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## Nation's Shocking Conditions; Ambitious Minister Pushes Reforms

# IN VERY POOR HEALTH

The picture is a grim one. The Yemeni people are indeed in very poor health. Look at the following statistics:  
1) About 45% of the nation's children suffer from malnutrition leading to stunted growth; with 15.7% suffering from severe wasting. Only two countries in the world have a worse rate.  
2) Less than 50% of the population has access to health services, and the percentage in rural areas falls to 30%.  
3) Government budget allocated for health sector is 2.7% of total. Government per capita health expenditure stands at US\$ 3.70 (1997). Minimum benchmark stipulated by the World Health Organization is US\$ 12.  
Per capita government expenditures on medicines and drugs stand at US\$ 0.3, of which 60% is wasted. Minimal required per capita, representing 10% of need, is US\$ 1.  
4) Infant and under 5 years child mortality rate per 10,000 is 110; Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 is 1,400.

5) Gross birth rate is 7.4. Only 16% of these births are attended by trained health personnel. Only 3% of pregnant women are immunized against Tetanus. Only 26% receive any kind of prenatal care. Only 5% receive any kind of post-natal care. Less than 10% of married women of childbearing age use contraceptives.  
6) In spite of clear prioritization, less than 50% of Yemeni children are covered by the national immunization effort. Among these, less than two thirds complete the cycles.  
7) An estimated 400,000 Yemenis travel abroad annually for various medical care. These patients spend an estimated US\$ 1.5 billion annually.  
8) Most senior government officials, top brass of the army and security forces, tribal leaders, and close associates of the regime, receive - often through presidential generosity - an average of US\$ 12,500. Total of such generosity adds up to tens of millions of US dollars.

Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nasher, Minister of Health, in a lecture last week, outlined his on-going efforts to help the situation. "It is not just a matter of finding additional resources, it is more importantly a matter of better utilization of existing possibilities," he said. The minister pointed out, as an example, that 60% of the government budget for medicine and drugs was being wasted. He listed five quality problems:  
1) Government laboratories are of unacceptable quality;  
2) A serious of over-employment;  
3) Low attendance and care of staff;  
4) Badly maintained and equipped health facilities; and  
5) Low standard and unsafe private practices.

The minister is addressing the medical supply issue as a priority. He has taken steps to improve drug management (selection, procurement, storage, distribution, etc.). Two other policy decisions include the introduction of cost recovery, and full autonomy of the supply system.  
In terms of improving performance of the health sector in general, the minister has released many of powers to the local and regional offices in a clear decentralization bid. That intends to give the health offices in the governorates and districts more decision-making authority and budgeting, more hospital autonomy, and more autonomy of logistics.  
The minister concluded message with three policy directives:  
1) Internationalism: working as a team with foreign expertise;  
2) Integrity: demanding of health staff and professionals direct responsibility;  
3) Innovation: creating the environment for continued upgrading and enhancement of services.  
The upbeat mood of the minister, in spite of a very bad health situation, is partly justified. He is making a difference, and he has internal and external support.

## Canadian Occidental Picks Up Four New Blocks

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen is now concluding negotiations to pick up four new blocks. Agreements will be finalized over the next few weeks between the Yemeni authorities and the company regarding blocks 11, 12, 36, and 54.  
Larry Murphy, Canadian Occidental's Vice President for International Affairs, flew into Sanaa last week for talks with the Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, Mr. Mohammed Al-Khadim Al-Wajeeh, and senior members of his ministry. Mr. Murphy is expected to fly back into Sanaa on September 9th, 1998, to conclude on-going negotiations.

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen now operates block 14 (Masila) in Hadhramaut from which it produces nearly 200,000 bpd, making it the country's largest oil producer. Yemen Hunt Oil Company produces nearly 160,000 bpd from its Marib oil block. Other producers are much smaller.  
Canadian Occidental believes that the new blocks have good potential and that the company is expected to make reasonable finds in the future.  
Minister Al-Wajeeh says that the country could be producing over half a million barrels of oil per day before the turn of the century.


## Yemen's Bloody 20th Century: A War Every 7 Years!

Well, we are getting to the end of this century. There are less than 500 days left and we will say 'good bye' to the 20th century. It has been a bloody century for humanity. But it has been more so for us Yemenis.  
Yemen Times reports (please read on page 5) that Yemen has had more than 14 wars during this century. That is without counting the small internecine inter-tribal wars and urban shoot-outs/

explosions.  
The average, therefore, is a war every seven years. It is possible that we will finish this century with yet another war, given the way things are drifting.  
Yemenis started the century with a war on the Ottomans. It was a war of independence which brought the Imamic kingdom. Then the nation had a series of wars with British colonial forces, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and lastly with Eritrea.

But the bloodiest of all wars have been the wars among Yemenis. The seven-year civil war following the September 1962 revolution, the upheavals in the former PDRY (South Yemen), and of course, the wars between the two Yemens.  
No wonder, backwardness seems to settle in the country for good. The nation needs peace and stability to make meaningful progress. But that has not been the historic fact.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Where Is the Evidence?

On August 20th, American President Bill Clinton ordered the bombing of a seemingly innocuous pharmaceuticals plant in Khartoum, Sudan, and six sites in Afghanistan. The objective was to hit back at terrorists. Many innocent civilians were killed in those raids.

#### Question: Where is the evidence?

I do not want to argue the legality of the US administration's decision to take the law in its own hands by acting alone - contrary to international law - and attacking sovereign nations that are members of the UN. The US action is presented simply as an effort to avenge itself on terrorists or to "defend its interests" as Sandy Burger said. But at the very least, the world community wants evidence that the American war machine is used to punish real terrorists. No evidence was produced. US President Bill Clinton says he has "compelling information" that several groups were allegedly planning attacks against US interests. Now that is an unsound argument.

#### Question: What have the raids achieved?

Little has been achieved in terms of delivering a "crippling blow" to alleged terrorists. Actually, other than demolishing a few buildings and killing several innocent civilians, the raids did little more. In fact, the US administration does not really know the full impact of the raids. On the other hand, the attacks have increased the hatred for Americans among the Sudanese, Afghani and other Muslims. It has increased the resolve to make American life more difficult whenever and wherever possible. It has shown that the US administration finds Arab and Muslim blood easy to spill, as it does not feel it can be held accountable for it.

#### Question: Who do we believe?

The US administration says it has "compelling information" about the drug plant and the sites in Afghanistan. Yet, no evidence is offered. Two of the Afghani camps bombed on August 20th were actually built by the Americans in their support of the Mujahideen in the early 1980s. The Sudanese government has invited the UN Security Council to send an investigation mission to determine the truth. The Council will probably address this in an urgent session tomorrow, Tuesday, August 24th.

I believe 3 factors were at play in the American decision. First, there is a preponderant influence of Jewish Americans in Washington DC. It is easy to see that these Americans have a problem with Arabs and Muslims; and therefore, they tend to push US policy to an inimical position. Second, there is a feeling that Arabs and Muslims can be killed without worrying about paying the price. The Americans had earlier bombed Libya. They later found out that the accusation they had used was not correct. Third, President Clinton, deeply disgraced and humiliated by the Monica Lewinsky revelations, must have felt he needed an issue to divert media focus and to rally support at home.

I think the American administration has acted hastily on this matter. If it has proof, it is important to present it to the world. Without proof, it is hard to accept that American military muscle can be used to punish people, indiscriminately. The US cannot simply be the judge and executioner at the same time.

**The Publisher**  
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### Chairman of Supreme Court Shuts Out Lawyers

Mr. Abdul-Ilah Al-Merwani told the Yemen Times that Qadhi Zaid Jamrah, Chairman of the Supreme Court, decided to forbid lawyers from deliberations and presenting cases. Al-Merwani said he is mobilizing efforts to counter this measure, which he described as illegal.

### Bazaar at Pizza Hut

A bazaar will be held at the Pizza Hut restaurant from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on August 28, on the occasion of the university vacation. The bazaar is sponsored by Al-Rowad for Services & Information. The musical band of Ibraheem Hussein will attend also. In this event, Yemen Times is giving away 10 free annual subscriptions.

### Libraries and Information Published

The second issue of Libraries & Information bulletin was published recently by the Department of Library & Information Science, College of Arts, Sanaa University. The issue includes many useful topics on the Internet, e-mail technology, computer technology & informatics, CDS/ISIS and other topics.

### Juvenile Delinquency Workshop

Organized by the Yemeni Bara'em Society in collaboration with the UNICEF and under the patronage of the governor of Aden, the Juvenile Delinquency Workshop in Yemen will be held during August 23-25 at 8.30 a.m. at Aden Hotel, Aden. The seminar will discuss many topics.

### Administrative Reform and Development Conference

The National Conference on Administrative Reform & Development will be held during August 25-29. The participants are expected to discuss different relevant topics. Discussion will cover the mechanisms of administrative reform and development, improving the institutions and the efficiency of the administration, and the transparency of the financial and administrative system.

### UNICEF Projects in Aden Discussed

The governor of Aden, Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanem met with the UNICEF consultant, Dr. Ali Abbasy who is currently visiting Yemen. They discussed UNICEF projects carried out in Aden, particularly those in the field of health, social care, mother and child, etc. Dr. Abbasy expressed the UNICEF's readiness to support the social programs in this country.

### Al-Sorouri at Halaqa

A solo exhibition of paintings by Dr. Abduljalil Al-Sorouri will be held at the House of Halaqa in Sanaa from August 27 to September 3. The exhibition is expected to be inaugurated by the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr. Abdumalik Mansour. With an M.A. in oil painting and a Ph.D. in fine arts, Dr. Al-Sorouri is a pioneer Yemeni artist who took part in numerous art exhibitions around the world.

### President Postpones Visit to Canada

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was scheduled to pay an official visit to Canada starting today, 24th August, postponed the visit. According to Yemen Times sources, internal security considerations were responsible for the delay. No new date has been set.

### Gas in the Countryside

Organized by the Yemeni Gas Company (YGC) in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection Council, a seminar will be held during August 24-25. It will focus on introducing gas instead of firewood in the countryside.

### Presidential Elections Seminar

Al-Wahdawi weekly (mouthpiece of the People's Nasserite Unionist Organization) is organizing a special seminar on Sunday, August 30 at the Hadda Hotel in Sanaa. The main topic of discussion will be the presidential elections of 1999.

### New Newspaper in Town

Mr. Hassan Al-Udaini, former chief editor of Al-Wahdawi newspaper, mouthpiece of the Nasserite organization, is ready to launch a newspaper of his own. It is called Al-Ussoo' - The Week.

### Back to Square One

Yemen is slowly inching back to authoritarianism. The Council of Ministers has approved a draft of a law to 'guide' demonstrations. The draft is so restrictive that it is now dubbed the law to forbid demonstrations.

### Important Studies to Seminar on Violence

Eight different papers are to be presented to the seminar on "Violence in Yemen" sponsored by the Human Rights, Liberties and NGO Committee of the Consultative Council. Most of them address the social, psychological, tribal, and other reasons for the violence. In addition, specific violence against the state, women, children, etc. will be tabulated and addressed.

The seminar, to be held at the Center for Yemen Studies and Research during 26-27 August, will also offer possible solutions to the problems. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Committee, said the seminar brings together law enforcement bodies, legislators, and academicians. "We are interested in documenting the phenomenon and finding solutions."

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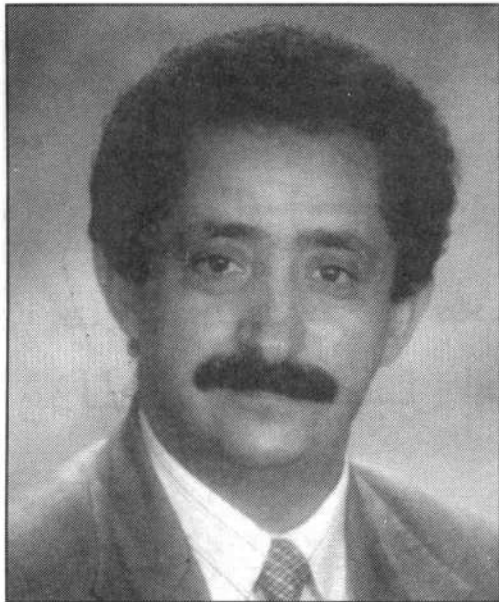
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# Taking a Stab at a Big Monster

Administrative reform is a key ingredient in our successful development process. Yemen's public sector - the so-called bureaucracy - is in urgent need of an overhaul. There is a heavy "heritage" of corruption and administrative irregularities which inflict a big cost on doing any kind of work in this country.

The reform package recommended by the World Bank and other donor organizations/countries is currently being implemented. Although it does not always run smoothly due to various considerations, this program is the lifeline for Yemen's future.

Mr. Hussain Al-Ahjuri, Deputy Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reform (Workforce and Training Sector), talked to Ismail Al-Ghabry of Yemen Times. Excerpts:



**Q: Could you tell us a bit about the Workforce and Training Sector at your ministry?**

**A:** This sector is one of the main components of the ministry's organizational structure. It is responsible for planning, managing, and developing the workforce in the various government bodies.

The Workforce and Training Sector is responsible for ascertaining the needs of the state for manpower. Training programs are formulated in coordination with the bodies concerned with planning, education and training to develop workers' abilities.

Our department is further responsible for collecting and analyzing data related to the country's workforce.

**Q: How are your sector's various tasks carried out?**

**A:** Unfortunately, the Workforce and Training Sector is not always able to successfully implement its tasks, as stipulated by the enacted laws and legislations. This is due to various reasons.

The strongest hindering factor is the overlap of responsibilities between our sector and other organs with somewhat similar duties. So the Workforce Sector is sometimes limited to doing

some executive and procedural tasks. These include:

- \* employment procedures for people outside the ministry's jurisdiction;
- \* preparing the workforce balance and communicating it to the civil service offices in the governorates;
- \* regulating the procedures of employing foreigners in the public and mixed sectors;
- \* organizing and redistributing the surplus workforce over various administrative units;
- \* analyzing statistics on new graduates and their specialties and informing the organs concerned with instituting employment balance;
- \* implementing the procedures for training people both in Yemen and abroad, especially employees of the health sector.

**Q: What are the tasks that face some problems during implementation?**

**A:** Other responsibilities which are not fully carried out by us due to the reasons I mentioned previously include analyzing the workforce, specifying the administrative training policies, and

coordinating with the relevant bodies. This is despite the fact that such tasks are stipulated by legislation to be our responsibility.

**Q: How many employees are there in the public administration sector?**

**A:** According to the results of an experimental survey conducted during June and July, there are around 405,000 employees in the public and mixed sectors.

**Q: Wages of public employees are not in tandem with the current cost of living. How can this situation be remedied?**

**A:** The government has been implementing a number of financial and monetary reform plans to produce tangible positive economic results. There is a strong will to go ahead with the financial and administrative reform program to try to eradicate the shortcomings plaguing the state's administrative system. On our part, concentrating on training and qualifying public

employees will help these people attain better posts and hence better standards of living.

**Q: Are there any plans to modernize the civil service system at all?**

**A:** An overall strategy for modernizing the civil service was prepared by the International Development Agency (IDA). This plan has covered the main elements needed for modernizing and developing the civil service in Yemen. It also includes the basic factors of a comprehensive reform process, targeting the workforce management. This project will be submitted to the National Conference to be fully studied and adapted to the situation in Yemen.

**Q: Could you tell us more about the National Conference you just mentioned?**

**A:** The National Conference on Administrative and Financial Reform and Development will be held during 25-29 August. It comes as the culmination of prior intensive efforts and planning by the executives of various relevant ministries. Plans are also being implemented to complete the general survey of public service and the general register.

The conference aims to enhance administrative reform and modernization through the following:

- creating public awareness of the importance of reform and modernization;
- focusing official and public

efforts on dealing with the requirements of the administrative reform;

- conducting a number of studies and formulating plans and executive programs for the reform package.

**Q: What will be the conference's main topics of discussion?**

**A:** There will be five main topics: 1- methodology and decision making in administrative reform and development; 2- evaluating and developing the elements of institutional structure within the framework of administrative reform and development; 3- developing management efficiency; 4- administrative environment conducive to private-sector investments; and 5- transparency of the administrative and financial system.

**Q: Are there any plans to lay-off some public employees by taking early retirement as part of the reform package?**

**A:** This issue has been discussed exhaustively by all relevant public organs. People who have either reached retirement age or finished the legal duration of their tenure will be encouraged to retire. They will be given various incentives such as full pensions and end-of-service rewards. Early retirement will also be encouraged to help down-size the over-staffed administrative system. Such people will be paid a whole year's salary and will be provided with training opportunities to start their own businesses.

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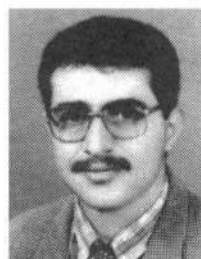
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## Bad Engineering or Bad Management?



It is raining cats and dogs these days almost all over Yemen. Many governorates have witnessed

heavy rains which have claimed the lives of many people and resulted in immense damage to livestock, topsoil and other material loss. Damage was also inflicted on farmlands, homes, roads, utilities and other infrastructure. In this respect, I am not able to calculate the exact cost of the damage because of the heavy rains and the resultant flash floods in many parts of the country. That is up to the government and other bodies.

But I want to ask some questions. Why do the streets of the capital Sanaa turn to rivers and lakes whenever we have rains? Why do dams, homes and streets collapse and break down? What is wrong with our engineering?

The ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning is the target of my questions. I think when we decide to build a house, a road or other construction, we should have a plan done by civil engineers.

Architectural professionals must give their okay before the project is carried out. The idea of how to drain off rain water from the streets should be taken into account beforehand. It is necessary to study the direction of water-flow and accordingly make routers for it. Dams and streets will not fall down if they are built well. Frankly speaking, one really feels ashamed of walking or driving on the streets of the capital. What a nice smell we get when sewerage are mixed with the waters of the rains!

Given the rise in the level of rain-water, one feels that he/she needs a boat rather a car to navigate through our streets. Unfortunately, it is a river of dirt and sewage. It is unbelievable to realize that so many cars have sunk. Where? In the streets of the capital. What fun?

On another count, Yemen is a country that suffers from shortage of water. Most of the cities of the country are at the grip of thirst. Therefore, many citizens who are bombarded with government statements about the water shortage in the country are bewildered that we are not doing much to utilize all this water pouring down.

It is high time the authorities did something to find a way-out to the problems caused by the heavy rains. We badly need a long-term

plan to the rain-floods. The contractor/s that build the streets of the capital, the sewer projects, and the dams that collapsed should be held accountable for a bad job.

That is one side of the problem. The other thing is that the municipality office has a share in the blame. It has not stopped the random construction of houses which are sometimes located on riverbeds and the way of torrent floods.

Finally, the concerned authority should do something to improve our streets. Our streets should be well built and clean. If this happens, we would be proud to call Sanaa a historical city or a city of civilization. Our words should go hand in hand with our actions.

I know some officials would complain there isn't enough money. If need be, our government can sell the thousands of cars of its officials and their families drive around, and thus congest our streets. It is actually better for them to walk on foot on clean and beautiful streets than to drive on filthy ones. Will the people in charge learn a good lesson and do something now. We shall wait and see.

By: Mohammed H. Al-Qadhi  
Assistant Managing Editor  
Yemen Times

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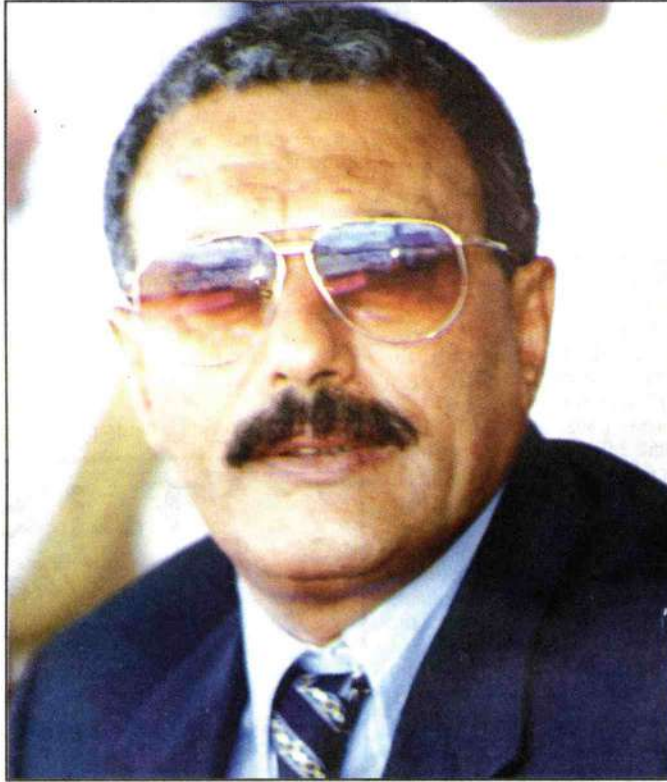
# كنديان أوكسيدنتال پتروليم المحدودة

ترحب

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# Yemen's 20th Century Wars



By: Dr. Salah Haddash,  
Managing Editor, Y.T.

War is a state of extended violence launched by one or more states on another. Many people have suffered worldwide from wars. Fortunately, humanity has reached many agreements and treaties in order to avoid wars and minimize their damage. The 20th century has been especially hard as it witnessed two global wars and many many local and regional conflicts. We in Yemen have had our fair share. There have been too many violent events which have taken place on Yemen's territory - both North & South. This article will highlight some of the major events.

### 1) Imam & the Ottomans:

The second Ottoman domination of the northern part of Yemen extended between 1872 and 1918. There were many revolts and wars against the Turks. Yahya, who was chosen as Imam

in 1905, had led a war against the Ottomans since 1904. He continued until 1910 with the signing the Da'an Treaty in 1911.

### 2) First World War

The First World War had an impact on Yemen since the Ottomans, who were in the north, fought the British in the south. Their forces advanced right down to Lahaj when the armistice was signed.

### 3) Imam & the British :

The northern part of Yemen (the Mutawakilita Kingdom of Yemen) gained its independence in 1919. Imam Yahya, the ruler of this kingdom, began to expand his authority over the different parts of Yemeni tribes and their territories. The main motive of his expansion was to re-establish a great kingdom on the territory known since ancient times as "Yemen". Military clashes took place between the Imam's army and the British forces on the border, which was demarcated by the Ottoman (north) and the British (south). This war was terminated by signing a treaty of friendship and cooperation in 1934.

### 4) Second World War

Italian war planes bombarded British positions in South Yemen, particularly in and around Aden. Many civilian Yemenis died or were injured.

### 5) Imam & Saudi Arabia:

King Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia was out to create a great kingdom of his own. His expansions came in conflict with Imam Yahya. A

war broke out between Yemen and Saudi Arabia over a dispute on the territories of Asir, Najran and Jaizan. This was terminated in 1934 by signing the Treaty of Tayif, which is supposed to be renewable every 20 hijri years.

### 6) Imam and The British (Shabwa, Al-Baidah, Harib):

For the second time, the Yemeni Imam and the British fought a war on the border. This was because the border line which separated north and south Yemen was not clearly demarcated in the 1934 treaty. The second reason was oil. This dispute was resolved by the London Conference of 1951.

### 7) Republicans vs. Royalists (1962-1970):

On 26 September 1962, a group of Yemeni army officers called the "Yemeni Free Officers" took power in North Yemen. They abolished the monarchy and proclaimed a republic. This event led to a war between Yemeni Republicans, supported by Egypt, and the Royalists who were supported by Saudi Arabia. This war started in 1962. A national reconciliation terminated it in 1970.

### 8) War of Liberation (1963-1967):

The National Front for the Liberation of South Yemen (NFLOS) started a war of independence. It fought British colonial rule. This guerrilla war started on 14th October 1963, and continued until 30 November 1967 when South Yemen became independent, and a new state was established.

Another organization - Front for the Liberation of South Yemen (FLOS) - was established in 1964 and waged war against the British.

### 9) South Yemen & Saudi Arabia (1968):

In 1968, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fought a war on a border dispute. This area, called Wadia'a, was occupied by Saudi Arabia. South Yemen lost the war because it gained independence only a year earlier, on 30 November 1967. There were also internal disputes among different political groups such as the Front for Liberation of South Yemen (FLOS) and the traditional political forces such as the Federation of South Arabia, supported by Saudi Arabia. All these factors led to the defeat of South Yemen in defending the region of Wadia'a.

### 10) South Yemen & Oman:

The National Front for the Liberation of South Yemen (NFLOS) and the Popular Front for the liberation of Oman (PFLO) espoused to the same ideology, the Movement of the Arab Nationalists. They were supporting each other for ideological reasons.

When the NFLOS took power in South Yemen and became the ruling political party, it started supporting the guerrillas led by the PFLO, which operated in the mountains of Dhofar, a border region in Oman. This situation led to a direct clash between the People's Democratic Republic of

Yemen and Oman. The latter was supported by the British, then by Iran.

### 11) North & South (1972):

In 1972, a war broke out between the two independent Yemeni states. In this war North Yemen occupied the Island of Kamaran in the Red Sea, which had been under British rule and was transferred to South Yemen. This war was terminated by signing a treaty, under the auspices of the Arab League, to achieve Yemeni unity.

### 12) North & South (1979):

A second war between the two Yemeni states broke out in 1979. This war was terminated by signing an agreement between the two states in Kuwait, stipulating follow-up for achieving Yemeni Unity.

### 13) Saudi Arabia & Unified Yemen:

The Tayif Treaty of 1934 between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, stipulated renewal every 20 years. However, the two neighbors failed to achieve that. Military clashes and border skirmishes between the two countries never stopped, especially since the achievement of the Yemeni unity on 22 May, 1990. The dispute between the two countries concerning their common border is still not completely resolved.

### 14) Eritrea & Yemen (1995):

In 1995, Eritrea occupied the Greater Hunaish Island, leading to limited military clashes between the two countries. The

reason for this conflict was that both parties were claiming sovereignty over the island.

Fortunately, they reached an agreement to solve this dispute through international arbitration, which will announce its decision later this year.

### CONCLUSION:

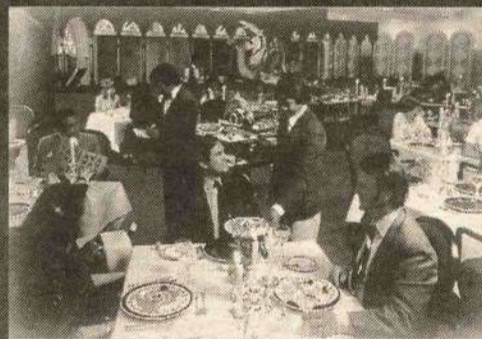
Yemen suffered from several wars during the 20th century - a war every seven years. Most of these wars were terminated by signing an agreement. Who won or lost in those wars is no longer a relevant question. The important thing is that peace must be seen as important enough to warrant tolerance and negotiations.

Most of the wars and conflicts were caused by border disputes. Fortunately, Yemen can only as many neighbors. With Oman, the border has been finalized; with Eritrea, arbitration has been agreed-upon, and talks with Saudi Arabia continue. Therefore, it is now possible Yemen will not need to suffer from another border war in the future. Yet, some of Yemen's wars - even some vicious ones - have been civil wars. Unfortunately, there are no guarantees that this will not happen again.

The democratic system and the acceptance of the concept of peaceful transfer of authority will help. Provided, of course, we learn how to play the game in earnest, and not as a show.

It is my sincere hope that Yemenis will recognize that we have had our fair share of wars.

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This is an *OPINION* page.

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

## What It Takes... for Democracy to Succeed in Yemen

**Dr. Fouad Jaleel Al-Salahi,**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology,  
Sanaa University



sents an opportunity for social and political forces to come into the open. The process of democratization is a transitional period between two important periods in the development of the modern Yemeni state. It accompanied the unification of the country; both events are qualitative leaps in the Yemeni political system and state towards political pluralism and unity.

So Yemen's political transformation comes within the overall world democratic changes. This is despite the fact that adopting democracy in Yemen was not a voluntary act, but was dictated by the accumulation of crises in both former Yemeni states. For such a transformation to succeed, however, it must be based on a number of essential factors.

### Basic Factors

Yemeni society at present is not entirely democratic, but is on its way to become so. The success of this process must rely on certain establishmentarian, legal, political, economic, social and cultural structures. Without such structures, the whole edifice will collapse.

Laws limit the state's authority and guarantee individual rights and liberties. Establishment building and law enforcement are

liable to restrict the authority of individuals and interest groups, and consolidate the activities and legal status of civil society establishments.

The success of democracy in Yemen also depends on adopting a civil culture and set of values that form democracy's framework of knowledge. Both the ruling authority and the opposition must undergo an intellectual and political renewal. They have to open up to the values of democracy, human rights, equality, civil liberty, tolerance, political pluralism, etc. These values must be promulgated through society and its educational and cultural establishments. Members of society must be brought up on the values of democracy and its culture.

Since the regulatory concept of political liberalism is respect of human rights - political, economic and social. Democracy must grow and develop within society before it becomes a real political practice. It certainly cannot be built in a day, nor is it a grant by the rulers. It grows to become integrated in establishments, values and attitudes. It is a process of gradual maturity for the people and the rulers alike.

All of the above requires the development of a culture of democracy, to be promulgated within basic sociological con-

stituents of the state - civil society establishments. These establishments represent society at large and form channels of political participation and enhancement of popular support. Civil society institutions also include local authority organs with which the general public interact daily.

For a country to be truly democratic, its people must have the right and freedom to choose their government through regular free and fair elections within a system of political pluralism. Democracy is a major process to be activated by both society and the state in an equal partnership.

### Traditionalism & Tribalism

Since the Yemeni society is generally characterized by traditionalism and solid tribal allegiances, the state has to modernize society's infrastructure. Modern institutions and their laws must become deeply rooted within the society in order to create a social and cultural environment supportive of modernization and democratization.

The state must also activate the citizens' participation, politically, economically, and socially. Collective loyalty must be focused on the state itself. And a symbolic framework for the Yemeni personality should be created to represent the society's national identity and characteristics. To successfully achieve this goal, the Yemeni state must become a melting pot for all individuals to help put an end to the multiplicity of tribal allegiances that contravene loyalty to the central authority. The weakness of the state and its legal mechanisms will eventually lead to re-creating the traditional establishments and imposing their authority. The diminishing of the state's central authority can lead to violence and political instability. The latest developments in Mareb and Al-Jawf are a good example on that.

So a modern state, based on constitutional legitimacy and public majority, is the essential factor in building a true democracy where people can positively interact with the state through the civil society institutions.

### Popular Participation

The democracy that allows full public participation is the best means to overcome the culture of violence and corruption,

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### Transformation in Yemen

In this context, the democratic transformation in Yemen repre-

sents an opportunity for social and political forces to come into the open. The process of democratization is a transitional period between two important periods in the development of the modern Yemeni state. It accompanied the unification of the country; both events are qualitative leaps in the Yemeni political system and state towards political pluralism and unity.

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All of the above requires the development of a culture of democracy, to be promulgated within basic sociological con-

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Since the Yemeni society is generally characterized by traditionalism and solid tribal allegiances, the state has to modernize society's infrastructure. Modern institutions and their laws must become deeply rooted within the society in order to create a social and cultural environment supportive of modernization and democratization.

The state must also activate the citizens' participation, politically, economically, and socially. Collective loyalty must be focused on the state itself. And a symbolic framework for the Yemeni personality should be created to represent the society's national identity and characteristics. To successfully achieve this goal, the Yemeni state must become a melting pot for all individuals to help put an end to the multiplicity of tribal allegiances that contravene loyalty to the central authority. The weakness of the state and its legal mechanisms will eventually lead to re-creating the traditional establishments and imposing their authority. The diminishing of the state's central authority can lead to violence and political instability. The latest developments in Mareb and Al-Jawf are a good example on that.

So a modern state, based on constitutional legitimacy and public majority, is the essential factor in building a true democracy where people can positively interact with the state through the civil society institutions.

The democracy that allows full public participation is the best means to overcome the culture of violence and corruption,

which depend on practices that oppose the state and its laws. Corruption creates groups of narrow interests and allegiances, the loyalty to which is the "passport" to senior public employment.

Therefore democracy with its fairness, constructive criticism and freedom of the press helps uncover erroneous practices and give ordinary citizens the right to independent self-expression and criticism. A citizen of a democratic state has the independent ability of acquiring information that far exceeds the information given or imposed by the state. Thus a citizen will have the freedom to learn, think and benefit from the experiences of others and be able to compare his or her state's performance with others. Therefore, freedom of information dissemination is a crucial condition for a true democracy. It gives the citizens the ability to make an informed decision.

Democracy is not a façade. It is a structure of institutions, values and attitudes. Since the Yemeni society has no heritage of democratic practices, its modern civil forces must work to amass the powers of liberalism and openness as supports for Yemen's democratic transformation. The civil society institutions form a focal point for the forces of modernism. Any modern concept must rely on a public will and

supportive forces.

### Economic Prosperity

Democracy's success also requires more economic growth to create employment opportunities and an acceptable level of living for the people. Every citizen must have an employment opportunity to be able to live with dignity.

Thus democracy creates a suitable and supportive environment. Political liberalism encourages social flexibility and helps dismantle old or traditional groups and affiliations. Moreover, it vitalizes political participation.

### Conclusion

Democratic transformation in Yemen will not succeed without certain number of factors: institutional and legal structure of the state, activating civil society institutions, active political and popular participation, economic growth and reducing unemployment. In addition to all that, the values and of democracy and civil culture must be promulgated, based on political plurality, equality, tolerance, and dialogue.

The modern Yemeni state to survive, it has no choice but to continue modernizing its institutions and to embrace democracy. In this only can it make the safe and successful transition into the next century.

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# How Yemeni Families Spend their Money

The family budget of many Yemeni households, especially those with fixed and low incomes, take quite a trick to handle. Limited income growth options coupled with a continuous rise in the cost of living resulted in a marked deterioration in the standard of living. In an attempt to find out more about this issue, Tareq Rashid of Yemen Times went out on the road. He fielded the following questions to random selection of breadwinners:

- \* How do you spend your salary?
- \* Do you save any money at all?
- \* Do you see yourself living on bare necessities or above average?
- \* Does your wife work and contribute towards the family budget?

Here are sample answers:

**1. Sameer Nasser, 31, government employee, receives YR 8,000 a month. He is married to a school teacher. They have one child.**  
"We live in a rented house, costing us YR 9,000 a month. My wife works at a public school for YR 10,000 a month. She hands over all her salary to me, out of her own free will.  
"In addition to the house rent, the electricity bills cost us about YR 800 a month, the water bill comes to YR 500 a month. We pay about YR 1,800 for transport. What is left from our salaries, we spend on food and other household demands.  
"Each month we buy a tin of powdered milk at YR 1,400 and baby diapers at YR 1,500. If we get ill, we borrow money for medical treatment from our relatives. I chew qat, but only when I work overtime.  
"Due to the hard economic circumstances, we are not ready to have any more children. We cannot save any money at all. Actually what we earn is not enough for the bare necessities."

**2. Ahmed Saleh, 40, a café owner. He is married and has 5 children. His monthly income is YR 20,000.**  
"I'm the sole breadwinner for my family, so my income barely covers our needs. Fortunately, we own the house in which we live, but still the bills for electricity, water, etc., is more than YR 1,500 a month. The children's needs, the household demands and other basic expenditures are biting into our budget.  
"I give my wife YR 300 daily to buy the household necessities of the day. I give each of my children YR 20 per day as pocket money. Also, I pay for their education expenses, such as stationary and school uniforms. I send YR 1,000 monthly to my parents in the village.  
"Sometimes we have to travel to my village, a thing that costs us too much money. Therefore, I save nothing from my income. I think in this country, fixed and low-income people are primary victims of

the government reforms."

**3. S.A Yasser, 40, a pilot with a salary of YR 300,000 a month. He is married, has 2 children.**  
"We live in a villa in Hadda for which I pay YR 25,000. The electricity and water bills cost me about YR 3,000 monthly. We spend almost YR 40,000 every month for food and household needs. My children go to private schools and each one of them gets YR 2,000 per month as pocket money. Generally speaking, I spend YR 20,000 for my children's education including the school fees, uniforms and books.  
"We sometimes buy luxury items and expensive clothes. We travel every year to Europe or to the Far East (possibly because pilots gets free tickets). I keep about YR 50,000 out of my monthly salary to meet with any emergencies. What is left of my salary is deposited in my bank account. I expect to have my own house in the near future."

**4. Ismail Ali, 33, works at a private company for YR 40,000. He is married and has 2 children.**  
"We live in a modest rented apartment costing YR 12,000. My wife is a school teacher with a salary of YR 12,000 a month, but she does not make any financial contribution towards the family budget. I spend about YR 15,000 per month to meet the daily household needs and YR 3,000 for my children's requirements. That covers pocket money and school demands. What is left from my salary, we spend on our annual holidays in Aden."

I talked to Ismail's wife about the family budget. She said, "I'm not supposed to delve into my purse to pay for the expenditures of the household. My husband must not have control over my financial resources since Islam has guaranteed the right of women to be financially independent."

**5. Mrs. A. Najji, 35, is an engineer with a salary**

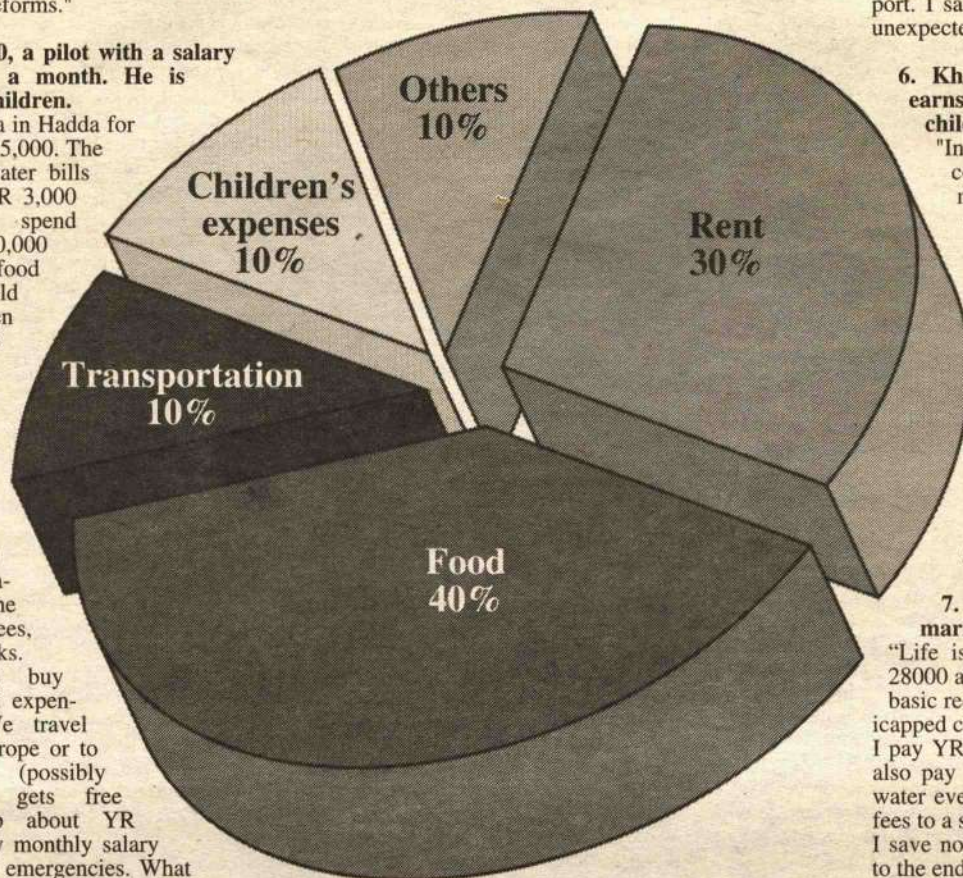
## Women & Children First

"We have had enough of being seen as no more than reproductive machines, just about good enough to produce children and bring them up." The strength of Ahlam Ahmed Almutawahle, words make people sit up and listen, and the men present at the seminar organized by the General Federation of Trade Unions know better than to venture a joke. In the unions, women are given their say and they make the most of it. But there is a long way to go. Hidden behind her black veil, through which only her eyes are visible, Ahlam does not mince her words. "We have good laws, but the power of tradition and the family are the real obstacles to women's emancipation," she insists. Figures hear her out. While 58% of men are in paid work, only 15% of women are. "Women are not considered an economic force, even though the majority of them work in agriculture, they are simply not paid and to add insult to injury their contribution is not taken into account in the national GDP statistics," notes Samra Al-Shaibani, who has just joined the new office for the promotion of women, created by the Ministry of Labour. Education, Health and Family Planning are to be the government's priorities. A mammoth task given that 80% of women are illiterate (as compared to 35% of men), that the mortality rate in child birth is 10 in 1,000 and that the average fertility rate is 7.5.  
The most difficult challenge will be to change attitudes in a country where macho traditions are firmly rooted. Such traditions are also used to justify child labour, a serious handicap to the future of the country. "In some regions of the country, nearly 75% of children do not go to school," says Raufa Hasan, professor at the university of Yemen. There are few statistics on the subject. The Labour Ministry speaks of 6% of the working population,

while the US State Department puts the figure at 114,000 children, in 1994. But you only have to walk the streets of Sana'a to see the extent of the problem.  
Along Revolution avenue which crosses the capital, hundreds of children accost potential customers, trying to sell bottles of water, packets of paper tissues, soap, etc. At the traffic lights they offer to clean drivers' windscreens, or for a few riyals to wash their car if they can park nearby. Close to the factories there are even more children who have come in from the countryside with cart loads of oranges. In the old town, the market is teeming with small boys selling few things here and antiques there. The contrast is striking when just one hundred meters away, the women walk in uniform, hand in hand as they leave the main school in the town center to where their parents are waiting for them.  
"When we repeat to our girls, generation after generation that their first duty is to become good wives and to our sons they must support their parents who have no social protection, we're threatening the very future of our country," warns Raufa Hasan. The Yemenite trade unions have placed the promotion of women and the battle against child labour at the top of their priorities. "It is not only a question of democracy and justice," a trade unionist told us, "it is a question of survival."

By Luc Demart

[This article appeared in the April, 1998 issue of the 'Trade Union World' published by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), Brussels.]



port. I save about YR 1,000 a month to meet any unexpected emergencies."

**6. Khaled Aman, 28, a government clerk, earns YR 8,000 a month. He is married, no children.**

"In Yemen, the average income now hardly covers the bare necessities. Although I and my wife work, yet our monthly income does not cover our needs for the whole month.

"We pay YR 9,000 monthly for the rent and YR 1,000 for the electricity and water. My wife works for YR 9,000 a month and makes regular contributions by buying food, clothes and cooking utensils. So we are left with about YR 7,000 to live on.

"We do not wish to have children at this present time, because our salaries do not satisfy all our needs. I sometimes have to borrow money from the ministry in which I work, to be deducted from my salary afterwards."

**7. Ismail Al-Ghabry, 37. Journalist. He is married and has five children.**

"Life is getting from hard to worse. I get YR 28000 a month. This is hardly enough to cover my basic requirements, especially since I have a handicapped child.

I pay YR 8000 for the house's rent every month. I also pay YR 1200 for electricity and YR 500 for water every month. In addition, I pay YR 4,000 in fees to a special school for retarded children.

I save nothing. Actually, I end up borrowing close to the end of the month.

My wife does not work. I am the sole breadwinner. I also have responsibilities towards my old parents, whom I try to help every now and then.

**of YR 11,000 per month. She is a widow with 4 children.**

"I'm the sole breadwinner for my family since my husband died 6 years ago. Life in Yemen is actually going from bad to worse and what I earn is hardly enough to cover my family's daily expenses. However, we live in our own house, so we face no problems concerning housing. I pay YR 1,500 monthly for the electricity and water bills. About YR 9,000 is spent each month on food. I work in the afternoons for YR 10,000 so I give my children pocket money. We spend almost YR 1,500 on trans-

In conclusion, it is clear that most of the middle to low income people of Yemen find it difficult to make ends meet. Food expenses take up about 40% of total income; rent takes up about 30%, transportation about 10%, children's expenses (education and allowances) another 10%, and the balance goes to other expenditures.

By: Tariq Rashed, Yemen Times

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# SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN



## Introduction:

To abuse somebody is a crime, whether they be young or old. Abuse is common around the world, yet it's still kept a secret in more ways than many. There is physical abuse and mental abuse, also harassment in general.

What about child abuse? It is very common yet there is no remedy for this form of evil doing. This is often referred to as "child molesting." More times than many, the actual abusers are never found out.

Millions of young children face this hideous crime everyday, yet they're kept silent. We've all suffered various degrees of abuse at one point in our lives, whether mentally or physically. Nobody has ever lived a perfect life.

Some people, especially young children, are abused day after day. Early reports and well formed assessments have confirmed that abused children often grow up to be abusers them-

selves. Victims of abuse, especially child abuse and sexual harassment, give out rather vivid signs and one can notice a troubled person simply by the way they talk and the way they behave.

## Awareness:

When people are abused, again especially children, a wall of silence is erected between the victim and the rest of the world. Trust is no longer a good thing, for these people find it impossible to ever trust another person again. This is simply because of the fear of being ridiculed, blamed, rejected or disrespected.

Children find it particularly difficult to talk about their ordeals. They generally try to forget it, but seeing that it does not just go away, they find other possible ways to deal with it. They have various ways of dealing with these problems such as being aggressive, violent, or anti-social. This is rather sad, seeing that most of these children are so badly abused mentally that it affects their academic studies and future lives. Their concentration on any thing considered important gradually disappears, leaving a trail of other family, educational and social problems.

Most abusers are never found out, while the big time abusers carry on their disgusting deeds for decades. Only in recent years in Yemen, the media has uncovered a few cases of child abuse.

Just recently a Yemeni weekly reported the case of a drug addicted father who raped his daughter several times and made her pregnant. He then took her

away to another town to give birth to the baby, which he killed instantly. The daughter then reported her father to the authorities. Upon knowing about this tragedy, her brother killed their father and surrendered himself to the police.

There was another more widely reported case that almost led to a tribal war. It was the case of four men who raped an 11-year-old boy whose tribe demanded immediate retribution. Although one of the men was sentenced to death and each of the three others to 10 years imprisonment, the boy's tribe demanded that all four should be executed. They blocked roads and threatened the authorities with grave consequences. The case continues.

## Physical & Mental Ordeal:

Physical abuse has a great effect on the victim in the long run. Children in particular would become either aggressive or introverted. Even at that age they would seem to be more able to abuse or bully other children. Or they would become an even easier target to get bullied themselves, being quiet and withdrawn from the rest of the children. Victims of abuse, generally lack all the things that they would normally have not.

Basically, the physical symptoms of abuse can be difficulty in sleeping, loss of appetite, lethargy, and lack of physical energy. Abuse victims would often become the total opposite of what they were originally.

If their case is brought to light, victims of this crime are faced with the ordeal of having to


explain all to a doctor, carrying out tests and examinations, etc. It is certainly not a favorable position for anybody to be in. If these victims choose not to go to a doctor and keep it a secret then they're faced with the problem of fear and anxiety, considering all the deadly diseases they may have contracted.

This aspect of abuse certainly affects the mind, in more ways than many. Victims are mentally disturbed for a very long time. Loneliness afflicts them simply because they feel they have to be alone for as long as possible. It is hard to forget about such ordeals; therefore, these victims see no option but to refrain from all human contact. This may even destroy their marital life in years to come.

## Conclusion:

People will always get abused, there is no strength to stop this. And the abusers also don't stop their evil. But nobody ever stops to think of the victims, especially the children. Can we really imagine what effect this is having on them? They have nobody to confide in and nobody to turn to. Abuse makes an indelible mark on their minds.

You can't ignore a tragedy can you? Young children grow up to be totally different from what they were originally. Is it fair to change somebody's life unwillingly. The abusers most of the time feel no regret and show no remorse for what they have done and probably will continue to do. This is a world wide crisis. What gives somebody the right to abuse another person, who gave them



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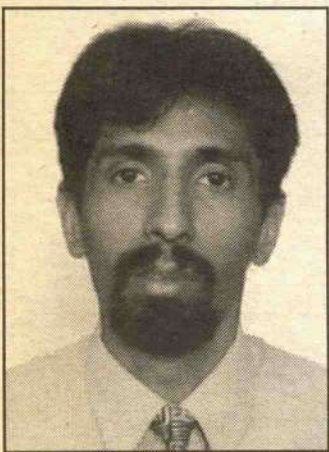
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permission to do so? I'm not just referring to physical abuse. It's mental and verbal abuse as well, which are just equally as bad. Now I leave something for the abusers themselves: What if it were you?  
 By: Ms. Waffa Alawi Nasser, Yemen Times.

## Your Eyes & the Computer Screen



For the past 8 years, computers have been and still are playing an important role in Yemen. More and more medical, business and commercial centers now have at least one system installed for their respective needs. You now have computer programmers, computer engineers, office and home computer operators who work with the computer screen almost everyday. They, for the whole day, victimize themselves unknowingly to various physical and musculo-skeletal problems, to allergic manifestations as skin rashes, headaches and eyestrain problems that include tiredness, irritation, soreness and a sensitivity to light.

Problems such as these can reduce the efficiency of computer operators. Errors are likely to increase as well as increased absence through sickness. In this article I aim at giving a

few tips to employers and VDU [visual display unit] users who experience some of the symptoms listed above as to how they can overcome these problems.

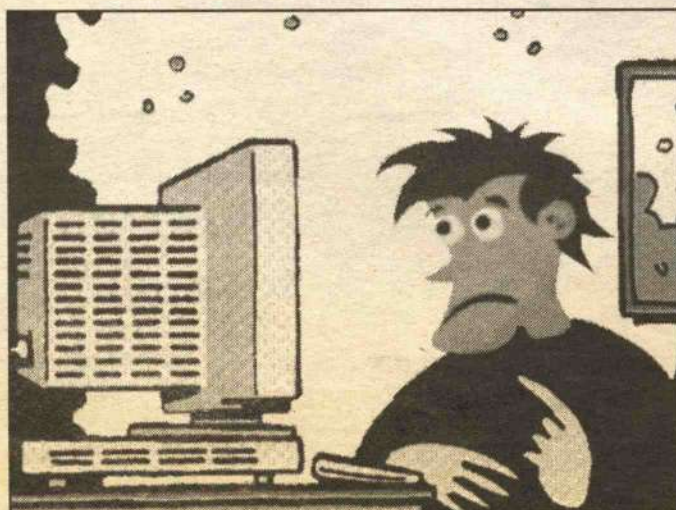
Computer screen users are more prone to eyestrain than the average worker. The most common causes are fault on focusing the eye due to not wearing prescribed spectacles, the eyes not working "as a team," incorrect positioning of the documents, unsuitable lighting, poorly designed work area, flicker on the VDU, lack of adequate maintenance and poor placing of the VDU and the keyboard, but most importantly, a smoky environment.

All of these can be corrected by giving more attention to the work area and by regularly visiting to an ophthalmic practitioner (OP),

not an ophthalmologist, who should do a ten point eye examination and advise with the appropriate measures to be taken.

Ideally employers should provide their employees who use a VDU with an appropriate eye test which should be carried out by an OP. Since here in Yemen there is a lack of ophthalmic practitioners, I myself have designed a computer program in England which can be installed on a personal computer. It provides some tests that can be performed by the operator on the computer screen itself, grade the performance, and decide whether a further ophthalmic referral is required.

**Mustafa Hasson,**  
 MBCO MCOptom BSc (hons),  
 London.



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# SEDU Goes in Full Gear

A lot of emphasis has been put lately on small projects and enterprises. One of the international donor agencies aims to reduce unemployment by encouraging and training people to start their own small business to be able to provide themselves and their families with a stable income.

To find out more about this topic, Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times talked to Mr. Abdulmalik Al-Iryani, the Manager of the Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU), and filed the following interview:



**Q: What do we mean by "small enterprises"?**

**A:** Internationally different definitions are being used. In some countries an enterprise is considered as "small" when it has a maximum of 5 employees. In other cases one looks at the amount of total investment in the small company and considers less than US\$ 10,000 total investment as small. The SEDU is rather flexible on this issue. We will not finance projects where the total investment cost exceeds the equivalent of US\$ 200,000 (YR 27 million). Smaller projects we will generally accept if they are good projects.

We have 2 loan programs:

1- Micro Lending Program, with a minimum loan size of YR 15,000 and maximum loan size of YR 50,000.

2- Small Lending Program, with a minimum loan size of YR 50,000 to a maximum of YR 4 billion.

**Q: What is SEDU's background?**

**A:** SEDU started operations in 1990 as a small independent unit with support from the Netherlands government and the United Nations.

**Q: What kind of services does SEDU provide?**

**A:** One service is the Micro Lending Program, where the minimum loan size is YR 15,000 and the maximum loan size YR 50,000. However, it costs a lot of time to explain banking business to people who are unfamiliar with lending.

We are preparing to replace the individual micro scheme with a new scheme where we will work together with NGOs, business associations or other organizations. Such organizations can help SEDU with the formation of groups of very small entrepreneurs and provide them with training and assist

in supervision. SEDU will then come in with individual loans of YR 15,000 to 50,000 to members of a trained group.

There is also the Small Lending Program, with a minimum loan size of YR 50,000 to a maximum of YR 4 million. This is SEDU's basic lending program, where we assist small entrepreneurs who cannot get loans from normal commercial banks.

SEDU staff assists its clients with the loan application and the formulation of the entrepreneur's business plan, but we hope to find other organizations or small consultancy firms in the private sector who can provide this assistance to entrepreneurs.

**Q: What is SEDU's relation with NGOs?**

**A:** In the past there was little contact with NGOs and other such organizations. In view of our new micro lending program we have started discussions with a few organizations and hope to enlarge this effort. We are seeking contact with strong NGOs, business associations or other well and financially healthy organizations with whom we want to work together, aiming to provide micro loans to very small entrepreneurs.

We will use models that have been used successfully in other countries, being careful to adjust these to Yemeni circumstances. SEDU will provide the loans and our partner organization will assist in the formation, training and supervision of the groups. In line with the positive experience elsewhere, we will start this program with women entrepreneurs in particular. We want to emphasize, however, that we are talking about providing loans to entrepreneurs which must be repaid. We are not talking about hand-outs to women who want to feed their children. There are other organizations who are working in the social field.

**Q: What are the number and amount of loans already given by the SEDU?**

**A:** At the end of 1997, SEDU had over 600 loans outstanding to a value of YR 252 million (20% more than the year before).

In 1997 SEDU disbursed 216 loans to a value of YR 107 million. Of the 216 loans, 34% went to women entrepreneurs and 11% to returning immigrants. The distribution per loan size in the same year shows 50% of the number of loans were micro loans below YR 50,000; 29% were loans from YR

51,000 to YR 500,000 and 21% above YR 500,000.

**Q: Who is financing SEDU?**

**A:** SEDU is receiving support from the Netherlands government and the United Nations and is to a small degree funding its activities from its own resources. As donors insist on SEDU moving towards self sufficiency and profitability, we must aim at generating more income ourselves, whilst strictly controlling our cost. In the longer term SEDU should also generate its own funds for on-lending to its customers.

**Q: What are the SEDU's sectoral lending activities?**

**A:** In 1997 SEDU has been providing 26% of the number of loans to the sewing & knitting sector, 11% to the food & beverages sector, 11% to maintenance workshops, 5% to the wood sector and other loans to a wide variety of activities.

**Q: What sort of difficulties does the SEDU face?**

**A:** Many loan applicants are not quite familiar with the lending process and require a substantial amount of time in explaining lending procedures and assistance with their loan application. The tendency of some Yemenis to be impatient and who expect that they can come in and walk out again with money in their pockets, sometimes requires some explanation. It would therefore be of considerable help if other projects could be created to provide business advisory services to small entrepreneurs. We understand that with German assistance such a project may be forthcoming. We are looking forward to the starting up of this and possibly other such initiatives.

Another area of concern is the slow progress in case legal action for loan recovery is required.

**Q: What are the SEDU's future plans?**

**A:** In March of this year, SEDU has opened its first branch office in Aden and hopes to open a second office in Hodeida this month. We hope to open another branch office later this year or in early 1999 in Mukallah. The purpose is to make it easier for our clients to come to SEDU without having to travel to Sanaa. At the same time this will make it easier and cheaper for SEDU staff to visit their projects.

As said before we want to re-introduce our micro lending program in co-operation with well-organized NGOs and other organizations.

With Dutch assistance we are giving a fresh impetus to staff training, reviewing of our own organization and procedures and improving our computerized administration system. We are very happy with the resumption of the Dutch assistance and the financial support of the United Nations.

We are also thinking of taking the process of decentralization a step further with the opening of a branch office in Taiz. Another thought is the creation of many small offices in places like Dhamar, Shibam, Hajjah, Zabid, Ibb, Lahij, etc. provided we think sufficient business can be generated in those places to make sure offices are profitable.

**Q: What is needed for the future?**

**A:** We would like to see more emphasis on the creation of projects that can provide business advisory services to small entrepreneurs or assistance to small private consultancy firms who want to become active in this field.

SEDU is happy with current donor support, but may have difficulty in financing the infrastructure needs for a further branch office in Taiz and particularly the setting up of a network of small offices throughout the country. This latter effort will also require a massive training effort of new staff. We can provide the training, but employing and training staff who will be unproductive for some 6 months represents a considerable expense for which donor support would be most welcome.

Finally we are discussing our own legal status. If we would become more independent from the government, we would be able to put up our own staff policies, be more independent with regard to our operations and procedures and would possibly be able to attract foreign partners. If we want to survive in the future we should be able to set our own policies, work on a commercial basis and be a profitable organization in our own right. Then in the future we can assist small entrepreneurs independently on the basis of Yemeni resources without the need of outside donor support.

Classification by sector

Sector	97-I	97-II	Total	% of Total
Wood	4	7	11	5%
Sewing & knitting	19	37	56	26%
Metal	2	2	4	2%
Building materials		5	5	2%
Food & beverages	4	19	23	11%
Leather			0	0%
Handicrafts		5	5	2%
Maintenance	3	20	23	11%
Medical Services		6	6	3%
Upholstery		1	1	0%
Animal feed	1		1	0%
Chemicals	1	1	2	1%
Printing & publishing	1	3	4	2%
Others	11	64	75	35%
TOTAL:	46	170	216	100%

## New Batch of Seminaries Graduates

A ceremony was held at the Al-Badar Mosque and Scholastic and Cultural Center in Sanaa to celebrate the graduation of 750 seminary students at the end of a three-month summer course. About 250 of the students are boarders. Al-Badar Center is associated with the revivalist movement of the Zaidi sect in Yemen.

The event was attended by Brigadier Yahya Al-Mutawakil; the Governor of Sanaa, Mr. Hussain Al-Miswari; Sheikh Mohammed Mohammed Al-Mansour and Sheikh Hamoud Al-Moaid, Deputy Mufti of Yemen.

The students attended lectures in Quran recitation, theoretical and practical jurisprudence, religious duties, Arabic language, public speaking, computer, health, sport, gardening, and handicrafts. The graduation ceremony was started with recitation of the Holy Quran and the Prophet's sayings, followed by poetry,



religious chanting, and talks by some of the prominent guests and the center's director, Dr. Al-Murtadha Bin Zaid Al-Mohatwari. A typical student's day at Al-Badar Center starts with the dawn prayers, followed by Quranic studies, sport exercises, breakfast and the regular lessons. There are also recreational activities such as video shows and light lectures. After the noon prayers, the students have lunch, take a rest, perform the afternoon prayers

and have some time for reading books. Dr. Al-Mohatwari usually gives an evening lecture on various topics.

The evening prayers are followed by supper, recapping on the morning's lessons and going to sleep at 10pm.

Dr. Al-Mohatwari told Yemen Times: "Thank God, the students have become honorable examples of human beings. They now better understand their life and religion. They are more tolerant and understanding of others. They love their country and fellow citizens, respect their responsibilities and understand their rights."

Mohammed Bin Sallam,  
Yemen Times



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# Yemen has yet to wake up to the world of the internet

Khalid Mohammed Al-Dahbany, 37, holds an MA in information Technology Systems from the UK.

He worked as a researcher at the Educational Research Center and a lecturer at Science & Technology University for 5 years. Then he moved to TeleYemen where he now works as an Internet product controller responsible for everything related to the Internet and customers.

Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Assistant Managing Editor of Yemen Times talked to him about his work and the growth of this sector in the country.

**Q) Could you give us an idea about the Internet in Yemen?**

A) The Internet in Yemen was first introduced in 1996 with 176 customers only. The process is going on and we now have 1545 customers and we have 32 home pages hosted at the TeleYemen server. The main server was installed in Sana'a and the company is thinking of installing another one in Aden in the near future.

**Q) What kind of customers do you have, especially pages?**

A) Most pages are for newspapers, organizations, commercial companies, etc. The first newspaper to come on-line was the Yemen Times. Today, there are many more newspapers like Al Mithaq, Al Shura, Ra'i, 26th September, etc.

**Q) Some customers prefer to have home pages in America, why?**

A) I don't really know, they can actually get the service here in Yemen. It might be because they are so used to getting this service outside of Yemen. Also it might be because of the difference in prices, not the quality of service.

**Q) Can you tell us about some of the developments of the Internet in Yemen?**

A) Actually we have many modems which are running at 14,000 bps. It could be set at faster rates. Actually, we have now increased it to 28 kilo bps,



but that creates problems for some customers, especially in areas where the telephone lines are not so good. The users there suffer from disconnection. Therefore, we slowed down the speed to 14 k. We bought 48 new modems. We are also in the process of installing routers in Aden to enable our customers to access the Internet without having to pay the local telephone charge between Aden and Sana'a which is 20 riyals.

**Q) What are your plans to attract more customers?**

A) We are always participating in conferences, like the Second Yemeni Economic Conference. We have also provided connectivity at the First General Conference on NGOs. We are now participating in exhibitions, like computer and communication exhibitions. It is our policy to participate in public activities. We are also running seminars. For example,

the seminar of the Yemen Times at the Taj Sheba hotel, the seminar of the Al-Hadath Company in Taiz. Next week we will run a seminar at the faculty of medicine, at Sana'a University. In September, we will run a similar seminar in collaboration with Aden University and the Aden Chamber of Commerce. We are planning to run a seminar in Hodeidah.

Our product is very difficult to market. The people don't know what the service is, or what its benefits are. We are therefore, doing our best to attract new users. There are many barriers in the way of the Internet like the language, access to computers, etc.

**Q) How fast does the number of your customers**

increase?

A) The numbers are increasing. However, most of our customers are from Sana'a. We have 1189 customers in Sana'a, 92 in Taiz, 26 in Mukalla, and 102 in Hodeidah. We have 32 home page subscribers. I believe these customers represent only 10% of the potential market.

**Q) Can you tell us something about the ISDNC service?**

A) The (ISDNC) Integrated System Digital Network is provided by BTC which is an integrated digital network. It will make the people access the Internet very fast. From one line, you can have six telephone lines with six Internet connections at the same time. As far as I know this system has been installed in Sana'a and it started working at the Al-Tahrir Cabinet. I don't know when it will be available to other customers.

**Q) Any last comments?**

A) It is unfortunate to see Yemeni universities not accessing the Internet. I'd like to seize this opportunity to call them to the world of the Internet. It is so important for their researchers and students. We are ready to provide them with this service, and make especial arrangements for them.

## Read All About It:

### CHILDREN SELLING NEWSPAPERS

During noontime, in the heat of the sun, they sell newspapers at street intersections. They keep on pressing on you to buy from them. They only have the interval until the traffic light goes green to convince you. That is why they act fast and with lots of convincing.

You might pass by an intersection early in the morning and pass by it again in the afternoon, you still see them doing the same thing - young boys selling newspapers. You may have never given it a thought, but is it ordinary for children to be working at that age? Have you ever thought of their problems and circumstances.

To investigate this latter day tragedy, I went to several road junctions to meet with some of these young vendors. Here are samples.

**1. Obad Qayed Al-Jaradi, 9:**

"One day, one of my 'workmates' pocketed the money of a paper I sold. That day, I knew ~I had to make a stand, otherwise, I would be bullied forever. I earn about 100 riyals a day and it is not enough even to buy the necessary daily things I need.

"I want to continue my studies until I graduate from university. I think then things will be better."

**2. Mohammed Al-Ameri, 17:**

"I earn 300 riyals a day and it is enough for me and my 11 brothers and sisters. It is too exhausting to sell papers all day long, but I know no other way to earn enough to keep my family alive. I hope I could finish my studying to ensure my future. But I don't expect the coming days to be better."

**3. Radman Al-Shaibani, 29:**

"I have been selling papers for one year now. I earn 200 to 300 riyals a day. The money I get is hardly enough for me and my 7 kids. I read some of the papers I sell whenever I can. I have finished high school, but I don't think I can continue university studies. I'm so depressed about the future. Nothing gives me any glimpse of optimism."

**4. Hameed Al-Harazi, 18, married; has 1 child:**

"The papers get pinched from me sometimes and this is one of my biggest problems I have:

"I'm now studying at the first grade of secondary school, and I'm planning to continue my studies. A university degree will change my life for the better. I often suffer from fever because of selling papers the whole day under the sun."

**5. Morshed, 13, and Mosheer, 15, both pupils at Al-Hada'a, primary school:**

"Because we stay long hours in the morning, we always suffer from tonsillitis due to the hot weather. People do not treat us well. Our papers are sometimes stolen. Despite of all that, we will try our best to study until we get university degrees."

**6. Abdu Hassan, 14, a primary school student:**

"I began selling papers in 1995. I earn nearly 200 riyals a day. I often catch the flu because of



constant exposure to weather changes. But, I'm optimistic about my future."

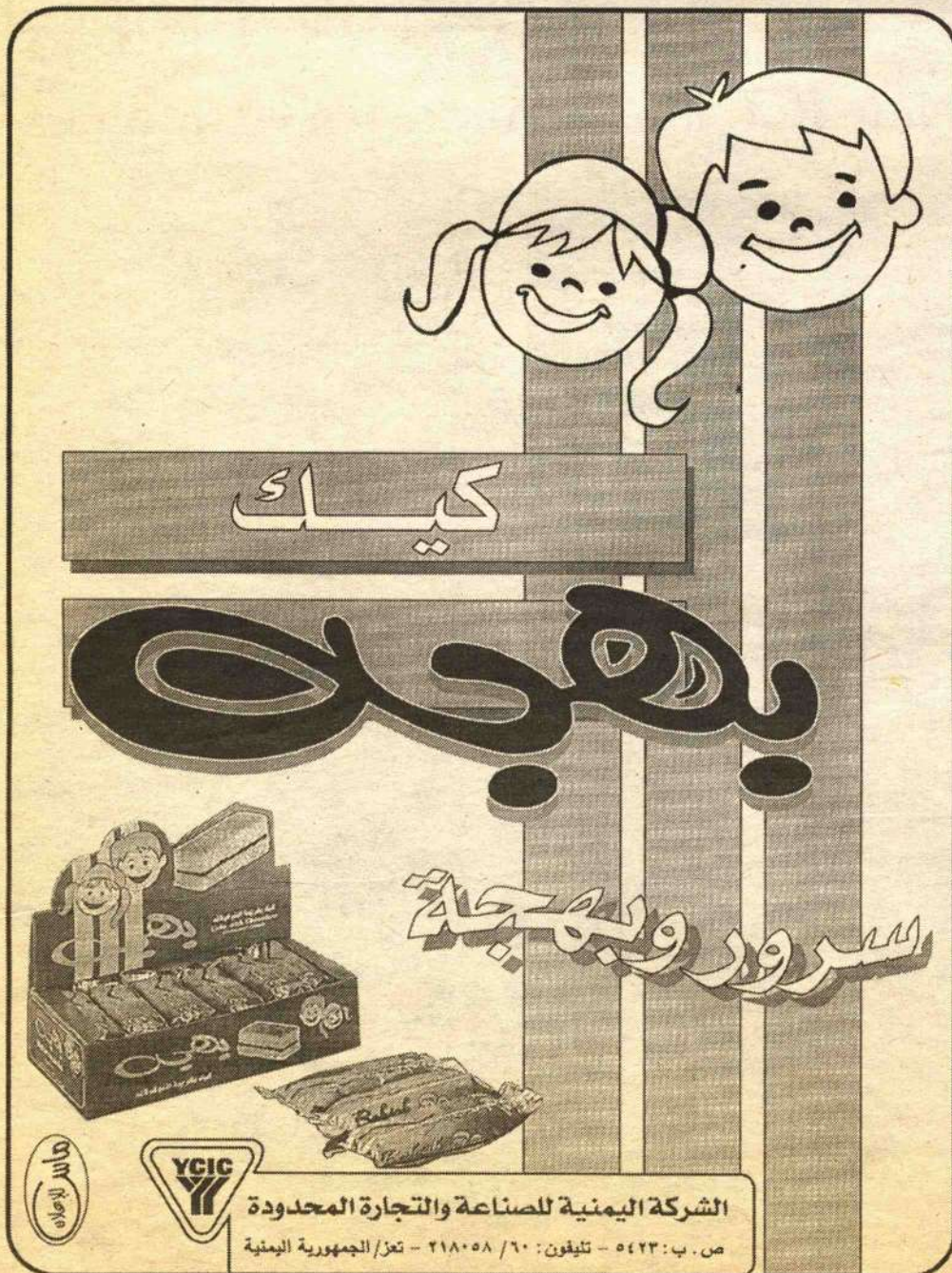
**7. Ali Sa'ad, 15:**

"I left school when I was 10 years old. I hope to find a better job to be able to continue my studies. I work nearly the whole day until the evening. Some drivers take papers and flee with it without paying as the traffic light goes green."

**8. Hassan Attafi, 14, Al-Wahda newsstand:**

"The owner of this newsstand is good to me. When I was working for other newsstands, I was not treated well. If a newspaper is torn, I have to compensate the newsstand owner, even if it were not my mistake."

By: Ikram Al-Akoury, Sana'a.

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# Letters to the Editor

## LAHAJ : Land of the Poor

This ancient novel that we used to hear from the old aged inhabitants of Lahaj, our fathers also say that frequently when somebody asks them about the advantages of this governorate. So what do they call it? Factually, when they talk about Lahaj which we have discussed in this novel, they don't mean the entire governorate, they mean the center of Lahaj which is called Al-Howta. Al-Howta is a small town, situated between two wadies (villies). One of them is called wadi Zagheer and the other called wadi kabeer, the area between these two wadies is called the Tuban delta. Al-Howta is a beautiful province, it's soil is suitable for agricultural works. You can find green trees everywhere, fields and farms surround it from all directions. It has a rich water reservoir. In

view of all these helping factors, to build a green province, Lahaj is then called "The green Lahaj". The inhabitants of Lahaj were modest, helpful and friendly, they worked in the fields and farms from sunrise until sunset to get the little quantities of flour, to feed their families, but they still live at ease. If someone comes to Lahaj during that period, he would have felt that Lahaj was a part of his life, he would adapt to the living in Lahaj quickly, so that's why Lahaj is called the land of the poor.

**By: Nayif Awadh Ali Al-Saqqaf, Lahaj governorate**

### Disadvantages of Qat

Qat is considered to be one of the great problems facing Yemen today. Despite all of its disadvantages, it does also have some advantages, in my opinion qat is very important in our country because of the following:

\* Firstly, 30-40% of Yemeni families depend on qat for their income. Maybe you'll ask me why especially qat? Why don't they grow anything other than qat, like fruit or vegetables? Well my reply to you is because of two reasons:

- A) Qat is the only product that can be grown in all seasons of the year.
- B) It's very expensive, so its income is higher than fruit or vegetables.

\* Secondly: What is better, qat or drugs? Your answer may well be the first because of more and more reasons.

If we look at the other countries, we will find that more of the people especially teenagers are addicted to drugs, and there is no comparison between our country and any other country. I think the main reason behind that is qat.

\* Finally: There is a very important point, and it is considered the main reason for writing this letter. It's that I'm sure there are more people who prefer the enjoyment of chewing qat, and I'm one of them, but before they do that, they ask themselves: "If we don't chew qat, where to go?" If you are a stranger to Yemen and especially Taiz, you'd say "Go to the theater or the park, or any other place of entertainment". In this situation I do understand you. But I'll say: "Oh my friend, we haven't got any of these things in Taiz that you have mentioned. Really we have got three cinemas and a swimming pool, but the first is in bad condition and the second is closed." So we must chew qat.

**By: Faheem Mohsen Saeed Al-Hashmi, Taiz.**

### Right Man in the Right Place

It is one of the most important things, to develop a country. That is when its government appoints a man for an important job regardless of who he is or what his status is. The important thing for the job is that the appointed person has to have qualifications, experience, and the ability so that he can improve the place wherein he works. But the worst thing is that the government appoints a man who has no qualifications, experience or ability for the job.

What we will see, of course, is bad administration and corruption which causes serious deterioration in the living conditions of the common people, so we must maintain the equation of the right man in the right place.

**By: Ali Ahmed Saud, Student in EIC**

### Aden International Container Terminal: Role And Impact

Specialized container terminals is the crucial component in the international containerization system where it can positively or negatively affect the whole system.

A study investigated the total transportation cost for operating door-to-door container service via the North Atlantic found that container terminals absorbed 20.3% of the total cost, and if cost of port services is added then it's percentage increased to 23.7%.

There is a very Casual Relationship between evolution of container terminals and the other 2 components of the system, i.e., containers and fully containered ships. For the casual relationship to happen a necessary and sufficient condition must be provided. So it was a necessary and sufficient condition that boxed and specialized ships to be invented in order that a container terminal was to be constructed. Through the years it was in sufficient condition, that an increased and expanded demand on containerizable general cargo / ships to expand and construct satisfied specialized container terminals.

According to this Casual Relationship and for it's both mentioned conditions, it was impossible for technological, economical and managerial reasons to use the very traditional break-bulk general cargo equipment and terminals in order to handle and store temporary containers.

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Therefore, transport technology in the areas of hardware satisfied the transport economical needs of having a drastically different innovated terminal to cope and match with the other components of the system.

Aden was formerly the port from which distances to the Suez, Colombo, Dar Al-Salam and other ports were measured. Aden is strategic location, which is only a few miles off the main sea-route through the Red Sea and other majors near. "Round the world" ports of Colombo, Singapore and the Far East, enable them to play an important role in serving international trade and specially between the East and West, which increasingly uses the Middle East for assembly, processing, storage and redistribution. Vessels going from the Suez Canal to Colombo, Singapore and the Far East

require almost no deviation in order to call at Aden.

The announcement by the Yemen government on making Aden a free economic zone and especially the intention to build Aden into a world international container terminal and transshipment hub will enable it not only to win back its importance as an international sea and free-port, but also to play an important role as a modern port in the international movement of goods by offering excellent services and quick turn-around which is essential for the timely transfer of cargo.

Container ships currently using the ports in the area could cut 2-3 days steaming time by transshipping their containers onto smaller vessels in Aden, thus saving around US \$ 0.25 million per voyage or US \$ 1.5 per ship a year.

**Eng. oec Saeed A. Munasser**

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## Orbit Weekly Programs

**America Plus**

24 August 1998  
1900 Highlander  
2000 Moesha  
2030 3rd Rock

25 August 1998  
1500 Hangin' with Mr Cooper  
1800 Lois and Clark Year 3  
2200 Profiler

26 August 1988  
1530 Step by Step  
2000 Pearl  
2100 Melrose Place Year 6  
2200 Melrose Place Year 6

27 August 1998  
2000 Friends  
2200 ER  
2300 Due South

28 August 1998  
2030 Cosby  
2100 Spin City  
2200 Beverly Hills 90210 Year 8

29 August 1998  
1800 Lois and Clark Year 3  
2100 Malibu Shores  
2250 La Femme Nikita

30 August 1998  
1900 Babylon 5  
2200 Highlander

**The Disney Channel**

24 August 1998  
1530 Student Bodies  
1815 Aladdin  
2000 Movie - That Darn Cat  
2200 Home Improvement

25 August 1998  
1100 Quack Pack  
1600 Dinosaurs  
1840 Gargoyles  
2000 Movie - Legend of Young Dick Turpin, The

26 August 1998  
1130 Ducktales  
1530 Student Bodies  
1815 Aladdin  
2000 Movie - Fuzzbucket

27 August 1998  
1430 Mickey Mouse & Friends  
1630 Torkelsons  
2000 Movie - Bejewelled  
2230 Movie - Little Spies

28 August 1998  
1300 Movie - White Fang  
1730 Flash Forward  
1900 Honey I Shrunk the Kids

29 August 1998  
1030 Talespin  
1200 Darkwing Duck  
1600 Dinosaurs  
1905 Zorro

30 August 1998  
1200 Darkwing Duck  
1530 Brand Spanking New Doug  
1700 Darkwing Duck

**Batman 30th**  
Aug. 1730  
This dynamic series of Batman started a new technique in animation using black backgrounds to give every scene within Gotham and extraordinary look, redefining the image of the city. All Batman fans will love the new twist on one of the worlds' greatest super heroes.

27 August 1998  
1430 The Mask  
1830 At the Zoo  
1855 My Hometown

28 August 1998  
1945 Field Trip  
2130 Sylvester and Tweety  
2290 Roadrunner Show

29 August 1998  
1615 Sky dancers  
1755 Beetlejuice  
1820 Dexter's Lab  
1850 Bump in the night

30 August 1998  
1430 The Mask  
1730 Batman  
2200 Reboot  
2300 Love Boat

**ESPN Schedule**

24 August 1998  
1700 SportsCenter  
2030 ESPNews Day Live  
2100 Brazilian National Football  
2300 Australian Basketball: Canada v Australia

25 August 1998  
1530 World Football Report  
1600 WNBA Basketball Playoffs - East Semifinals Game # 2  
2100 NFL Football Pre-Season Match: Denver Broncos at Green Bay Packers

26 August 1998  
2100 Latin Football Weekly  
2200 ESPN's Thunder  
2300 SportsCenter International

27 August 1998  
1700 Best of 1998 World Cup  
1900 SportsCenter  
2200 Boxing ESPN Boxing Series

28 August 1998  
1430 WNBA Basketball Playoffs Finals Game # 1  
2030 ESPNews Day Live  
2100 WNBA Basketball Playoffs Finals Game # 1

29 August 1998  
2000 AVP Beach Volleyball  
2100 Vintage Car World  
2200 Barber Dodge Series

30 August 1998  
1800 SportsCenter  
1900 F-3 South America Championship  
2000 NFL Football Pre-Season Match: Carolina Panthers at Pittsburgh Steelers

**Super Movies**

24 August 1998  
1700 Gleaming The Cube - 2VL  
1900 Little Shop Of Horrors - 2V  
2100 The Late Shift - 3L

25 August 1998  
1500 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame - 2V  
2030 Movies, Games & Videos  
2100 Lethal Weapon 3 - 3VL

26 August 1998  
1900 Dennis The Menace - 1V  
2030 E! Extreme Close Up  
2100 Off And Running - 3V

**Orbit News**

24 August 1998  
1400 NBC The Today Show Live  
1600 CBS This Morning  
2000 NBC Dateline  
2100 CBS 60 Minutes

25 August 1998  
1300 CBS Morning News Live  
2000 NBC Dateline  
2100 ABC 20/20  
2200 ABC Nightline

26 August 1998  
0900 CBS Up to the Minute Live  
1100 ABC World News Now Live  
2100 Nelson Mandela  
2200 ABC Nightline

27 August 1998  
1230 ABC World News this Morning Live  
1800 ABC Good Morning America  
2000 ABC Primetime

28 August 1998  
1430 E! Extreme Close Up  
1500 Batman Forever - 2V  
2030 E! Coming Attractions  
1800 Flirting - 2SL

29 August 1998  
1430 E! Extreme Close Up  
1700 Only You - 2L  
2100 \*Cry, The Beloved Country - 2L (Premiere)  
2300 Mad Max II - 3V

**Hollywood**

24 August 1998  
1500 Cosmix  
1700 Dandana  
2300 Jukebox

25 August 1998  
1200 In Motion  
1330 Musabaga  
1500 Cosmix  
1700 Dandana

26 August 1998  
1300 R.s.v.p.  
1500 Cosmix  
1700 Dandana  
1900 Meditterance

27 August 1998  
1600 American Chart Show  
1700 Musabaga  
1830 Arabic Conversation With Angham (Premiere)/Chain Reaction#3  
1900 Meditterance

28 August 1998  
1200 Indimage  
1600 Smash Hits 1997  
1700 Dandana  
1900 Meditterance

29 August 1998  
1500 Cosmix  
1700 Dandana  
1900 Meditterance  
2100 Awtar

30 August 1998  
1200 Vital Soul  
1500 Cosmix  
1700 Dandana  
1900 Meditterance

**Music Now**

24 August 1998  
1500 Cosmix  
1700 Dandana  
2300 Jukebox

25 August 1998  
1200 In Motion  
1330 Musabaga  
1500 Cosmix  
1700 Dandana

26 August 1998  
1300 R.s.v.p.  
1500 Cosmix  
1700 Dandana  
1900 Meditterance

27 August 1998  
1600 American Chart Show  
1700 Musabaga  
1830 Arabic Conversation With Angham (Premiere)/Chain Reaction#3  
1900 Meditterance

28 August 1998  
1200 Indimage  
1600 Smash Hits 1997  
1700 Dandana  
1900 Meditterance

29 August 1998  
1500 Cosmix  
1700 Dandana  
1900 Meditterance  
2100 Awtar

30 August 1998  
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# War in a Thousand Pictures

quently for themselves," says Dr. Al-Mutawakil, "by showing the warmongers and perpetrators the evil they have committed." Although Yemen is a signatory to the International Declaration of Human Rights and other international conventions, violations still occur. "That's why our organization is committed to uncovering, reporting, and documenting cases of human rights abuse," says the prominent activist, "but one organization is just not enough." Because, he indicated, in Third World countries, violations are the norm and respect for human rights is the exception.



establishing solid civil and democratic institutions. "This is very important as such institutions serve as a safety valve in a society laden with conflicts. People must be made to sit down to discuss and resolve their problems, instead of resorting to the gun."

Ms. Ilham Abdulwahab, Assistant Secretary General of the Center for the Protection Against Violence and Torture, told Yemen Times: "This exhibition is held to mark the 50th anniversary for the International Declaration of Human Rights." Ilham has personally financed this exhibition of 100 photo's, spending more than YR 25,000 out of her personal funds. "We have an individual dossier for almost all the victims depicted at the exhibition," she disclosed. "What is shown here is just a small part of what



Dr. Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakil, Deputy President of the Yemeni Organization for the Protection of Human Rights and Democratic Liberties (YOPHRDL), inaugurated a photographic exhibition in Aden with the theme of 'Effects of Wars and Armed Conflicts on Women and Children.' The exhibition is mainly dedicated to the human tragedies experienced during the 1994 civil war. The 100-picture exhibition is the brain child of Ms. Ilham Abdulwahab, who took more than 1,000 photo's during that tragic war. "The pictures speak elo-



Despite a chronic lack of resources, the YOPHRDL makes a lot of efforts through trade unions, NGOs and political parties, aiming "to lay the foundation for a society based in democratic institutions." "Taking support from the state is totally out of the question. Our independence is at stake here." Why a photographic exhibition of war victims? "War, especially an armed civil conflict, is the worst fate that can befall a nation. Women, children and the elderly are the prime sufferers." By drawing attention to man's inhumanity to man during conflicts and civil strife, the YOPHRDL hopes to raise people's awareness of the importance of



really happened then, which is a link in a long chain of bloody conflicts." She added that "this exhibition will hopefully also serve as a rallying call for all political parties and organizations to work together for a better, democratic Yemen." Ilham hopes to be able to publish the 1,000 photo's in a book soon so that "all people, in Yemen and the rest of the world, can see for themselves the futility of war."

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,  
Yemen Times, Aden

## الممتاز إسم على منسى

### الممتاز

فول مدمس      بازلييا

فاصوليا حمراء

فول مدمس      فاصوليا حمراء      بازلييا

شركة الألبان والأغذية الوطنية

تليفون: ٢١٨٠١١ - ص. ب. ٥٣٠٢ - تعز/ الجمهورية اليمنية

## Peace Among Al-Awaliq Tribes

The tribes of Maan, Al-Mahajer, and Bakazem which all combine the tribes of Al-Awaliq held a meeting in Al-Mafraq region, Al-Saeed district in Shabwa governorate. This meeting comes as a reaction to the kidnapping of Mr. Saleh Ahmed Al-Shilfah, from Shabwa, by some guys from Al-Saeer tribe. The statement issued by Al-Awaliq condemned that action describing it an action against law, ethics and our traditions and principles. This phenomenon is considered to be the first in the southern and northern governorates. The meeting recommended the following:

tribes. This council will be responsible for making the policy of the tribes and represent the tribes and protect and defend the

6-The people of the Al-Awaliq tribes call all the tribes of Shabwa, particularly the Khalifa tribe to do their best to make the



1- The meeting of Al-Awaliq tribe affirms the importance of national solidarity for the sake of protecting the achievements of the country, notably the Yemeni unification, democracy and plurality.

2- All the tribes of Al-Awaliq agreed to finish all blood revenge disputes taking place between them for two years making a general treaty of that agreement. During this time the Supreme Coordination Council (SCC) of the Al-Awaliq tribes will undertake the responsibility of settling down all the differences and finishing off all the problems between them. This will ensure peace, justice and social solidarity. The agreement is to be carried out from August 17.

3- The meeting agreed on establishing the SCC of the Al-Awaliq

rights of the Al-Awaliq tribes. The council will formulate the laws organizing the activities of the council provided that they shouldn't go against the constitution, laws and traditions. The council will have its own administrative and political committee.

4- The people of Al-Awaliq take an obligation not to allow blood revenge accidents to take place in their cities and markets. They delegate the SCC to take all measures to ensure the peace and safety of all their cities, markets and people.

5- The people of Al-Awaliq tribes condemn all kinds of terrorism, kidnapping and thefts and all bad deeds that disfigure the reputation of the country. They completely refuse that their tribes to be the theater of such illegal actions.

cities and markets of Shabwa free from blood revenge accidents specifying the penalties against anybody trying to disturb the people and the governorate of Shabwa.

7-The people of the Al-Awaliq tribes call the tribes of Shabwa to sign an agreement between all the tribes of Shabwa making use of the recommendations of the meeting of the Al-Awaliq tribes. They also call for solving the blood revenge issues.

8- The people of the Al-Awaliq tribes believe the result of their meeting will enhance their unity on the way to strengthening the Yemeni unification, peace, stability and general development all over the country.

By Matoq A. Ghaleb,  
Shabwa

# BP-Thabet Joint Venture: Lubricating Wheels of Yemen Economy

## Yemen Company Off & Running

The marketing joint venture between British Petroleum (BP) and their Yemeni partner, the Thabet Group of Companies, commenced operations on 1st October, 1997. The Yemeni-British Lubricants Company (SYC) is headquartered in the port city of Hodeida. Branches have already been established in Sanaa, Taiz and Aden with a total workforce of 18 employees. Cooperation between the Thabet Group and BP goes back more than two decades in marketing BP's world-renowned lubricants and oils.

Ever since its initiation almost a year ago, the partnership between the Thabet Group and BP has prospered beyond even the optimistic economic projections. The alliance was further strengthened with the launch last week of the premium Lubricant BP Visco 2000 SJ in Yemen. The API-SJ specification is the latest and best in the world at present.

## BP & Middle East

In the Middle East, British Petroleum was known as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, a name that came about during the early days of oil explorations in the Middle East, in general, and Persia, in particular. BP's integrated structure through exploration, refining and marketing has enabled this company - one of the largest of its kind in the world - to spread its activity over a very wide spectrum of worldwide industry.



Mr. Chris Brooks, BP Chief Executive, had the following to say about the company's continued success in the Middle East last year:

"The year 1997 was a time of considerable achievement for BP Middle East. I would like to convey my thanks to all our staff and business partners who made it happen. Particular highlights for me were the continued expansion of our business throughout the region, most notably our lubricants business in the Yemen."

## What will the challenge be in 1998?

"In 1998 we intend to make significant progress in three main areas: safety, customer responsiveness and staff development. Last year, in our Middle East operations, we achieved an accident free year. We intend to build on that achievement and ensure we repeat this performance in our new development markets. This will be a considerable challenge given the places to which we are extending our operations. We only survive and are successful in our business because of our customers. Last year, we conducted customer responsiveness audits of our operations, which revealed a number of areas in which we can improve. These have now been translated into action plans for 1998. I want to ensure that customer responsiveness permeates the thinking of all staff, whether or not they interact daily with the end customer. Finally, staff development. We have listened carefully to what our staff have been telling us about their requirements, and have initiated a number of processes to help in the staff's personal development. One process, the Personal Development Program, has been received enthusiastically by all the staff who have attended the workshops so far. I commend all staff to try and secure a place on the program during 1998."

## The Story of BP

BP had been looking for oil in the UK since the end of the First

World War but finds had been small. The search for natural gas had been equally disappointing. A UN decision that coastal states would have mineral rights to the continental shelf to a water depth of 200 meters sparked the British government's interest in off shore exploration. BP began drilling in June 1965 and by October had found gas. In December, tests indicated sufficient gas to

power a city the size of Coventry. Weeks later, tragedy struck as the drilling sank and 13 of the 32 men on board lost their lives. The message was clear; the North Sea was a dangerous place to be and future drilling platforms would have to be much stronger in order to be safe.

Although the first North Sea gas reached the new terminal at Eastington in March 1967, the North Sea was not considered a good place for oil and BP was skeptical of its chances. However, by late 1970, BP had announced the discovery of the Forties Field, the first major oil strike in the British sector. Although BP's exploration team was one tenth the size of the another famous company's team, it had an extraordinary success rate, and BP's ability to find oil was beginning to become legendary. The Forties Field find sent the markets wild with excitement and a year later BP disclosed that two more oil fields had confirmed Forties as a world class field capable of producing 4000,000 barrels per day. Other discoveries proved that the North Sea had a production potential of at least 2 million barrels per day. The development of the Forties Field, and later, more testing finds, was a tremendous undertaking and stretched BP's technical skills to the limit. Existing admiralty charts were outdated and full scale oceanographic surveys were needed before the largest deep water pipeline was laid to bring the oil ashore. The production platforms were not only required to stand rock steady for at least 40 years but had to be strong enough to survive once-a-century storms. Each platform had also to stock enough material to drill a complete well as winter was likely to restrict unloading from supply vessels.

Additional infrastructures, including terminals, pipelines, refineries and landscaping to preserve the environment, meant that the cost estimates were almost doubled by November 1975 when Queen Elizabeth II pressed the button which

brought the first official North Sea oil to the UK. By 1979, BP's investment in North Sea oil was 1 billion pounds, which included its share in Sullom Voe, England's largest crude-oil terminal.

## Personal Development Program

Ever mindful of BP's mission to continuously improve customer satisfaction, the company has been seeking the means to provide its employees with the tools to help them achieve the next level of performance. More importantly, how by doing that can both personal needs and those of BP be reconciled.

One tool that has been recently introduced is the Personal Development Planning (PDP) program. Through the facilitation of Tricia Evans, an independent training consultant, and using the BP Group, "Career Check Workbook", introduced some years ago, PDP workshops have been held in both Dubai and Oman. More than fifty staff involved so far have much appreciated the time-out to STOP and THINK about taking greater control over their own career and personal development.

Participants had the opportunity to learn how to:

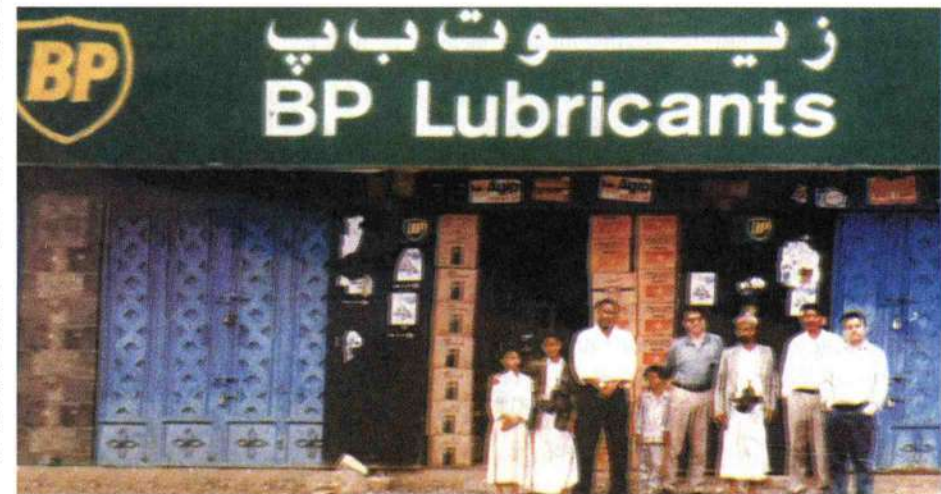
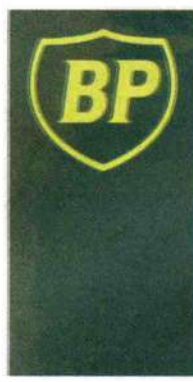
- Examine their own career and life histories.
- Identify core themes in their approach to work.
- Clarify their personal values and goals.
- Identify personal goals and skills.
- Examine the impact of current changes on them and their jobs.
- Gain a better understanding of how to respond effectively to personal and business changes.
- Access existing opportunities, aids and hindrances to career development.
- Actively engage key people in their network of contacts to help implement their future plans.

Further PDP workshops are planned to review progress and keep the process active. Staff now know that it is not enough to have a plan. It is only actions that will lead to improving and developing goals, both personal and business related.



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Mr. Hamoud Qatabish, Sales Supervisor, Thabet Group and Mr. S.A. Wali Kazmi, General Manager, BP Lubricants.



Mr. David Pierce, Deputy Chief of Mission, UK Embassy & Mr. Abdulwahab Thabet, Executive Director, Thabet Group.



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

### AL-WAHDAMI

AL-WAHDAMI  
: Sanaa  
weekly, 18-  
8-98.

(People's Nasserite Unionist  
Organization)

#### Main Headlines:

1- Due to several unresolved issues, fears are expressed of the outbreak of an all-out tribal war. Khawlan tribes have declared a cease-fire amongst themselves and a state of emergency to face up to possible aggression by the state.

2- Informed sources indicate that the sudden postponement of the President's visit to Canada is due to serious security developments.

3- Opposition parties and organizations express strong indignation at the recent endorsement of a law regulating mass rallies and demonstrations.

4- The sinking of a cement-loaded Syrian ship off Mukallah last June threatens the local environment with pollution.

5- A serial killer who shot dead 16 people, including a woman and 3 police officers, was killed in a shoot-out with police after a 3-day siege.

6- A gas tanker car parked opposite the US embassy in Sanaa creates fear and a high state of alert, while the unsuspecting driver went to have his breakfast.

#### Article Summary: MPs & US Embassy

A few months ago the US embassy in Sanaa sent a letter to the Yemeni parliament naming a number of MPs who traveled to the US with some of their entourage. The letter expressed astonishment at the fact that the MPs returned without their retinue. In fact one of them sent his entourage on their own.

It has become like a trade: those Yemenis wishing to go to America pay an MP a certain amount of money in return for including them in their party. It seems that parliament has lost its role as a legislative and monitoring organ to become a business enterprise.



AL-SAHWA:  
Sanaa weekly, 20-

8-98.

### [Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

#### Main Headlines:

1- Following visits to Iran and Cuba and medical check-ups in US, Speaker of Parliament and Islah leader, Sheikh Al-Ahmer returns to Sanaa.

2- Mosque-related acts of violence are abhorrent to all decent Muslims.

3- Teachers' Syndicate branch in Sanaa condemns recent administrative changes and unfair dismissals of teachers from a number of Sanaa schools.

4- Flash floods claim many casualties and cause extensive damage in Hodeida and Ibb.

5- Following its closure for several years, the Islamic Institute in Aden is preparing for the second academic year.

#### Article Summary: Bomb Explosions

A massive bomb explosion rocked the city of Lauder at 11 pm on Thursday, August 13. The fifth in two months, the explosion caused extensive damage to the Political Security offices and nearby buildings.

A similar explosion took place at dawn the following Friday in nearby Ahwar. It was later discovered that an RPG missile was fired at a petrol station in the city's outskirts. Eyewitness accounts indicated that an armed group in a pick-up truck fired the rocket and was met by light weapon fire by group of men positioned on the station's roof.

### AL-BALAGH: Sanaa weekly, 18-8-98.

[Islamic  
Action  
Movement (being formed)]

#### Main Headlines:

1- The Ministry of Interior arrests a gang of 22 men for allegedly instigating bomb explosions in the south of the country.

2- An Ethiopian member of the Yemeni Socialist Party was arrested for bombing Al-Khair mosque in Sanaa. Two were killed and 26 injured in the explosion.

3- The Yemeni-Saudi border

demarcation committee successfully concludes its activities in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia.

4- A Yemeni man, who killed two men in Mareb a year and a half ago and was tracked to Uzbekistan, was executed last Thursday.

5- Minister of Foreign Affairs investigates allegation of smuggling uranium and red mercury from Yemen to Israel via the Palestinian embassy in Sanaa.

6- The World Bank puts Yemen on the list of least developed countries.

#### Article Summary: Rubbish Burned

Motorists and pedestrians passing through the Hayel Saeed Street in Sanaa were quite astonished to see huge mounds of rubbish being burned in the middle of the road. Smoke and fumes created havoc in the area. The private rubbish-collection companies and contractors do not seem to be doing their job. The municipal and health authorities, on the other hand, are wholly unconcerned.

### AL-TARIQ: Aden weekly,

18-8-98.  
(Independent)

#### News Review:

1- The ruling People's General Congress expresses concern regarding a possible boycott by the opposition of the presidential elections scheduled for 1999.

2- Ministry of Local Authority recommends dividing Hadhramaut into 24 directorates, instead of the present 8.

3- Head of the Political Parties and Organizations Affairs Committee said that reducing financial allocations, as decided by the Council of Ministers, will be detrimental to political parties.

4- To figure out the Socialist Party's stance vis-a-vis the presidential elections, the ruling PGC conducts unannounced talks with Socialist leaders.

5- Ministry of Fisheries suspends granting new licenses or signing new deals with fishing companies in order to conserve Yemen's fish reserves.

6- A special UN committee arrives in Yemen to investigate cases of forced disappearance.

7- The Ataq museum purchases 124 pieces of archeological finds and artifacts worth YR 1.85 million from private collectors.

8- Yemeni journalists support the editor of *Summ Bumm* weekly who came under strong criticism by the Palestinian ambassador to Yemen for reporting on uranium smuggling. They also condemned the Ministry of Information's decision to prohibit any reporting of foreign embassies without its prior permission.

9- Member of the Unitary Congregation Party in Shabwa accuses the PGC and Islah of carrying out the recent bomb explosions in that area in a serious stepping-up of their political rivalry.

10- A prominent tribal sheikh in Dhabout, Al-Mahara, bans qat from entering his area. A fine of YR 30,000 is imposed on vio-



lators.  
AL-  
THAWRI:  
Sanaa weekly,  
20-8-98.

(Yemeni Socialist Party - YSP)

#### Main Headlines:

1- YSP members submit a list of missing people to the UN Human Rights Committee visiting Yemen.

2- YSP central committee is to hold its 36th session on 7 September.

3- YSP refutes allegation by the Ministry of Interior that the bomber of Al-Khair mosque is a YSP member.

4- YSP condemns the government's endorsement of a law restricting public demonstrations.

5- A bomb explosion near the Hunaina mosque in Hodeida kills five and injures 17.

#### Article Summary: Yemeni Universities Con- quered by Extremism By Nizar Al-Mithali

At every possible occasion, the Yemeni government denies the existence of extremists and terrorists from other Arab and Muslim countries in Yemen. However, some of these people come to the country under the guise of academics and university professors.

One such man is an Algerian professor working at Dhamar University. He refused to adopt a more enlightened book of Islamic culture in favor of another book that brands almost all prominent Arab thinkers as infidels. A university lecturer can have a strong influence on impressionable young men and women.

### AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 19-8- 98.

(Official)

#### Main Headlines:

1- The 1st youth and students meeting concluded its activities on Thursday, August 20.

2- Deputy Minister of Education: "We have received all the necessary supplies for the new academic year, starting on 5 September."

3- The Palestinian ambassador to Sanaa uncovers the lies about the smuggling of uranium and red mercury. He categorically denied all allegations of his embassy's involvement.

4- More than 2,000 illegal aliens - mostly Eritreans and Ethiopians - have been deported from Yemen.

5- Two cases of embezzlement have been referred to the Public Fund Prosecutor Office in Mahweet.

6- Two Mukallah young men die by snake poison after being duped by a charlatan, who convinced them that they are invincible to snake bites.

#### Article Summary: How to Implement Security Laws - editorial

Immediately after their endorsement, laws must be fully implemented and followed up. One example is the law recently adopted to regulate the possession and carrying of firearms. The Ministry of Interior must closely monitor the implementation of this law and make sure that it is respected by all citizens, no matter how senior they are.

The media has an important role to play in this regard in raising public awareness and drawing the relevant organs' attention to any shortcomings and violations.



AL-RAY  
AL-  
AAM:  
Sanaa

weekly, 18-8-98.  
(Independent)

#### Main Headlines:

1- Flash floods in Mareb unearth and sweep away thousands of landmines laid by subversive elements during the '70s and '80s.

2- A prisoner on death row for the last 7 years in Ibb demands to be immediately executed.

3- People in Al-Salif and Rass Esa areas complain of the handing over of a gypsum mountain to a private company, threatening many people working for the state-owned Salt and Gypsum company with redundancy.

#### Article Summary: Firearms Law Violated

In complete and utter disregard for the newly enacted law restricting the possession and carrying of firearms, people celebrating the wedding of prominent person's son in Al-Qayida, Ibb, fired their light and medium firearms for three whole hours. Apparently a permission to use firearms was granted to the "merry makers" by the town's security organ.



AL-  
AYYAM:  
Aden bi-  
weekly, 23-8-  
98.

(Independent)

#### Main Headlines:

1- Following a heated debate, a meeting between leaders of the ruling PGC and the Socialist Party was called off due to differences in opinion.

2- Stifling bureaucracy and narrow personal interests lead to the demise of several development projects in Aden.

3- Masila oil reserves rise from 600 million to 850 million barrels.

4- Supreme Elections Committee loses equipment worth YR 65 million.

5- Following the recent heavy rains, more than 117 million cubic meters of water are now stored in the lake behind the Mareb Dam.

6- Two men die in Dhali' due to the explosion of a bomb unearthed by heavy flash floods.

7- Three Yemenis die in the US bombing of Taliban positions in Afghanistan.

8- One man dies and 500 sheep perish because of flash floods in Abyan.

#### Article Summary: Reputation of Banking Services

The Aden and Taiz chambers of commerce and industry sent a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh. They complained of serious irregularities committed by the Aden branch of Bank IndoSuez.

Financial discrepancies were discovered in the bank's accounts last December, and a number of accountants and tillers were detained. Nevertheless, a technical report prepared by the Central Bank branch in Aden blamed it on the bank's lax administration and dereliction of duty. The accountants were released, but the mismanagement persists.



AL-  
SHOURAH:  
Sanaa  
weekly, 23-8-  
98.

(Congregation of Popular  
Forces)

#### Main Headlines:

1- The Congregation of Popular Forces condemn terrorism whoever its perpetrators, and calls Arabs and Muslims to unite.

2- Minister of Education: "There are no foreseeable solutions for the educational system's chronic problems. Several private schools must be closed."

3- Head of the Industrialists Society: "All national factories are threatened with closure."

4- Water polluted by oil causes public panic in Masila. Chemical analysis were done in Saudi Arabia.

#### Article Summary: Flash Floods in Numbers

Casualties due to torrential rain in Yemen have amounted to more than 70 dead. There were 25 dead in Hodeida, 20 in Ibb, 10 in Al-Jawf, 2 Saada, 4 in Abyan and Lahaj, 4 in Dhamar, and 7 in Sanaa.

More than 300 houses were demolished in Sanaa, 120 of which were in Sanaa City. More than 60 families had to sleep in the open. In Ibb and Dhamar, 42 houses were completely demolished.

Tens of main and side roads and thousands of hectares of farms were swept away by the floods.

26 SEP-  
TEMBER:  
Sanaa  
weekly, 20-  
8-98.  
(Yemen

#### Armed Forces)

#### Main Headlines:

1- The President receives the outgoing Iraqi ambassador.

2- The Vice President visits areas affected by the recent heavy torrential rains.

3- Yemenis living in Kenya donate money to help victims of the bomb blast at the US embassy.

4- The Council of Ministers endorses a number of steps to promote internal tourism and develop scuba diving.

5- The Yemeni-Omani joint committee is to sign 6 agreements of cooperation.

6- New oil deals covering 4 blocks are to be signed by the government and Canadian Occidental within the next few days.

7- 500 plots of residential lands are handed to members of Air Squadron 67 and Air Defense 140.

8- Printed in Germany, a 1000-riyal bank note is to be released into circulation soon.

9- The governor of Sanaa forms a special emergency committee to assess flood damages.

#### Article Summary: Foxes Sold

By Awaz Qayid Saif  
This is not a Yemeni fantasy. It started with a Western-educated Yemeni engineer fantasizing in a qat-chewing session. He indicated that foreign tourists coming to Yemen are prepared to buy live foxes at \$1,000 a head.

"There is a material that cures AIDS secreted in the bodies of Yemeni foxes," he explained. He "business" idea was quickly taken up by a simple villager.

The villager spent three whole month to entrap five foxes alive. He told the engineer of his fortune, who immediately rented a car for YR 15,000 to take the foxes to Sanaa.

The villager's offers to sell a fox for \$1,000 were met with laughs and derision by the foreign tourists he approached. The moral of the story is that abject poverty make some people behave in an irrational way.

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## Al-Wahda & Al-Ahli in Asian Championship for Top Teams

Al-Ahli & Al-Wahda of Sanaa teams are getting ready to participate in the Asian tournament for top teams held in Manama, Bahrain, at the beginning of September, 1998. Yemen Times

Me'iadh, the secretary general of the Al-Ahli team, said: "The training camp is taking place according to a well-prepared plan. We put a hard and excessive training program in order to make

"We will have friendly matches with Al-Wahda team and other strong teams in the country. On the other hand, we have to face many other difficulties. Al-Thawra and Al-Dorafi fields are not good for training. We don't have any fields planted with lawn, but we try to manage with what we have. "Even though, the weather comes to make matters worse. The heavy rain makes the fields all muddy, which makes training impossible. Imagine that we use the basketball fields for training as a temporary solution to the problem. I hope that in spite of

all difficulties we will have a good presence in this event." Yemen Times appreciates the efforts of the teams' players and coaches and wishes them well.



made a field visit to the teams training camps. Talking to the coaches and the teams' players, they all stressed that they participate not only for the sake of

being there participation, but for achieving good results. The teams are going through very rigorous training programs in the morning and in the afternoon. However, there are many doubts about the effectiveness of this training. Many people ask, is hard training enough to make a good team? In a talk to the Yemen Times, Mr. Hafedh

the players mentally and physically well-prepared. For that, we concentrate much on improving the techniques and skills of our players.



## Bahrain: 1 - Yemen: 0 An Expected Result



The matches of the first group of the Asian 31st Juniors Football Championship began on Saturday, August 21. The first match was between Yemen and Bahrain in the Hamad Stadium in Doha. The Yemeni team was defeated 1-0. Rashed A. Al-Dosary scored the winning goal at the 14th minute of the first half. The Yemeni team began very nicely during the first quarter of an hour in the first half. But the Bahraini team managed to control the field soon. They knew how our team worked during the match and could confidently pass

through our defenses. At the 53rd minute of the match, the Yemeni player Hani Abdurrahman got a red card. At the last minutes of the second half, our team launched very good attacks in the Bahraini goal zone, but even that did not work. The Yemeni players, actually, lacked confidence and physical fitness.

About the match:  
a- The referees very honestly and perfectly led the match.  
b- The Yemeni fans were there to support our team. On the other hand, there was no Bahraini fans.

c- The Yemeni defender Mohammed Hamadah was injured during the friendly match between Yemen and Qatar and so he couldn't participate in Saturday's match. Mr. Ali Al-Ashwal, head of the Football Association; Abdullah Al-Mal, head of the Arabian Club; and Othman Sharaf, vice chairman of the Bahraini Football Association, attended the opening match.  
d- Our team played according to a certain defense technique. They depended only upon counter attacks and could not go through the Bahraini defenses.

## The 4th week of Basketball Excellent Division Tournament Zohra on TOP

Organized by the Yemeni Basketball Association, competitions of the basketball excellent division tournament started between the Republic's clubs. They are ten clubs divided into two groups. The first group includes: Al-Yarmook, Ahli of Sanaa, Al-Zohra, Al-Hilal and Shaab of Ibb. The second group includes: Al-Wahda, Shamsan, Al-Minaa, Al-Tilal and Ahli of Taiz. Until now, four matches were held within the first group and the

results were as follows:  
1) Al-Tilal defeated Shamsan 49-17  
2) Al-Wahda defeated Shamsan 28-16  
3) Al-Minaa defeated Al-Wahda 51-38  
4) Ahli of Taiz defeated Al-Tilal 42-37.  
Four other matches were held within the second group and the results were as follows:  
1) Al-Hilal defeated Ahli of

Sanaa 26-14  
2) Al-Zohra defeated Al-Yarmook 45-14  
3) Al-Zohra defeated Shaab of Ibb 28-17  
4) Al-Zohra defeated Ahli of Sanaa 33-25  
The results show that Al-Tilal and Al-Wahda of Aden are on top with 4 points. Al-Minaa came in third with 3 points and Shamsan came fourth with 2 points. In the second group, Al-Zohra came first with 9 points.



include 72 teams of different clubs. Mr. Abdullah Al-Ammari, the Director of the Youth and Sports office in Taiz said that several committees were established to oversee these matches and solve any problems that may face them. From every center, two teams will go to the finals which will be held to mark the national celebra-

tions of September and October. **Al-Rashid wins Handball Championships in Taiz**  
The final match of the Taiz handball championship was held last Wednesday. Four clubs took

part in this championship, which started last Saturday. They are the Ahli of Taiz, Tali'a, Al-Sahha and Al-Rashid. Al-Rashid won first position, Al-Ahli came second and Al-Sahha won third position. Abdullah Al-Ibbi of Al-Rashid was awarded the championship goal scorer cup.

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### Military Sports Season Starts Next September

Mr. Yahya Al-Kohlani, Chairman of the Military Sports Association (MSA) announced that the military sports season is to start next September and lasts until March, 1999. It will include all military units in all military areas and centers. Branches of MSA in these areas will supervise the season's championships and sports competitions. The Military Sports season's plan includes holding different competitions in volleyball, football, gymnastics, chess, table tennis, javelin, swimming, karate and judo. Mr. Al-Kohlani also mentioned that the MSA is keen on holding sports championships around the year to develop the armed forces sports activities. On the other hand, the MSA had organized various championships in football, volleyball, and cross-country running during the last year.

### Summer Centers for Football Teams in Taiz

The General Sports For All Association has organized various activities for the summer centers for football teams last Thursday in Taiz. These activities are being supervised by the office of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Taiz. The governorate has been divided into 4 centers which



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# Yemeni Circus: Facing Extinction

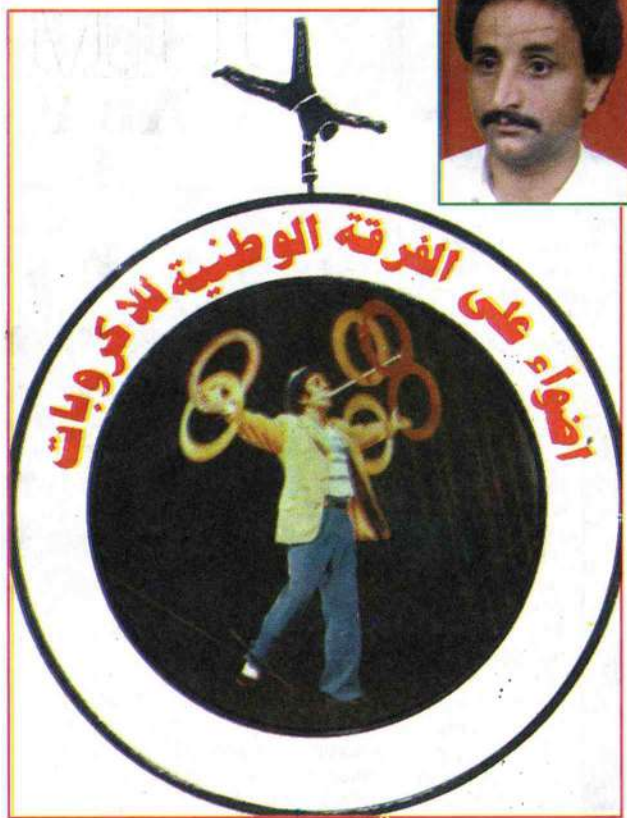
The Yemeni Circus Troupe presented its first show on October 14, 1973 at the Armed Forces Theater in Aden. Many wonderful shows followed, which tended to have a lyrical style presenting the years of struggle against colonialism. The ideas for the shows were generated mainly by Awadh Ba-Hakeem and directed by Ali Mohammed Hussain, the person who established the troupe. The shows relied mainly on body movement and musical sound effects. It was the Yemeni Acrobatic Troupe which was the first to present pantomime drama, which relies almost entirely on rhythmic movements and diversity in acrobatics, dancing, and music. People

behind the scenes usually recited a poem or a piece of prose; while, the dancers told the story poem through single and group movements.

The clothing and props used by the troupe were designed by Yemeni specialists. Some members of the troupe were sent to China and Moscow to attend special courses in circus presentations. In 1978, the first 6 Yemenis graduated from China. In 1986, another group of circus players came back to Yemen. They started to improve their repertoires and soon they were able to create 18 different repertoires including acrobatics, magic games, balance games, clowning, and pantomime.

On September 10, 1978, the troupe was officially named the National Acrobatic Troupe, which became very active and popular. In August, 1980, it presented the first complete acrobatic game show which lasted for 90 minutes. Plans and programs were implemented to present shows in different parts of the country.

In 1970, Mr. Ali Mohammed Hussain formed a team of what was destined to be the core of circus actors in Yemen. At the beginning, the team did gymnastics at the Faculty of Education hall. Later many students became attracted to this field. So they were enlisted, trained and given a chance. Due to expansion, the team's new center moved to Al-Jala'a Secondary School in Khormaksar. There,



for the first time, females joined in the troupe.

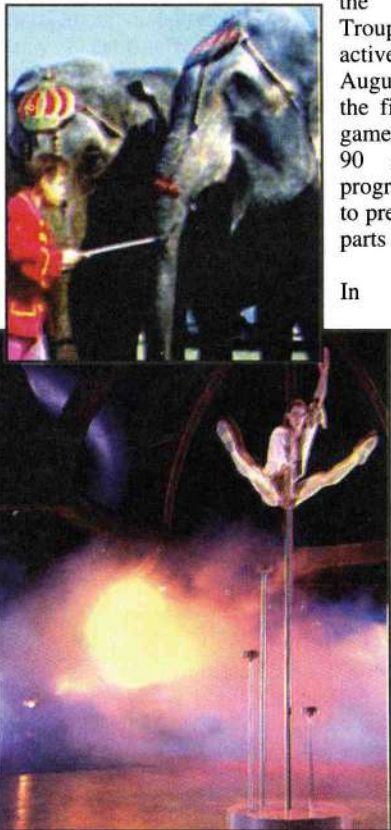
In 1973, the Yemeni Circus Team was officially established, comprising 45 players, most of them female. The team consisted of three groups: the musicians, circus players; and singers. Mr. Ali Al-Baihani was the troupe's instructor. Their repertoire consisted of 11 different spectacular games and magic tricks.

In 1979, the troupe presented 22 shows, and in 1980, it performed 28 shows in various parts of the former PDRY (South Yemen). The players and acrobats wore traditional Yemeni clothes and danced to Yemeni music arranged by Anwar Abdulkhaleq. Outside the country, the

troupe participated in many festivals in Kuwait, Libya, UAE, and Ethiopia. Since they did so well, the Ministry of Culture provided them with some important facilities and insured the lives of the players who were involved in more dangerous games.

The troupe today is not paid much attention. Many of the players left in search of other jobs. Most of the women left the team as they got married or their activities are frowned upon. However, the team is still there, in Aden. But, if the carelessness and ignorance continue, there won't be any team in the very near future.

**By: Mohammed A. Thabet, Instructor, Yemeni Circus, Aden**



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