within the center and to manage referral system to other health facilities where necessary. This will require close liaison with the local health institutions.

Candidates should have supervisory and training experience and a commitment to transferring their skills to others. Excellent English and Arabic are required, and a knowledge of Somali language would be an advantage.

Application forms are available from ICD:

Tel: (01) 275 222
Fax: (01) 276 576

Closing date for submission of applications is on:
Saturday 21st February '98 at 2:00 pm.

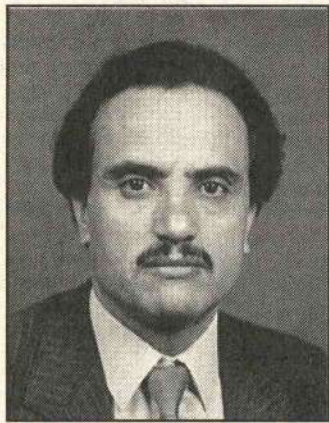
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وجميع مدرسي مدرسة الغافقي بالأصباح

The Eid's Two Tails

Ismail Al-Ghabiry,
Yemen Times

The recent Eid public holiday, as announced by the Ministry of Civil Service, was for six days only - from Monday 26th of January to Sunday 1st of February. Out of respect for the responsibility with which the government employees are entrusted, they were expected to be in their workplaces the following day - Monday 2nd of February. Such an expectation, however, is based on the assumption that most - if not all - public employees would adhere to the rules and regulations and honor their duty.

During the holy month of Ramadhan, people fast during the day and stay up late at night. They most probably chew qat, waking up the next morning mentally and physically exhausted. They go to work late; normally after noon prayers and stay until 3pm. The work productivity goes



down in all government ministries and corporations. This further compounds the drop in efficiency just before and after the Eid holiday. Many civil servants have relatives in distant govern- orates and visiting them is part of the Eid custom. Since Eid festivities last longer in rural

areas, civil servants tend to have a habit of observing these customs at the expense of their work. In the past, absence of a few days by civil servants following the Eid was tolerated. The Eid holiday in Yemen, according to public employee "traditions," has to two "tails" or "subla" in Arabic. An individual public employee, for example, grants himself or herself the right to a few-days leave of absence before and after the official Eid holiday. In other words, many government employees start their Eid holiday a few days before the Eid, and come back to work a few days after the official holiday is over. Their excuses and justifications are always ready.

Most government employees regard their jobs as a necessary insurance for the future, for sake of guaranteeing a pension and a few other benefits. These employees do not fear losing their jobs as they are guaranteed for them by the power of the law. However, since such a post does not provide its occupant with the monthly rent of his or her house, there does not remain much respect for the public duty. So the main reasons behind administrative laxity are poor pay and the absence of any deterrents to the wrongdoers. Work productivity is naturally an important part of any activity. It is an important factor of the efficiency of any establishment, whether in the private or public sector. Productivity of the civil service in the Republic of Yemen is markedly below the desired standard, and contrasts poorly with productivity in the private sector.

This phenomenon is attributed to many reasons including the overall lack of discipline in government ministries. Public-sector employees are rarely made accountable for their under productivity. The carrot-and-stick method does not apply here. Rewards, incentives, and promotions are sometimes given to undeserving people according to criteria that have nothing to do with the common civil service rules and regulations. A just evaluation of performance, discipline, efficiency, and qualifications is sometimes absent from many of our civil service establishments. The negative attitude towards work in general and public service in particular is a chronic problem in the Yemeni society. It goes back to the long years of the absence of the state and its laws, rules, and veneration. Fears are often expressed that this heavy burden will gradually turn into a more entrenched "tradition" that is hard to tackle or get rid of. It will remain a set of shackles that keeps the Yemeni society backward.

A real and comprehensive administrative reform program must be implemented to rectify the general structure of the public service system. Also, an overall re-evaluation of the civil service laws and legislations must be conducted in order to reform the pay structure and to bring it up to date. The principle of reward and punishment must be fairly applied so as to create a balance between rights and duties.

Overstaffing and masked unemployment are also detrimental aspects that must be tackled. Public employees who occupy senior and supervisory posts must provide positive role models to their junior staff. They must exhibit better performance at work, discipline, self denial, and show more concern for public funds and property. Such positive behavior will have a marked effect on the employees by

raising their sense of responsibility and improving their performance. Public employees must realize that a job in the civil service is not just a means of making a living, but also a big national and social responsibility that must be performed accordingly.

The government has been trying to change this trend by carrying out post-Eid supervisory visits to government organs, followed by salary pay-cut penalties for absent employees. However, records show that up to 50% of the civil servants remain absent

without permission from their jobs on the first 2 to 3 days following Eid holidays regardless of the imposed penalties. They do not care if these days' wages are deducted from their monthly salary, since it does not amount to much anyway.

The president of the Republic or Prime Minister visits the ministry of Civil Service and Administration Reform on the first working day after the Eid holidays with the aim of giving this issue due importance, but the Eid "tail" custom seems to persist.



Office Building Sought

An international company is looking for office space in Sanaa (Hadda area). The building should have about 25 office rooms of different sizes, ample archive and storage possibilities, meeting room for about 40 persons, a guards room etc..

The building should be surrounded by a high wall and should have a garden and/or spacious terrace. There should be a parking area for at least 5 cars within the wall and about 20 cars close by.

Sporting facilities (swimming pool, tennis court etc..) would be an advantage.

Offers in writing only should be sent before **March 1, 1998 to P. O. Box 2579, Sanaa** with "offer to lease a Building" on the envelop, including details of location, prize and other conditions as well as a clear description of the building (drawing and photographic if possible).

The paper will not entertain phone or fax inquiries

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading International Company specialized in the field of lubricants is looking for a candidate for the following job:

Position: Resale Sales Manager

Minimum Qualification/Requirement:

- 1- University degree in Marketing/Business Administration or Economics
- 2- 5 Years of experience in the field of lubricants
- 3- 2 years experience in a senior sales position in above field.
- 4- Good command of the English language.
- 5- **Nationality:** Yemeni

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 - Please write on the envelop "Application for Resale Sales Manager Position".

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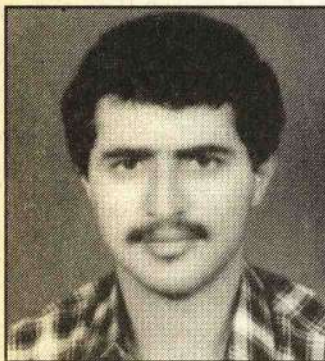
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Motorbikes & Pollution in Taiz



old cars, we will discover that the problem is unbearable and begs urgently for a solution. Another aspect of this problem is that these motorbikes are loud and very disturbing wherever they go. The annoying sound continues for a long time no matter how far away from you they go. In this way, they are also a source of noise pollution. With the passage of time, the people of Taiz will become deaf and insensitive to the softer sounds. Worse than this, the motorcyclists have radios with them, which double the noise they create. Furthermore, they race for fun, forgetting that they are putting innocent people in danger and driving them crazy with the noise. It should also be said that this menace has generated the indig-

This is because they are able to go almost anywhere, even through alleys, annoying everyone while they are resting and relaxing. In addition, it is not only Yemenis who are complaining, but also foreigners are disturbed by all these motorbikes.

fronting one of these motorbikes. Another point that should be raised is the safety of the riders and the pillion riders. Some people see the motorbike as a quick means of transportation. Due to their crazy speeds, traffic accidents are common and are on

people. However, they shouldn't be left completely free. There needs to be some kind of organization of their movement. The most important thing that first needs to be done is to put silencers to spare the people of Taiz from deafness. Second, they should restrict the movement of these motorbikes to certain areas and only during certain times of the day. They cannot be allowed to wander in all areas disturbing people at all hours, day and night

We also found that motorcyclists are not bound to any traffic laws. I'm sure that they don't even have drivers' licenses. This is why we have even begun to see small children riding these motorbikes. Therefore, every rider must have a driver's license and be given a rigorous test before obtaining this license. I keep my fingers crossed in the hope that my message will produce some action and not be ignored.

by Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Taiz

It is a global truth that people's health in any society is measured by the existence of a healthy and clean environment in their habitats. On this basis, we find that all countries in the world spare no effort to make their envi-



Several times, many Indian University professors have come to discuss this problem with me. From what they have told me, it seems that they are also very much annoyed with the motorbikes. Another dangerous aspect that is less harmful than the previous ones are that these motorbikes can be used as quick getaways for thieves, robbers and the like. This is because they can maneuver through traffic quickly, circumventing all traffic obstacles. In doing this, they have been the cause of many accidents. A friend of mine once told me that he is afraid of going in the streets because of the hazards of con-

the rise. Therefore, the safety of these people should be protected by some traffic measures. For example, helmets should be made compulsory and speed limits set. In fact, the problems of these motorbikes are endless. Therefore, it is time the people in charge do something and find some solutions. They should take serious measures to tackle this problem. Practically speaking, the prevention of the movement of these motorbikes seems to be difficult right now because they are a source of livelihood for many

ronments clean and free from pollution. Yes, pollution! This horrible nightmare poisons our mother earth and will gradually make life on it impossible.

I will now focus on a very disturbing phenomenon in Taiz. By this, I mean the problem relating to two-wheelers. One cannot fail to notice such a large number of motorbikes all over city. They were there before the unification, but disappeared for a few years. Then, they came back again, like the phoenix.

We cannot fail to realize the fact that this problem has many ramifications. First, they represent a large source of air pollution due to the continuous emitting of smoke from their exhaust pipes into our atmosphere. In such a smoky environment, it becomes difficult to breath with ease. Some may say that the noxious fumes from these motorbikes have not reached a dangerous level. If we count the number of motorbikes in Taiz along with the

nation of all the people in Taiz. This statement is based on a survey I took, in which 98% of the people were unhappy and fed up with these motorbikes and their noise that reaches all ears.



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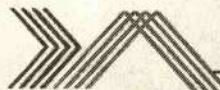
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YALI Registration Information for Spring - Term 28

• **Duration of Term 28:** March 7, 1998 - May 17, 1998.

• **Placement Exam Information:**

- * Exams will be held every Thursday during prior to registration, and daily during registration.
- * To attend a placement exam, you must register the day before.
- * The cost of the exam is USD \$20. Yemeni Riyals are not accepted.

• **Registration for Term 28 Classes:**

- * Current YALI students.....February 24-25
- * New YALI students.....February 28-March 4
- * Registration times.....9 am-12 pm and 2-4 pm

Please note: Class times are 8:30-10:30, 10:45-12:45, 2-4, 4:15-6:15, 6:30-8:30 throughout the day.



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• **Questions?** Phone or fax YALI at 203251.



Clinton Rejects Russian Objections

US President Bill Clinton rebuffed Russian objections to possible military action against Iraq, saying the decision to resort to arms was up to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussain, not Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

In a brief White House statement to reporters, Clinton signalled that he would order US military strikes against Iraqi targets over Yeltsin's objections. "Nyet is not No for the United States under these circumstances," Clinton said.

The US president said he understood Moscow's concern for its traditional ally in Baghdad, but repeated a recent statement that the time for diplomacy was running out as Saddam continues to refuse UN weapons inspectors access to strategic Iraqi facilities.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said the search for a diplomatic solution to the Iraqi crisis should not end before UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan had visited Baghdad. He said the time was right for an Annan trip.

France, forcing its own way in the Iraqi crisis, said Annan should be given a free hand to negotiate a peaceful solution with Baghdad.

million to \$400 million to finance utilities. When UCO is established, it pays that money back and takes over.

Industrial investments in Jubail and Yanbu had so far reached about \$35 billion and the government had invested about \$15 billion in the infrastructure.

Indian Election Campaign in Full Swing

India's election campaign moved into top gear last Friday, February 13th as rival parties raced to garner last-minute support around the country. The once-mighty Congress party and the now-mightier Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fielded their star campaigners at rallies across the country.

But the electioneering frenzy was marred by violence in the northeast, where a candidate was killed and a state government minister wounded by gunmen last Wednesday, February 11th.

Suspected tribal militants, who have threatened to disrupt the polls, also gunned down seven people in the far-flung state of Tripura last week. The election will be held on February 16, 22, 28 and March 7, though a clear picture of the results should emerge a few days before the final voting day.

Peace in Somalia?

Hopes for peace have once again been raised in Somalia after rival factions who split the country met in Cairo for a peace conference. The conference which was conceived in Ethiopia in 1996 was initially intended to be held in Bosaaso, a relatively peaceful north-eastern town of Somalia. The venue was changed after tough resistance and threats of boycott from Hussein Farah Aideed who considered Bosaaso the capital of his foes.

After a number of adjustments to accommodate the interests of all the factions, the conference was finally held in Cairo. Nonetheless, it was dominated by petty issues such as who should hold the next conference and it failed therefore to realize new plans for peace.

Southern Sudanese in Turmoil

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army/Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLA/SPLM) announced last week that it had captured the "strategic" town of Aweil, some 150 kilometers north-west of Wau, the second largest city in south Sudan, in an apparent escalation of military action by rebel forces against the central government in Khartoum. There has been no independent confirmation of the rebel report. However, heavy fighting has been

raging around Aweil since end of January, when SPLA rebels launched a dry-season offensive against government forces.

The fall of Aweil to rebel forces represents a terrible loss to the government. Aweil lies on the only railway route connecting south Sudan and the rest of the country which the government has frequently used to transport logistics, food supplies and military reinforcements from north to south.

SPLA officials and analysts say the rebel movement is planning an attack the southern capital Juba, which could come before peace talks resume between the two sides in the Kenyan capital in April.

Around 1.3 million people have died because of war and famine since the conflict restarted in 1983.

Egypt Investigates Qatari Expulsions

As Qatar pursues its policy of expelling Egyptian expatriates en masse, Egypt is making plans to receive the returning workers and to investigate if their labor rights were violated.

On the first of February, the Egyptian Trade Unions Federation (ETUF) said that it had decided to take the case of the "arbitrary expulsions" to the Arab Labor Organization and the International Labor Organization (ILO). The ETUF is accusing the Qatari government of gross violation of the rights of Egyptian workers.

"These people's rights have been disregarded, the contracts of some had not ended when they were deported," said a ETUF spokesman. "The Qataris did not even have the sense to provide them with air tickets back home," he said. After tensions between Egypt and Qatar reached record levels in December, Qatari officials have terminated the contracts of hundreds of Egyptian ex-patriots and refused to extend the contracts of many more.

Energy Talks to be Held in April

Qatar will host a major international conference in the energy sector in April, organizers of the IBC Gulf Conferences said Friday, February 13th. The three-day meeting dubbed 'Oil, gas and petrochemicals in Qatar: developments and opportunities' will be held between April 19 and 21 in Doha.

The conference will focus on the following topics: Oil in Qatar and developments, natural gas in

Qatar, markets, gas-to-liquid technology, petrochemicals and fertiliser markets in the region. Leading global energy experts are expected to attend the function.

India vs. US Over Basmati Rice

The Indian government planned to appeal to the US patent office to re-examine the granting of a patent to a US firm to grow and sell rice under the Basmati brand name.

"It is proposed to examine various possible options and to take suitable remedial measures, including approaching the US Patent Office for a re-examination of the patent to safeguard our interests, particularly those of growers and exporters," the government said in a statement. The Economic Times newspaper reported that the US Patent and Trademark Office had granted patent to Ricetec Inc to grow and sell rice under the name of Basmati, an aromatic variety grown and marketed only in India and Pakistan.

Lebanon Budget Deficit Goes Up

This year's Lebanese government-proposed budget deficit is creeping up before it has even been approved. Projected revenues in the 1998 budget were estimated at LL4,850 billion, against LL7,850 billion in expenditures, after the finance committee of parliament amended the budget proposal of the government last Thursday. This puts the deficit on paper at 38.2 %, up from the government's 37.5 % target.

The proposal the cabinet hoped to present to the full session of parliament called for LL4,956 billion in revenues and LL7,925 billion in expenditures. The government set a similar 37% goal last year. It ended with a deficit of 59% of revenues over expenditures, 19% of GDP.

Hundreds Killed Daily by Malnutrition in Bangladesh

Nearly 700 Bangladeshis die of acute malnutrition every day, and most victims are children under five years of age, a health source said last week. There are about 16 million under-five children in Bangladesh of whom about 14 million are malnourished.

From 35 to 50% of new-born babies are below normal weights (less than 2,500 gms). About 70% of mothers and children suffer from iron-deficiency and anaemia.

Free treatment to over 120,000 patients a year is needed to save almost as many lives.

Industrial Growth in Saudi Arabia

The Saudi cabinet will make a final ruling in two to three months on the details of the Utility Company (UCO) for the kingdom's twin industrial cities. Saudi authorities said earlier that the utility's equity structure would not be open to foreign investors, at least initially.

UCO is being set up to provide mainly an improved water and power infrastructure in the industrial cities of Jubail on the Gulf and Yanbu on the Red Sea, where utility capacity is already near the limit. The oil company Mobil is currently raising \$300

REGISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Sana'a requests the cooperation of all employers (public or private) of the Ethiopian citizens to register their employees at the Ethiopian Embassy. Ethiopian law demands that any Ethiopian having left his/her country to register at the nearest Ethiopian Embassy or Consulate upon arrival in any foreign country. For information the Embassy can be contacted by Tel No. 208833 or 211108, Fax 213780

Orbit Weekly Programs

<p>17 February 1998 1110 Neverending Story 1900 Bill And Ted's Excellent Adventure - 1 2300 Sudden Impact</p> <p>16 February 1998 1500 Music Box 2030 Movies, Games & Videos 2300 Emma's War</p> <p>18 February 1998 1500 Born To Be Wild 2030 E! Extreme Close Up 2100 Lethal Weapon</p> <p>19 February 1998 1700 Dennis The Menace 2300 The Quest - 0100 The Rookie</p> <p>20 February 1998 1700 The Legend Of Gator Face 1900 Maid To Order - 2300 Dangerous Liaisons</p> <p>21 February 1998 1500 Loose Connections 1900 August 2100 Money For Nothing - 2SL</p> <p>22 February 1998 1300 August 1830 E! Behind The Scenes 1900 Into The West</p> <p>ORBIT NEWS</p> <p>16 February 1998 0700 NBC Nightly News 1230 ABC World News Now Live 2100 ABC This Week</p> <p>17 February 1998 0800 ABC World News</p>	<p>18 February 1998 0930 ABC Nightline 1800 CBS This Morning 0000 NBC Dateline</p> <p>19 February 1998 0900 NBC Nightly News 1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live 0000 ABC 20/20</p> <p>20 February 1998 0830 CBS Evening News 1800 CBS This Morning 2300 CBS Public Eye w/Bryant Gumbel</p> <p>21 February 1998 0830 CBS Evening News 2030 Wall Street Journal 0000 Revenge</p> <p>22 February 1998 1500 World at War ep.23 2200 NBC Dateline 0200 ABC World News Live</p> <p>MUSIC NOW</p> <p>16 February 1998 1700 Indimage 2100 Haneen 2200 Awtar</p> <p>17 February 1998 1600 Rock Raiq 1900 Mediterranean 2100 Musabaqa</p> <p>18 February 1998 1300 Cosmix 1900 Mediterranean 2100 Rsvp Arabic</p> <p>19 February 1998 1200 Freeze Frame#1: 1700 R.s.v.p. 0000 Music Now Jukebox</p> <p>20 February 1998 0900 "360" Degrees Duran Duran</p>	<p>1500 Vital Soul "soul Shack" 2100 (a)conversation With.. (a)chain Reaction</p> <p>21 February 1998 1600 Rock Raiq 2000 Oasis - There And Then Special 0000 Music Now Jukebox</p> <p>22 February 1998 1300 Cosmix 1600 Ultra Violet 12000 Freeze Frame#1:</p> <p>17 February 1998 1120 Richie Rich 1430 Tattooed Teenager Alien Fighters 1705 Flash Gordon</p> <p>18 February 1998 1525 Animaniacs 1930 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters 0000 Love Boat</p> <p>19 February 1998 1135 Merry Melodies Show 1500 HAYA NAMRAH 2235 Rhoda</p> <p>20 February 1998 1400 Batman 1900 My Hometown 2330 Check it Out</p> <p>21 February 1998 1550 Bump in the Night 1615 The Jetsons 2050 Too close for comfort</p> <p>22 February 1998 1145 Leo and Popi 1800 Beatlejuice 2140 Kate & Allie</p> <p>ESP</p> <p>16 February 1998 1100 1998 ANC Cameroon Algeria 1530 Dutch Football Teams Tba 2230 1998 ANC South Africa Namibia</p>	<p>17 February 1998 1430 1998 ANC Ghana DR Congo 1830 1998 ANC Egypt Morocco 2330 World of Rugby</p> <p>18 February 1998 1100 College Basketball Syracuse Villanova 1430 Racehorse Digest 1930 Gillette Sports Special</p> <p>19 February 1998 1000 SportsCenter 1700 Football Best of UEFA Champions League 2130 College Basketball Miami Providence</p> <p>20 February 1998 1100 Latin Football Weekly 1630 Motoworld 2130 First Whistle</p> <p>21 February 1998 1030 1998 ANC Quarterfinals Winner A Runner-Up B 1800 NBA Action 0130 Fitness Program</p> <p>22 February 1998 1030 1998 ANC Quarterfinals Winner B Runner-Up A 1730 Thrifty Car Rental Horse Racing 2230 Boxing Amateur Boxing Championships</p> <p>AMERICA PLUS</p> <p>16 February 1998 1030 Hangin' with Mr. Cooper 1600 Life Goes On 2130 The Nanny</p> <p>17 February 1998 1200 General Hospital 1900 The New Adventures of Robin Hood 0000 3rd Rock from the Sun</p> <p>18 February 1998</p>	<p>0900 Life Goes On 1430 HangTime 1800 Step by Step</p> <p>19 February 1998 1300 Sunset Beach 1830 Murphy Brown 0140 Beverly Hills 90210</p> <p>20 February 1998 0900 Life Goes On 1430 3rd Rock from the Sun 1900 Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman</p> <p>21 February 1998 1530 Camp Wilder 1830 Murphy Brown 2030 Bless This House</p> <p>22 February 1998 1400 227 1900 Babylon 5 2300 Homicide: Life on the Street</p> <p>DISNEY</p> <p>February 16, 1998 1055 Little Mermaid 1620 Goof Troop 2230 Thunder Alley</p> <p>February 17, 1998 1025 Dumbo s Circus 1620 Goof Troop 2300 Dinosaurs</p> <p>February 18, 1998 1210 Movie - Honey I Shrank the Kids 1830 Quack Pack 0130 Gargoyles</p> <p>February 19, 1998 0910 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers 1320 Movie - Secret of the Pond 2000 Movie - Little Spies</p> <p>February 20, 1998 0820 Mickey Mouse & Friends 1230 Quack Pack 1800 Flash Forward</p> <p>February 21 1998 0925 Dumbo s Circus 1830 Timon & Pumbaa 0230 Home Improvement</p> <p>February 22, 1998 0925 Welcome to Pooh Corner 1710 Bill Nye the Science Guy 0000 Boy Meets World</p>
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P. O. BOX 11309 SANA'A
Tel: (967) 1 273992, 280280
Fax: (967) 1 274850

MADE in YEMEN MOVIES

Tahani video is the first video recording shop in Sanaa and the most likely place for video amateurs to go to if one has questions as to how to record films. It was a pleasant surprise to find out that Ibrahim Abdulhamid who has been recording there for many years also has experience in sound track recording and film editing. He was eager to share his experiences with me in the field. The following excerpt was taken from an interview with Mr. Abdulhamid.

from embassies like the classics, modern story films like the Color of Money, Love Story but story films offer less thrills than action movies and the Yemeni usually finds it uninteresting. What is the future for videos in Yemen? Before satellite T.V. came about I used to rent a 1000 films a day. Then the rentals dropped. Now they have increased again because the satellite companies come to us for advertisements of their television services. I also record foreign films for the satellite company to transmit on tel-

then be used by the tour operators there to promote trips to this country. There is also a demand by research groups and scientific teams who want to have video material at their disposal describing the geography and archeology of the various regions. There is no future plans for developing the movie industry here. Also there are unfortunately no film actors. There are actors who appear on television and that is a different sort of acting as compared to what the international person would like to see. People here are mostly satisfied with the music and arabic dance films they can get through Dubai television and the soaps that are turned out in Egypt. The acting that appears on Egyptian soaps is what many Yemenis expect; it's a kind of recital and the director does not work much with the movement of the actor as he would for western films. There is also no material to make movies here. By that I mean proper film making equipment, Beta cams and proper mixers are missing for making films. I do advertise for myself when I film for industries and for that there is a future in Yemen.



YT: Ibrahim what do you do in this shop?

Ibrahim: I do advertisements and record films from India, Arabia and other countries in this shop for twenty years, when I began there was no one to do this job and since then the demand has grown.

Do you have any formal training?

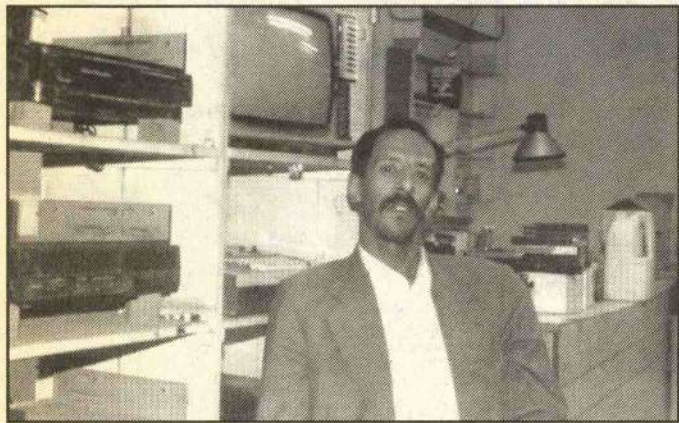
No I have learned recording from experience, I only have a high school education.

evision and it buys the film from us. Businesses buy these films, from Dubai, India and elsewhere.

Do have any experience making videos in Yemen?

I made a 25 minute travel log film in Marib. There is a demand for these films in Hadhramaut and Marib. There is also a tourist office in Sanaa which has asked us if we would go out to Marib and make a travel log film.

Who taught you?



What do you do for advertisements?

I have done a milk advertisement in Yemen three years ago. This was the first. I have also done videos on business equipment, insurance, and different food products. I am confident enough to do any commercial video. Maybe in the future I will be able to do other commercial videos for the agricultural and oil industries.

What are the most popular videos that people watch?

Dancing, Arabian dancing on films, Micheal Jackson, Madonna music videos. Most Yemeni people like action films, detective stories, thrillers. Only a few like story or love films. Some people

Nobody did. I learned by experience. When this video shop opened we only had one entrance, and five videos so I had time to experiment on recording methods.

What do you think about the use of video for tourism?

I think the prospects are good. I have more than 70 cassettes in English, French, Italian and German but nobody knows that. There are lot of natural sites that can be put on film to attract the foreign tourist wanting to discover a lesser known country. Having different language cassettes means that Yemen can supply various countries with travel log information which can

What projects are you doing now?

Tomorrow morning I am going to Dhamar to do a video on the milk industry there and the commercial will appear on channel one.

What about the future for Yemeni actors and films?

There are many actors who are living here but there are very few Yemeni film directors and they are not good. Also there is no equipment to run cinema films. Unfortunately the actors work for cheap.

If actors are paid well then good films can be made but if the situation continues this way many of these actors will move to countries like Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon where they can put their talents to practice. As far as making films are concerned, Yemen is still at the early stages. There is a desire among the youth in this country to be educated in cinematography and make films about their own regions for example. They would have to be trained like in the European cinematographic schools. Some in fact have left this country to study abroad for this purpose, if they do not return this will only contribute to the lack of talent and expertise the country is already experiencing in this sector.

Any last comment?

I have experience in the field of sound recording and in film editing so I would like to apply this in future projects. I would be interested in publicizing myself more to other companies that are interested in this experience. These companies both local and foreign can then see that Yemen can supply the manpower to develop its own resources in the video and commercial film business.

Martin Dansky/ Yemen Times

TOP 5

- 1 EAST17 [Do U still love me]
- 2 Back Street Boys [As long as you love me]
- 3 Michael Jackson [History (The Mix)]
- 4 Elton John [Candle in the wind]
- 5 Mariah Cary [Butterfly]

MUSIC ROCKS

Song Of The Week

East 17

هل مازلت تحبني؟ Do U Still Love Me?

الكورس
هل تحبيني حقا (هل ما زلت تحبيني)
هل تهتمين
هل تحتاجيني حقا (هل ما زلت تحتاجيني)
تحتاجيني هناك
هل تريدني حقا (هل ما زلت تريدني)
هل تجرئين
هل ما زلت تهتمين

هل تذكرين حين كنت لي
تضيئين بومي كالنجمه المتلذذة
لم يكن لدينا نقود يا حلوتي لكننا لم تكن نهتم
كان لدينا شيء خاص لا يمكن لأي
محب آخر ان يراه
كان لدينا احلام و رغبات
حينما تحباينا تحت الملائكة
كان حبا مدى الحياة نفيس كمنجم ذهب
لكن كان عليك ان تذهبي - لا ادري الى اين
والآن اقضي ليالي وحيدا
في سريري بجانب التلفزيون
لماذا لا تتصلين ، لماذا لا تتصلين
قولي لي

الكورس
هل تحبيني حقا (هل ما زلت تحبيني)
هل تهتمين (افكر بك)
هل تحتاجيني حقا (هل ما زلت تحتاجيني)
تحتاجيني هناك (ما زلت افكر بك)
هل تريدني حقا (هل ما زلت تريدني)
هل تجرئين (احلم بك)
هل تحبيني حقا (هل ما زلت تحبيني)
هل تهتمين حقا (ما زلت احلم بك)

هل تفقديني
كما افقدك
هل ما زلت تهتمين

اعلم ان لكل شيء نهاية تقوس قزح
في وقت ما ، بطريقة ما ، بشكل ما ، بطريقة ما
But the bloom was immature, it ended premature
Two hearts broken by soft words spoken
In the garden of beginning, our flowers grew the same
I guess they grew apart from the wind and the rain
Now I'm living in pain, will it remain - tell me

الكورس
هل تهتمين حقا (افكر بك)
هل تحتاجيني حقا (هل ما زلت تحتاجيني)
تحتاجيني هناك (ما زلت افكر بك)
هل تريدني حقا (هل ما زلت تريدني)
هل تجرئين (احلم بك)
هل تحبيني حقا (هل ما زلت تحبيني)
هل تهتمين حقا (هل ما زلت تهتمين)
هل تحتاجيني حقا (افكر بك)
هل تحتاجيني هناك (ما زلت افكر بك)
هل تريدني حقا (هل ما زلت تريدني)
هل تهتمين حقا (احلم بك)

الموسيقى و الكلمات: توني مورتمبر
الناشر: بوري
نشر بوليغرام
علي تسجيلات لندن

Words and Music by Tony Mortimer
Published by Porky
Publishing Polygram
On London Records

باقات من الورد والفل والياسمين محفوفة
باريح السوسن وعبق البنفسج
وشذى الجنار نهدبها للاح/
باسم سليمان القرشي
بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف، فالف مبروك
المهندون:
اكرم عبدالرحمن السقاف، امين عبدالرحمن،
حيدر القرشي، اشرف محمد الاصبحي،
ابراهيم سفيان، رفيق الزريقي، بلال محمد عثمان،
ماجد عبدالعالم، بشير سعد فارح، طه بريديش،
وجميع مدرسي مدرسة الغافقي بالاصباح

تعزية لال القرشي وال السقاف
يتقدم الدكتور عبدالعزيز السقاف، وحسن عبدالله السقاف،
وعماد احمد السقاف، دكتور رياض القرشي، وعبدالحق القرشي،
وعلي عبدالباري الاديبي، وامير القرشي، وخالد عبدالملك منصور،
واسكندر علي سعيد، ومحمد شاهر
وجميع الاهل والاصدقاء من ال القرشي وال السقاف
بخالص العزاء والمواساة للاستاذ
توفيق محمد علي منصور القرشي
ووالده واخويه عبدالكريم هشام، واخواله علي وعبدروس واولاده
منصور عبدالخالق السقاف بوفاة المرحومة امهم.
للفقيدة الرحمة ولاهلها الصبر والسلوان وانا لله وانا اليه راجعون.

Gerling Global Re-insurance Holds Seminar in Coordination with United Insurance Co.

Organized jointly by United Insurance Co. and Gerling Global Re-insurance, a seminar on "Risk management in production plants and risk control during cargo transportation" was held on Thursday, February 12th in Sanaa. Lectures were delivered by 3 insurance experts and attended by all local insurance companies.

The opening speech was delivered by Mr. Peter Böckling, followed by a lecture on risk management by Mr. Wilhelm Fischer, and on marine insurance by Mr. Michel Bérézowsky.

The presentation highlighted the perils and measures to reduce risks in production plants and/or minimize losses. Different causes of loss for property damage were explained, and typical hazards and weak points resulting in losses were mentioned. The discussions also focused on pointing out technical measures for loss prevention and loss minimization.

"Security begins with understanding the needs of your client in terms of risk and capital," said Mr. Böckling. He added, "through precise evaluation of both, you can attain the balance which is essential for the security of your clients and for your company."

Mr. Fischer said: "For decades, insurance companies have been relying on Gerling's expertise to assist them with this balancing act. Our local representative offices throughout the world can provide you with state-of-the art international risk management."

"Insurers today are faced with the challenge of effectively managing highly sophisticated risks such as environmental exposures, product liability, and increasingly severe natural catastrophes," explained Mr. Bérézowsky.

On this occasion, Yemen Times also talked to Mr. Tarek Abdulwasi' Hayel Saeed, the General Manager of United Insurance Co.

Q: Could you briefly tell us a bit about the aim of this seminar?

A: The main goal is to raise awareness of insurance issues and problems. Also, the seminar aimed to acquaint the insurance staff with the most recent developments in the world of insurance and re-insurance. The objective is to protect insurance companies and provide clients with up-to-date information and ideas on how to avoid losses that are likely to happen.

Q: How do you view the future of insurance companies in Yemen?

A: The future of insurance business in Yemen is promising, indeed. We hope that, during the next five to ten years, people in Yemen will become more aware of the importance of insurance. They will realize how important it is to be insured against property damage, fire, theft, etc.

Q: Could you tell us a bit about United Insurance?

A: The United Insurance Co. was established in 1981 as one of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies. Its activities started by handling all classes of insurances with a quality service for which the company has become the leading insurance company in the Yemeni market. Our paid up capital is YR100,000,000, to cope with rising demand, we have five branches operating throughout the country, namely, Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah, Aden and Mukalla offering 24 hours service.

United Insurance Co. is not only a leader in opening up markets, it also trains insurance



Michel Bérézowsky, Director



Tarek A. W. Hayel Saeed Anam, General Manager of United Insurance Company



Peter Böckling, Marketing & Underwriting Manager



Wilhelm Fischer, Sn. Risk Engineer

personnel as its top priority to allow the company to extend its services to the largest possible market share by spreading awareness on insurance among the general public.

Q: Do you face any difficulties in making people more aware of the importance of insurance?

A: Yes, to a certain extent, insurance is now almost exclusively done by big companies, commercial establishments and businessmen. Few ordinary people are aware of its importance to insure.

The main reason for this lack of awareness of the importance of insurance is that the media in general does not play the necessary role to raise public awareness. Also, many people in Yemen have limited incomes, which prevents them from insuring. Hopefully, when the economic situation improves, there will be more people insuring their lives, houses, cars, etc.

Q: What are the most common problems you face in your business?

A: The most common problem is that some people insure a certain type of property, say, But when that property gets damaged, they often claim compensation for other properties also, which are out of our domain of business and for which we are not responsible.

The other problem is that law enforcement and judicial system do not support the insurance companies in cases of suspicious insurance claims. They are often not very helpful.

Q: What is the biggest insurance claim you paid out?

A: We made big losses in 1995/96 when we paid more than \$ 1 million to a group of local merchants.

Q: Do you have any last word?

A: We have many future plans, especially for 1998. We will intensify the public awareness campaign and expand to include various sectors of society. We will try to make the citizens more aware of the importance and necessity for insurance in order to secure their future and the future of their offspring as well as protecting their property.



المتحدة للتأمين
UNITED INSURANCE



AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 10-2-98.

(Nasserite Unionist Party)
Main Headlines:

- 1- Representatives of Yemeni political parties meet with ambassadors of UN Security Council's permanent member countries to condemn US aggression.
- 2- Informed sources close to the government indicated an imminent cabinet reshuffle affecting about 30% of ministerial portfolios.
- 3- Nasserite party is to conduct elections in more than 150 of its organizational centers around the country.
- 4- Aden Plastic Co. rejects allegations of denying its workers' rights.

Article Summary:
Shoot-out Over Well

A man and a woman were injured when armed villagers in Hajar, Ibb fired in the air in protest over the drilling of a new water well in their village. Two German experts, officials and number of other villagers originally went to inspect the site of the proposed new well, which was going to be part of a water supply project, partially funded by the Germans. The group was fired at by some angry villagers who claimed that new well will lead to drying out their own village well. The injured man is a teacher who accompanied the visiting team, while, the injured woman was just sitting at her home when a stray bullet hit her. She is said to be in a critical condition in hospital.



AL-SHOURAH: Sanaa weekly, 8-2-98.

(Federation of Popular Forces)
Main Headlines:

- 1- 22,000 army soldiers and officers from southern governorates are to be demobilized.
- 2- Legal arbitration on dispute between Yemen and Eritrea covered may have covered all the archipelago, not just Hunaish Island.
- 3- The President directed abolishing all illegal qat-tax checkpoints on the outskirts of Dhali'.
- 4- Federation of Popular Forces Party expresses concern for Iraq, and demands that Yemen should look after its own interests at the same time.

Article Summary:
Swiss Conditions

The Yemeni delegation, that had recently visited Switzerland to promote international investments in Yemen, was informed by Swiss officials that a number of certain conditions have to be satisfied first in order to bring international capital into Yemen.

"Yemen has to have well-established state institutions, and it has to eradicate the negative repercussions of 1994 civil war," said Mr. Franz Blanker of the Swiss foreign economic cooperation organ in interview with by the Swiss Radio. "Yemen has also to avoid duality in taxation," he added. On his part, the Yemeni Minister of Industry, Mr. Ahmed Soofan stressed Yemen's willingness to meet these conditions.

The trade exchange between Yemen and Switzerland is quite small. Yemen imports SF 15 million worth of goods from Switzerland, while, it exports SF 2 million.



AL-TAREEQ: Aden fortnightly, 10-2-98.

(Independent)
Main Headlines:

- 1- Head of Opposition Parties' Committee, Hassan Ba-Awm called on all patriotic forces to meet & come up with national salvation plan.

SITUATION VACANT

Wanted a Pharmacist and/or a science graduate to as a medical sales representative to promote milk based food products through medical field. Person should have 2-3 years experience in the same field. Salary will be commensurate with qualification and experience and will not be a constraint for the right candidate. Please apply within 10 days with your curriculum vitae to:

Dhanesh Vora
Commercial Manager
P. O. Box 5862
Taiz, Yemen

CAR FOR SALE

The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has a Volvo car to be sold for interested individual or organization. The condition of the car is good and this can be inspected during working hours of the Embassy at its compound located at Hadda street. Description of the car is as follows:

No	Type of Car	Year of Model	Year of Service	Price in Dollar
1	Volvo-240	1983	14	USD 2500

N. B. The car is imported Tax-Free.
Place: Embassy of Ethiopia, Sana'a
Tel. No. 20 88 33 or 21 12 08



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

- 2- Chief of intelligence in Hadhramaut denies allegations that one of his men was involved in a shooting accident & the harassment of a woman.
- 3- An inmate in Mansoor Prison, Aden, calls for his release as directed by the Consultative Council's committee for civil liberties.
- 4- During 1997, General Salt Establishment produced 97,800 tons of salt worth YR 2 billion

Article Summary:
Gold & Uranium in Radfan

Following media reports on the discovery of ancient antiques in caves in Radfan, groups of armed villagers started guarding the caves. A local sheikh has even brought a few geologists to uncover more artifacts. However, they discovered something more important: indications of the existence of gold and uranium in this historical cave.

Prominent figures in the area tried to keep this discovery a secret until they get solid guarantees from the government to benefit the local population. They also expressed fears that foreign companies and their local agents will exploit these mineral deposits without ever developing the area. The deprived areas of Mareb and Shabwa where oil has been exploited were cited as examples.



AL-THAWRI: Sanaa weekly, 12-2-98.

(Yemeni Socialist Party)
Main Headlines:

- 1- Unconstitutional 25% deductions have been made to the investment allocations in the general budget.
- 2- 2,600 unlawfully interned people will be released soon.
- 3- Conference hall in former YSP H.Q., occupied by security since 1994 war, has been turned into a number of small prison cells.
- 4- Political Security men arrested a several members of the outlawed Islamic Jihad organization in Abyan.

Article Summary:
Lawyer Assaulted

The General Prosecutor's Office has directed the security organ to seek out and arrest those involved in assaulting the lawyer Hafidh Fadhil while walking down Hadda Road. Inflicting grievous bodily harm on Fadhil, the assailants escaped in three cars, on carrying an army number plate, the other a police number plate and the third was private.

Eyewitness accounts indicated that 8 of the assailants wore army uniforms, while, the other 7 were in civilians clothes. The Lawyers' Syndicate has strongly condemned the attack, which has apparently taken place because Fadhil is representing a client in a case against an army colonel.



AL-SAHWAH: Sanaa weekly, 12-2-98.

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]
Main Headlines:

- 1- Yemeni Teachers' Syndicate (Islah affiliated) calls for are to go on strike on 21-22 February in protest over very low pay.
- 2- Yemeni political parties announce their solidarity with Iraq.
- 3- Bloody confrontations between the police & gangs of bootleggers took place in Aden.
- 4- Trial of alleged saboteurs in Aden continues after Ramadhan adjournment.
- 5- Dance parties and alcohol sales immediately after Ramadhan aroused people's anger in Aden.

Article Summary:
Foreign Piracy

Violations of the Yemeni territorial waters by foreign fishing ships seems to continue unabated, leading to near extinction of several marine life species. The relevant government organs behave as if the issues does not concern them. A previous court ruling, confiscating an Egyptian ship caught using internationally prohibited fishing methods and fining its owners \$140,000 for causing environmental damage, was reduced to YR 800,000 only. Concerns were expressed by fishing circles, considering that a

recent amendments to the law has raised the fine imposed in such cases to \$1 million.

AL-BALAGH: Sanaa weekly, 9-2-98.

[Islamic Action Movement (being formed)]
Main Headlines:

- 1- Korea postpones importing liquefied natural gas from Yemen because of deteriorating economic conditions in south east Asia.
- 2- Investment Authority has licensed new projects worth \$ 900 million in the cement industry, tourism, health, and service sector.
- 3- YR 4 billion is allocated for telephone lines extension project in Aden.

Article Summary:
Water Catastrophe in Sanaa

Studies conducted on the Sanaa aquifer indicate that the city will face a real water catastrophe in 3 or 4 years time, if alternatives are not found soon. Dutch experts have indicated that deep water wells must be drilled in Al-Sabeen area around the Presidential Residence, which rich in underground water. Despite the fact that these wells will have to be more than 600m deep, they will provide Sanaa with water up to the year 2005. Other water sources mentioned by the study include Wadi Sardood, Wadi Al-Kharid, and Al-Jawf. The other alternative is sea water desalination. The average daily water consumption per person in Sanaa is 60 to 70 liters, the lowest in the world.



26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa weekly, 12-2-98

(Yemeni Armed Forces)
Main Headlines:

- 1- Yemeni-Malaysian talks to consolidate the partnership & expand its economic horizons.
- 2- Oil exploration agreements to be signed with US & Hungarian companies.
- 3- The President issued strict directives preventing military personnel from dabbling in investment projects.
- 4- France to provide FF 30 million to expand communication network in Yemen.
- 5- Investment projects worth YR 154, 650 million are licensed in Aden & Lahaj.

Article Summary:
Strict Directives

The winning formula in any development process is to attract capital by providing the necessary facilities, guarantees, and the best terms for both local and foreign investors. Investment laws remain frozen if the general economic climate in the country concerned is not conducive for investment. All obstacles must first be removed.

The role of the state is provide more flexibility and improve the performance of its relevant apparatus. However, the general direction of the state could be one thing and that of its individual officials could be another different one.

Hence, President Ali Abdullah Saleh has recently issued strict directives that prohibit any form of interference and favoritism by influential people, especially military personnel, in the affairs of investment. A red line has been drawn, which must not be crossed, in order to protect investments from any forms of undue influence and attract foreign capital into Yemen.



AL-UMMA: Sanaa weekly, 12-2-98.

(Al-Haqq Party)
Main Headlines:

- 1- Iranians celebrate 19th anniversary of Islamic revolution.
- 2- Delegation of Yemeni political parties met President Saleh, demanding a unified Arab stance in solidarity with Iraq.
- 3- Yemeni opposition parties submitted letters of protest to British & US embassies in Sanaa.
- 4- Haqq Party Secretary-General welcomes President's call for 'closing the dossiers of the past.'

Article Summary:
Attack by Maps

The Yemeni authorities have confiscated a large number of 1998 agendas with maps of the regions showing the Yemeni-Saudi border displaced more to the Saudi advantage. A supplement of the Kuwaiti monthly magazine, Al-Arabi, was also withdrawn by the Yemeni authorities for the same reason.

On another level, a Lebanese publishing house has published a world atlas with Yemeni map showing the same bias towards Saudi Arabia. Are these efforts concerted? Are they timed to take place during the border talks between the two countries?



AL-AYYAM: Aden bi-weekly, 15-2-98.

(Independent)
Main Headlines:

- 1- A statement on Iraq crisis sets off much debate and controversy in parliament.
- 2- US Ambassador: 'Yemen is making a lot of efforts to improve human rights conditions, but there is a lot more to be done.'
- 3- Security measures are taken to prevent sea smuggling through the Bir Ali area in Shabwa.

Article Summary:
1- Poppy Farm Discovered

Police in Ibb were able to discover a poppy farm in the Sahool area. With an area of 135 sq.m, the farm is said to belong to a man, whose initials only are released by the police. Q.A. is presently being questioned by the Ibb police.

2- Qat Smuggling Continues

Four qat dealers from Lauder, Moodiya, Wadhi' and Zanzibar resorted to burning a quantity of qat just outside the qat-tax levying checkpoint in Lauder, Abyan. Protesting against he official high tax of 22%, the dealers also threatened the qat-tax collectors manning the checkpoint. Sympathizing with their fellow traders, other qat dealers went on strike. This has encouraged qat smugglers to resume their activities.

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أكرم عبدالرحمن السقاف، أمين عبدالرحمن، حيدر القرشي، اشرف محمد الأصبحي، ابراهيم سفيان، رفيق الزريقي، بلال محمد عثمان، ماجد عبدالعالم، بشير سعيد فارح، طه بريديش، وجميع مدرسي مدرسة الغافقي بالإصباح



أجمل التهاني الحارة نرفها للشاب النبيل نجيب يحيى الراعي بمناسبة دخوله القفص الذهبي يوم الخميس ٥ فبراير ١٩٩٨ مع الامنيات بحياة زوجية سعيدة

المهنؤون
عقيد/ محمد علي راجح، عقيد يحيى الراعي، حسن الراعي، أحمد الراعي، جمال العواضي، عبدالله السنيدار، وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

2nd Stage of Excellent Football Tournament Started in Aden Sho'la Takes Revenge

Following one month and a half of respite, the Excellent Football League 2nd stage was started on Thursday, February 12th in Aden. The first match between the Sho'la of Aden and Wahda of Sanaa was quite exciting, considering that Wahda had previously defeated Sho'la 1-nil in the first stage of the tournament. So Sho'la was able in the 2nd stage to



avenge itself by defeating Wahda 1-nil in a match exhibiting Sho'la control and prowess. Were the Sho'la players to take more advantage of Wahda weaknesses, they would have been able to score more goals. Their lone goal came as a result of a penalty kick during the second half of the match.

First Half

During the first 45 minutes of the match, Sho'la had the upperhand, up to the mid-field only. Sho'la players kick the ball aimlessly to the point of sometimes boring the spectators. They tried several times to strike against the Wahda goal area, but without success. Wahda defenses were just too strong for

them to penetrate. The match continued with a partial control over the field by Sho'la, despite attempts by mid-field players to penetrate and strike against Wahda defenses. All these attempts failed because of rashness and lack of concentration on part of Sho'la players.

The Wahda players on the other hand, were also rash and made some errors. Their mid-field action was missing, thus, enabling Sho'la to gain more control. The first half of the match ended in a no-score draw.

Second Half

During this half, Sho'la worked hard on consolidating its control of the field and extending it to Wahda's field. Wahda, on the other hand, continued playing with the same level of the first half of the match, thus, allowing Sho'la to gain more confidence and extend their control to dangerous quarter. The ball remained during the first one-third of the second half almost in mid-field.

At the 32nd minute of the second half, Sho'la exerted more pressure by continuously striking against Wahda. The Sho'la striker Mohammed Abdullah was able to cross the 18-yard line and strike the ball. Alas, it strayed off. Two minutes later, another Sho'la striker, Maher Qassem, also crossed the 18-yard line, only to be strongly impeded by the Wahda defenders. The referee whistled, announcing a penalty kick for Sho'la. Executed by Sho'la's Basil Al-Jamai', the penalty kick resulted in his team's lone goal for the match.

This goal made Wahda players 'wake up' to strongly defend their goal area, and strike against Sho'la. The latter's defenders proved to be more than strong match for Wahda's players.

Football Technical Committee of to be Selected Next Week



Vice President of the Yemeni Football Association, Mr. Mohammed Al-Daes, told the Yemen Times that the association will announce in its meeting next week the names of the technical committee members. This committee will supervise the national football team for juniors and youths.

This effort comes as part of preparing the national team to take part in the Asian qualifier matches of the 13th championship for

youths, which will be held in Qatar.

Yemen will take part within the first Asian group, which also includes Qatar, Iran and Bahrain. Forty countries will take part in these qualifier matches.

In the champion for under 19 years of age, Yemen is part of the second group, which also includes Iran, UAE, and Tajikistan. The qualifier games will take place in Tehran, Iran between January 1st and June 20th, 1998.

FIFA stressed that no football tournament should be held between June 23rd and July 27th, 1998, because of the World Cup games due to be held during the same period in France.

PM Appoints New Officials in Ministry of Youth & Sport

Prime Minister Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanem issued resolution No. 8 of 1998 appointing experienced sportsmen as office directors in the Ministry of Youth and Sport branches in all governorates. This step comes as part of government plans to improve the sports sector in Yemen

1. Hussein Ibrahim Al-Nejashi as general manager of Youth and Sport in Aden.
2. Abbas Ahmed Al-Marwani as general manager of Youth and Sport in Sanaa.
3. Abdullah Al-Amari as general manager of Youth and Sport in Taiz.
4. Saeed Mabhkoot as general manager of Youth and Sport in Mahara.
5. Abdullah Ahmed Hassan as general manager of the Control and Inspection Department in the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

Yemen Times hopes that these new officials will serve the youth and sports sector with their experiences, since this sector need much support and attention.



Youth & Sport Fund Finances Youth Hostels in Shabwa, Mahara, & Abyan

The importance of youth hostels is well known worldwide. They provide accommodation as well as sport facilities for traveling young people. Sometimes, sport activities and tournaments are held in these hostels.

In Yemen, there is a marked lack of such hostels. When they exist, Yemeni youth hostels are often not well-equipped to host sports teams, either because of lack of facilities or mismanagement. To avoid this in the future, the board of directors of the Youth and Sport fund has agreed restore some of the old hostels and build new ones in the governorates of Shabwa, Mahara, and Abyan. Youth hostels do not exist in these governorates, which makes hosting sports and cultural activities quite difficult.

The Minister of Youth and Sport, Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh has directed Fund's board of directors to submit their suggestions, plans, and cost estimates for constructing these youth hostels.

Letters were sent to the three governorates to allocate suitable plots of land for erecting the youth hostels. Technical teams will visit the governorates to conduct the necessary surveys to ascertain the suitability of the land.

1st-Class League Football Tournament Starts Next March

The Yemeni Football Association decided in its last meeting that the 1st-Class Football League Tournament, in which 18 teams will take part, will start on March 14th, 1998. Matches will take place in Aden, Sanaa, and Hodeida.

1- 1st Group: Shaab, Shurta, Fat'h of Dhamar, Saqar of Taiz, Mukallah, and Shabab Al-Jeel of Hodeida. Matches to be held in Sanaa.

2- 2nd Group: Wahda of Aden, Yarmook of Sanaa, Tadamun of Hadhramaut, Rasheed, and Al-Jeel Al-Sa'id. Matches to be held in Aden.

3- 3rd Group: Hilal, Minaa, Fahman, Al-Majd, Shabab Al-Baidha, Taleea of or Sharara of Shabwa. Matches will be held in Hodeida.

The first-stage matches will be held on one-round basis in the cities mentioned above. The first and second two teams will qualify from each group. The teams that comes last will be relegated to the 2nd-Class League.

The second-stage matches will be held later on among the six qualified teams in the form of a complete tournament. The top four teams will qualify to become in the Excellent League.

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

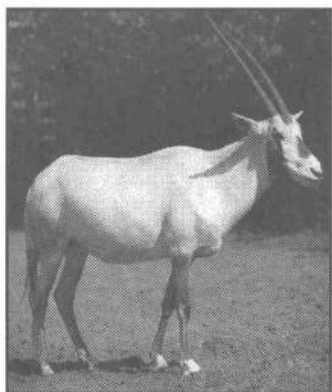
Arabian Oryx is Alive & Well!

The Arabian oryx was officially regarded as probably extinct in the wild, by the early 1960s. The last three animals surviving roamed the areas of the upper Wadi Mitani and Wadi Shu'ait, in what is now the north east corner of modern Yemen. They were captured by an expedition led by the then Chief Game Warden of Kenya and the author, then serving as a political officer in the British advisory service.

The expedition came about because the author was in charge of the border area from what was then Yemen (Darb al Amir) to Habarut on the Oman border. He had always been interested in animal preservation and came across some oryx when traveling along the sand sea, east of Kharkhair. There were very few animals alive then. The principal threat came from motorized parties of hunting parties from the State of Qatar who would enter the Sands during the winter in large convoys, moving between the dunes and shooting anything that moved. This included not only the oryx but 'houbara' (greater bustard) and both sorts of gazelle (sand and 'rim'). Both the latter are also probably extinct, except in protected areas.

In 1961 it was clear that the last remaining oryx were under threat from these hunting parties: a London newspaper offered to sponsor an expedition to rescue the oryx and this was being organized when news came that a further 46 animals had been shot down by Qataris. The expedition was abandoned but at the author's insistence another was put together and in early 1962 the three animals (one extra died - it had been wounded by the Qataris) were transported to Kenya for safety and then to America.

A breeding program was instituted, with the contribution of small number of animals from the Gulf states, from Saudi and London. The program was



very successful. As a result over 400 have been reintroduced to the Raidat al Harasais in Oman where they are strictly looked after by the local tribe. Others have gone to Jordan and probably to other countries.

When the time is right, perhaps the Yemen government will set up a safe area for some animals to be returned to their natural country. HM Sultan Qaboos has advisers who will be able to detail the conditions necessary for successful reintroduction of the species.

Michael Crouch

Support Our Association

The pensioners' social Association has some grievances as most of its members receive a meager sum of pension, especially those who retired before 'unity' and our main grievances are outlined as follows:-

1- Pensioners who retired before unity, received one-fifth of their aggregate pension against reduction in their monthly pension, as loan to be accounted for until the completion of seven years period, where after their monthly pensions should have been re-adjusted and restored to their original amounts. but this has not been effected until now, despite the fact that the association endeavored and contacted the authorities concerned.

2- A general increase of 10% in the salaries of the employees W.E.F. 91/7/97) was announced, but such an increase did not include the pensioners

which contradicts law no. 25 article no. 63 for year 91, which stipulates that any increase in the salaries of employees, the pensioners should be granted 50% of that increase. We have not received such an increase, despite the fact we left no stone un-turned to achieve it.

3- we have been trying to obtain a place for our office and a clinic as well where the pensioners could obtain free treatment and medicines for their old age sickness. But again we faced difficulties, and deaf ears, from those concerned.

We are sorry to disturb you with these grievances, we hope you will not mind to provide such a humanitarian service by at least publishing our grievances in your esteemed paper for information of those concerned and interested.

A. Rashid M. Ykoob, President
Yusuf A. Sadeq, PR

Women Barred from Mosques

Being a muslim. I am very happy to live in an Islamic country. But just because Yemen is an Islamic country, there is something that deeply bothers me: Why are women refused entry to the mosques?!

Why do they have to say their prayers in little rooms, usually entered through back-doors, often even without a Qura'an to read, with only a speaker to be connected to the "real" mosque?

Why do we have to miss the inspiring atmosphere which is present in the mosques where only men are allowed in? Why do we have to miss the atmosphere of 'ibada,' the coming together of people studying the Qura'an, the beautiful architecture, and acoustics, the peaceful rest you can find in between prayer-times, the expression of the imam while preaching? Or, in short, why are we prevented from being part of the Islamic society?

Didn't Ibn Umar relate to us the hadith that the prophet (P) said: "Don't prevent your women of

going to the mosques"? Didn't men and women pray together in the time of the prophet (P)? Yes, they did indeed. If he didn't disapprove of that, why change this now?

Surely, I know some of the answers the people give; women can't pray in the same room as men because of their veil which should be taken off while praying. And many women wouldn't even want to pray with men together. The solution seems so easy: Let the women who want to be separated from the men visit the women's mosques, but allow the women who want to, to enter the other mosques as well!

Also, people often say that times have changed. They mean that men look at women too much, unlike the Muslims in the prophet's (P) time. This is a bad excuse, though, since men-like women - should come to the mosque to pray and not to look at women!

Another remark has to be made as well, to explain why the women's mosques do not exactly give you the impression of a mosque.

It is as if many women come together to chat rather than to pray. They talk and greet each-other during the Friday preach and don't seem to understand that they bother others with this behavior. Also, the women's mosques are so small that everyone walks in front of praying sisters and the praying room is always right next door to the bathrooms, which doesn't exactly help you to concentrate on your prayers because of the noise.

Because of all this I'm encouraged to pray 'juma'h' or any other prayers in the women's mosque. At the same time, I'm not allowed to pray behind the men in another mosque. This means I'll have to miss the 'fajr' of praying in congregation and learning from preachings of the imam.

Insha'allah men will see and solve this problem by teaching their women and allowing them to be part of Islamic society, which gives everyone the strength to become better and better Muslims.

Reem Al-Kibsi

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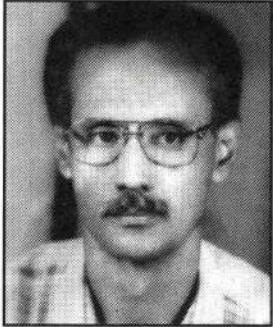
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Arab Music Ensemble



By: Saleh Abdulbaqi

Aden was always, and still is, a center of development and modernizing in the field of art in general and in music in particular. From Aden, Yemeni music was presented to the rest of the Arabian Peninsula where it flourished. Not only that, but Yemeni music became well-known and appreciated all over the Arab world. Aden witnessed a kind of competition among its great musicians. We remember, for example, Ahmed Qassem, Mohammed Murshed Naji, Mohammed Saeed Jaradah, the famous Yemeni poets Lutfi Jaafar Aman and Ahmed Al-Jaberi. Those were the pioneers who contributed a lot to develop the Yemeni lyrics and poems throughout the century. Since the lute instrument was not enough to present the Yemeni music in its modernized form, a new music ensemble had to be formed. It was only natural

to get over all the traditional forms of music in order to establish a modern artistic identity. Therefore, the first music ensemble was established in Aden to present a new era in the history of music.

In the fair competition between the two great Yemeni musicians, Ahmed Qassem and Mohammed Murshed Naji, the Yemeni people were divided into two groups. That made Naji establish the Arab Music Ensemble (AME) in 1965. It was lead by Ahmed Takreer, the violin player of the ensemble. Other members of the team were: Fadhil Abdulkareem

(violin), Faysal Ba-Wazeer (accordion), Saeed Hassan (violin), Mohammed Al-Najar (zither), Salem Abdullah Salem (violin) and Abdullah Ali (guitar).

It was the first time in which western musical instruments were used in Yemen. Despite that, the ensemble had Anwar Rajeh as a rhythm player and Mohammed Abdulkareem on tambourine. In 1966, Saleh Abdulbaqi joined the team. They presented their first show, with Mohammed Murshed Naji, at Al-Badri theater. During that occasion, Naji sang his famous song, 'Mosh Mosadeq' (I don't believe)

which was written by Lutfi Jaafar Aman. That concert was a great leap in Yemen's history of music. It included other songs which embodied the new direction of the Yemeni lyrics. Jaradah's lyrics, which were traditional Homaini and standard in style, were subjected to traditional composing. Mohammed M. Naji was able to present his lyrics in an instructing style and that made him the greatest musician of the day.

Back to the Arab Music Ensemble, we see that the song 'That Al-Khal' (a woman with a mole) was presented with a new

musical arrangement and a variety of musical keys by the Arab Music Ensemble. In that song, we find that Naji combined the Yemeni traditional song with oriental song. That gave the AME a new push in musical achievement. It started to produce works for great Yemeni musicians such as Mohammed Sa'ad Abdullah, Mohammed Abdu Zaidi, Mohammed Saleh Azzani and others. Later, the team received several proposals from the radio station to direct some songs for famous Yemeni singers, songs like Qassem's 'Ahlef Be-ai-sh' or 'Swear by What?' and Abdullah's 'Fat Al-Awan' or 'It is Too Late'. During its great success, the team brought many singers (Taha

Fara'e, Raja Ba-Sudan and others) to organize concerts in Taiz where they received a wide appreciation from the audience there. Invited by officials, some of the team members went to Sana'a and the others returned to Aden. They participated in the Yemeni celebrations of the 26th of September revolution. For its distinguished activities at that time, President Abdullah Al-Sallal directed to employ the team, headed by Mohammed Saad Abdullah, at Sana'a Radio Station. The former Dar Al-Bashair was allocated for the AME to conduct its activities. After that, the AME organized a series of concerts all over Yemen. By luck, they met in Al-Raheda, Ayoub Tarish, the

great Yemeni singer, who sang for the first time his famous song, 'Erga'a Lehaoulak' (Back To Your Land). After the 70-day siege of Sana'a in 1968, the team went back to Aden where it continued its activities. Some of its contributions were organizing charity gatherings for the seriously ill people in the country. And another good job was the team's calling on some singers from northern Yemen to sing in Aden. That was a great step towards developing good relations between the northern and southern parts of the country. After a long journey of creativity and prosperity, the AME, unfortunately, stopped its activities in 1975.



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