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The Most Destructive in a Series of Fatal Incidents

Catastrophe at the "City Center"



What you see on the left is not the remains of a war, or a result of a destructive missile. It was not caused by a hurricane, a thunderstorm, or an earthquake.

It is a huge, thought to be, TNT explosion that destroyed "City Center". The supermarket that we knew as the biggest and most excellent supermarket we had in Yemen.

We see ourselves as lucky, that were able to get this rare photo. Simply, because all this mess has been cleared up by the authorities. If you visit the place now, you would only see an open and empty piece of land. It was our mission to show our readers the true dimensions of this explosion, and here you see it in front of you; a once unexcelled, and now destroyed supermarket. Pages 1 and 9 will give you a clearer idea of the true dimension of this catastrophe.

- Photograph by Nasri Abubakr

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SANA'A: It was a huge boom that shook the capital city last Saturday around 2:00 am in the famous "City Center" Supermarket on Haddah Street.

The supermarket was the biggest in Yemen and the most widely known market by most foreign diplomats and most foreigners residing in Sana'a. The explosion has also caused damage to the windows, doors, and other equipment of many nearby buildings, including the Yemen Times premises which is approximately 400 meters away from the site of the explosion. Officials claim that only two died in the incident, while the confirmed deaths were three, namely, the supermarket owner, Abdullah Al-Omeiry, and the guardsmen of the Sinan Abu Luhum Villa and Canadian Occidental Petroleum Building, Al-Hashidy and Al-Samawi. The number of injured according to official sources is 12. However, other sources

claim that the actual number is higher than 22. Unconfirmed reports say that the number of deaths is actually 9 because 6 of the employees in the supermarket are thought to have been sleeping in the underground floor, where they were charred as a result of the fire that kept on burning for several hours after the explosion. The firemen worked hard until the early morning to control the flames.

Some sources say that Al-Omeiry received a telephone call around 20 minutes before the blast. After the call, he and his son went to the supermarket to do some paperwork. Al-Omeiry left his son waiting in the car. In the market, Al-Omeiry met with his accountant to work on the salary records. Yemen Times interviewed that accountant, who is a relative of the owner, at the Police Hospital (Al-Shurta). But unfortunately, the cassette and film were taken away by the security of the hospital with the

excuse that investigations were underway. Minutes after Al-Omeiry went into the building, the explosion took place. The Associate Press news agency stated that the explosion was caused by a car bomb, while other sources say that a number of bombs (probably dense TNT) were placed in 4 sensitive locations in the building, beside the car bomb which exploded first. Some reports state that there are indications that some of the workers had placed the bombs in the sensitive areas of the building during the working hours on Friday. Police inspectors could not confirm or comment on these reports stating that investigations are still underway. Official sources were only stressing that the initial inspections show that the incident had criminal intentions and not politically motivated in any way. They stated that the investigations will continue.

Read more on page 9

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As scheduled, the President Starts the Seminar on Strengthening the Role of Women in Elections

The organizers of the seminar on increasing the role of Yemeni women in the presidential elections and elections in general, were worried that the President would postpone or cancel his participation because of the huge "City Center"

explosion. However, the President held his promise, and as scheduled, inaugurated the seminar which was organized by the Women's National Committee and the Fridrich Ebert Foundation on Saturday. Taking the blast into considera-

tion, the president looked confident and unyielding while giving his speech in which he defended the rights of women and stressed on the importance of involving women not only as voters, but also as candidates in future elections. During the

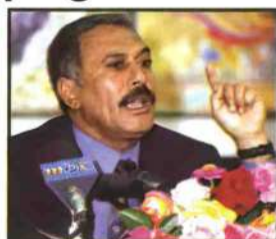
seminar, statements by the organizing committee's chairman, Amat Al-Aleem

Al-Susuwa and by the Acting Ambassador of Germany to Yemen were made.

Several participants submitted their papers and discussed the conditions of Yemeni women and the role of women in the ongoing democratic process.

Several Days after the President's Press Conference Presidential Campaign Started

Last Saturday marked the official start of the presidential campaign. Each of the two presidential candidates has only 23 days for the ceremonies, visits, conferences, and other public appearances. Within this limited period, each candidate is supposed to have covered 14 governorates. While the electoral campaign of President Saleh had already started, the situation of the unfamiliar candidate, Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi seemed to be quite different.



In an interview with Yemen Times, the Head of the Presidential Campaign Committee of Al-Shaabi, Dr. Saadeddin Taleb stated, "We have not yet started our campaign. We cannot afford the expenses of the campaign with the YR 15 million given to us by the Supreme Election Committee."

On the other hand, the press conference of President Saleh held last Monday ignited a lot of reactions from local and foreign sectors in Yemen and in the world, especially from the Supreme Opposition Coordination Council which released a strong press statement against the president. During his press conference, the president had shown no mercy in criticizing the opposition. He went on in bringing some extremely tough statements against both the Socialist and Nasserite parties, of course avoiding the Islah party, which had approved him as its presidential candidate. He pointed his finger at the kidnapers from Al Jabr tribe, who abducted the two French who are still captive. He called them "traitors and murderers". The president also criticized some opposition newspapers as well.

Complete coverage of the conference & responses on page 5

New Hopes in the Release of the French Couple Soon

Almost two weeks have passed and yet the two French Diplomats who have been kidnapped in mid-August are still in captivity. The kidnapers have shown commitment to release the kidnapped last week. However, after President Saleh accused them of being traitors, and of being behind Al-Huraibi's assassination last year, they changed their minds. The tribe's village is currently surrounded by armed troops exceeding three hundred. The head of the kidnapers, Juzailan, refused the proposal of the mediators, headed by Sana'a Governor, Naji Al-Soufi, to release the hostages in return of having their demands delivered and discussed by the government. The tribe's demands were the immediate withdrawal of the military forces surrounding them, providing the costs of repairing the damage to their bridge caused by floods, which is estimated to be YR 5 million, to be given a number of tractors and

other agricultural equipment for the use of their people, and the hiring of 200 of their unemployed tribe members in the army.

Until yesterday, on their part, the government has shown no signs of a concession for the kidnapers. Hence, the kidnapers are still holding the French captive which are said to be safe.

French President, Jacques Chirac, had personally called President Saleh expressing his concern about the French couple. The president had explained to the French President that their health condition is fine, and that tremendous efforts are being made to secure a safe release of the hostages. The latest news say that the tribe is in the verge of releasing the hostages after the mediation of number of Sheikhs including Sheikh Mohammed Bin Ali Al-Qadir from Khowlan. Reports say that negotiations are going smoothly and may result in the release very soon.

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YT Weekly Opinion Poll
 Yemen Times Opinion Poll Question is at:
<http://www.yementimes.com/#poll>

Question
 Do you think that the presidential elections have any relation with the recent government attacks on the independent and opposition press through lawsuits, etc.?

Result
 No, it has no relation. (23%)
 Yes, it seems to have intensified because of the elections. (57%)
 I don't know. (20%)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
 Do you think that the latest explosion has political intention, or as the government claims, is no more than a crime that had criminal intentions?

Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
 Chief Editor

It's Not Easy to Run a Country

When I heard the president saying in his last press conference, "I prefer someone other than me who is well qualified and can manage the duties of the country to be the president. However, there is no one." I remembered the statement that my father used to say, "being a president is not a good thing, it is responsibility and fame that hurt you more than make you happy." Indeed, I could see it in the President's eyes, he doesn't like it, he doesn't want it anymore. It is better to take turn in such a very sensitive post, which has a huge responsibility through the peaceful transfer of not power, but presidency. One could look at the presidents in the whole world. All of these presidents had to suffer from the feeling that they are responsible of the hunger, illnesses and from the disasters their people go through. They know that it is their responsibility to make sure that there is no hungry man or woman in the country.

It sometimes inspires me to put myself in the position of President Saleh. If I were him, I would worry of the millions without work, the millions who sleep hungry, the millions who are yet to learn how to right and read. There are many things to worry about, and there are many things that need to be accomplished. Over the years, I realized that if a president doesn't relieve his people, he would not deserve to stay in office. It is not that he should be punished or so, he only needs to decline to give the others a chance to better serve the people.

The President of the Republic is trying his best to relieve his people. Almost in every conference, he expresses his concern over the economic situation of the country. He even requested developed countries in the opening session of the Emerging Democracies Forum to help Yemen economically. He does this because he feels he is responsible. Let alone handling the responsibility of a whole nation, a responsibility of a small duty is sometimes challenging.

Sometimes, we do accuse the president of not doing something for the country, or holding strong to power, etc. However, we should also on the other hand think of the obstacles in his way. How many ministries need to be re-organized? How many governmental institutions need to be cleaned from the corrupt and the inactive officials? There are many things ahead of President Saleh. I think what he is trying to do now is gain the momentum to push hard towards rebuilding the country all over again. As the number of problems increase, he sees that the coming election will be a milestone for him. It would signal a new start for a season of building and development. It is better to see the coming elections not as a democratic process, for it is not an even competition, it is rather better seen as a new and fresh start for the President. When feeling that he gained the trust of the people, and that people still believe that he can do his best for his country, I believe this will motivate him internally. He can tell himself, "All these millions still trust that I will bring them a better tomorrow, I promise myself to work hard to never let them down."

I call all people to start thinking on the side of the President in his hard mission. The seat of power is not always soft, it is sometimes rigid. It is difficult to keep on going while psychological strains are surrounding you. Under the current conditions Yemen is going through, a new start is needed. I hope that President Saleh realizes that he should begin a new era towards building a new Yemen that would cope with the world in the 21st century. Let us stand together with our president and try for once to understand the challenges facing him. Let us give him a chance to prove himself worth our trust. Please Mr. President, realize that we know your pains and challenges that you are currently facing. Economy, security, education, and many other sectors are suffering today. It will be your duty to fix them all. Try to prove the ones who don't trust you wrong, and begin your change from the core, the change of heart and commitment always brings a change of action.

We are beside you, so please don't turn us down..

Words of Wisdom

"If the bad officials succeed in quashing the reformers, it'll leave violence as the only means to bring about change."

Here in Yemen, we have questions. What has gone wrong with our democratic approach? Why has the system failed to bring about change?"

-Issue 26, 1998
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1999)
 Founder of the Yemen Times



In Brief

An Indian Shot and Injured in Khawlan

According to a letter sent to the Yemen Times from the Indian Embassy in Sanaa, Indian Engineer named Mr. D.A. Radhkrishnan and Mr. G.D. Roy along with their hired driver Mr. Hussein Al-Arashi were stopped by 7-8 armed men on Friday, August 27 at 11:30 AM in Jehana, Khawlan on their way to Sanaa. The people wanted to take the hired Land Cruiser car. But the driver refused upon which the armed group opened fire and shot Mr. Radhkrishnan in his stomach and his left hand as well as the driver who got a bullet in his stomach. However, they drove about 60KMs in their critical stage and reached Sanaa where they are presently being treated. The two Indians are working with an Indian Constancy company, Consulting Engineering Services Limited (CES) which is constructing a hospital in Khawlan.

Carrying Weapons Prohibited

The Ministry of Interior issued a press statement yesterday wherein it called the people of Yemen to cooperate with the police to prohibit the carrying of weapons in the capital as well as the main cities. The Ministry further asserted that it is prohibited for any person to carry any kind of weapon even if they have a license. It also warned that stiff measures will be imposed upon the lawbreakers.

Complaint Against a CC Member

Mr. Jamal Al-Awadhi, the Office Manager of the Consultative Council's Human Rights and NGOs Committee stated that he sent a letter to the President of the Republic and to the Chairman of the CC complaining of insults and humiliation caused yesterday by Abdulhameed Al-Haddi, a member of the same committee. Al-Awadhi described the incident as "inhuman and unjustified" - in contrast of the objective of the committee and showed that the morals of some members have degraded to a minimum level. According to him, Al-Haddi came into his office, pulled him from his coat, attempted to beat and kick him out of his own office, and destroyed some of the objects in the office in a hysterical manner, all this in front of other employees. "The condition of the committee has been going from

bad to worse after its active chairman, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf died three months ago. The reason this incident happened is that Al-Haddi wanted to be the chairman of the committee and asked for my support, which I refused to offer. I used to be the right arm of Dr. Al-Saqqaf, and now that he is gone, he wanted to kick me out of my office." He concluded.

Aden-Abyan Army Nominated a New Leader

The Yemen Times has known from a reliable source that a new leader has been chosen for Aden-Abyan Army, succeeded by Zain Al-Abidin, Abo Baker Al-Mehdar, (called Abo Al-Hasan), who is still waiting for his final sentence in the Zongobar Preliminary Court. This happened after many of Shabwah's sheikhs' efforts, not to verify the sentence made against him and his friends, came to nothing. It is worth mentioning that the new leader has held a session with high outstanding figures in the Aden-Abyan Army and decided that in case the court verifies the sentence, they will do aggressive actions against the government. On another level, the lawyers of the defendants were able to present an appeal to the sentences made against them. The appeal was introduced to the Prosecutor's office last Monday August 23, 1999. They also complained that their defendants were put in the Political Security in Sana'a, which is not a normal thing because they should be in the Central Prison, not in the Political Security.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Celebrates its Foundation Festival 113 in Aden

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden organized a seminar Wednesday, August 25 about the experience of the chamber and the branch of the Central Bank in organizing and making markets for the bank notes. This comes while the chamber celebrates its foundation festival 113. The Ceremony was attended by Mohammed Omar Ba Mashmoos, the Director of the Chamber of Commerce, as well as Abdullah Al-Sanabani, the Chairman of the Central Bank. The ceremony will last for a week during which achievement as well as major problems will be discussed.

Courageous Journalist

Abdullah Sa'ad To His Final Destination

Abdullah Sa'ad Mohammed, a pioneering Yemeni journalist, passed away last Tuesday. The news of his death was shocking and heartbreaking to the Yemeni people, particularly journalists. He died after an acute injury in his head due to his slipping from the roof of a museum during his visit with the President Saleh to Hadramout two months ago. Then, he was hospitalized in Amman, Jordan, where he underwent a coma until his death. He is laid to his last destination last Wednesday. A good number of journalists, government officials as well as newspapers' editors attended his funeral ceremony. It is worth mentioning to say that Abdullah Sa'ad was a tenacious, as well as courageous journalist in Yemen. Born in 1959, in Taiz, Abdullah Sa'ad had his M.A in journalism from Russia in 1986. Before that, he started working in the Saba news agency since 1979. He held different positions such as assistant managing editor of Al-Jumhuriya Daily, as well as of Al-Thawrah. He also worked as chief editor of Al-Shorah from 1994-1997. His last position was the editor of Al-Wahdah. Abdullah Sa'ad was an active defender of freedom of the press and human rights. He was also a member of different local, as well as international organizations in this field. Although he was seen as a mischievous journalist, his death is actually a heavy loss to journalism in Yemen.

Yemen Within a Century hardships and great sacrifices made by the Yemeni people. The book also includes the figures that were quite instrumental and effective in the past century. On another level, a team was designed to compile and cover all the important Arab and Islamic events that happened in the 20th century. It will also include the

disaster records, as well as important activities will be mentioned in this book.

The Society of the Yemeni Family Patronage in a meeting with the NGOs
 The society of the Yemeni Family Patronage held a coordination and consulting meeting with the NGO. The meeting was held at the Al-Markazi Laboratory Monday, August 30, 1999. It aimed at cooperation between societies as well as NGOs to render better services. This will be accomplished through making the activities of the society known to all the organizations and by discussing how to cooperate and coordinate with each other on how to carry out plans for the interest of the general public. A number of 54 organizations and NGOs are all participating in the meeting.

A Meeting to Enhance the Participation of Women in Elections

In cooperation with Freidrich Ebert Organization, the National Committee held a discussion meeting to enhance and strengthen the participation of women in elections on 28-29, August 1999. Amat Al-Aleem Al-Soswah, delivered a speech in which she made clear that the number of participants in

School and Student's Requirement Exhibition is opened at the EXPO Sana'a Hall

The Deputy of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Abdul Karim Al-Gendari, as well as the APOLLO company opened an exhibition for the requirements of students and schools at the Expo Sana'a Hall. The exhibition lasts from August 29 to September 10, 1999. There are many big companies, public schools, private schools, as well as most of the Institutes of languages and computers participating in this show. The Plastic Artists' Syndicate is also participating in this exhibition. In the exhibition there will be some scientific as well as cultural activities. Prizes will also be distributed to winners.

VACANCIES

An International Resort Hotel due for opening in October 1999 in Aden, invites applicants (female and males) to fill in the following positions. This Resort Hotel, will be fully computerized, therefore knowledge of computer operation and English Language is an asset; any other language plus English is acceptable. Interested candidates are requested to send their applications in a sealed envelope along with curriculum vitae, certificates and a photograph, to the following address:

The Personnel Manager
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Closing date for receiving the above applications will be no later than 9th September 1999. Please note that those candidates who have already submitted their applications are not required to apply again. The vacancies are as listed below:

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 - Purchasing Assistant
 - Receiving Clerk
 - Store-Keeper
 - Store Attendant
 - Accounts Clerk (payable/Payroll)
 - General Accountant
 - Book-Keeper
 - General Cashier
 - Account Receivable Clerk
- Service**
 - Restaurant Supervisor
 - Night-Club Supervisor
 - Head Waiter
 - Banquet Head Waiter
 - Waiter
 - Bus Boy
- Personnel**
 - Staff Attendant
- Security**
 - Chief Security
 - Security Time-Keeper/Guard
- Food & Beverages Department**
- Kitchen**
 - Chief Garde Manager
 - Demi Chef de Partie
 - Chef de Partie
- House-Keeping**
 - House-Keeping Supervisor
 - Laundry Man
- Chief Pastry**
- Commis Cook**
- Staff Canteen Cook**
- Maintenance**
 - Pool Attendant
 - Chief Gardener
 - Painter
 - Carpenter
 - PLumber
 - Electrician Supervisor
 - A/C Technician
 - Generator Technician
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 - Telecommunication Supervisor
 - Driver
- Recreation Attendant**
 - Pool Boy
 - Beach Boy
 - Health Club
- Stewarding**
 - Chief Steward
 - Steward
- Linen Keeper**
- Room Maid**
- Public Area Cleaner**

إعلان عن وظائف شاغرة

يعلن منتج فندق عالمي عن افتتاحه في أكتوبر 1999 م، ويرغب في الاعلان عن الوظائف الشاغرة لديه والمجال منفتح لكل من النساء والرجال. هذا الفندق سيكون مجهز بالمبيوتر يشترط من المتقدمين أن تكون لديهم الخبرة السابقة في استخدام جهاز الكمبيوتر وكذا اجادة اللغة الإنجليزية. وأن المعرفة بأي لغة أخرى ستكون مستحبة. يرجى من المتقدمين الراغبين أن يرسلوا طلباتهم في مظاريب مغلقة ومرققة مع السيرة الذاتية، ونسخ من شهادة الدراسة والخبرة إن وجدت وصورة شمسية على العنوان التالي،

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الوظائف الشاغرة كما يلي:

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- مساعد مدير مشروعات
- كاتب استلامات
- أمين مستودع
- كاتب حسابات (إعداد دفع الرواتب)
- محاسب عمومي
- حافظ السجلات
- أمين صندوق عمومي
- كاتب حسابات الإستلام | ٢) قسم شؤون الأفراد:
- مشرف/مراقب توظيف | ٣) قسم الأمن:
- رئيس الأمن
- أمين التوقيت/حراس | ٤) قسم الأغذية والمشروبات:
- فرع المطبخ
- مشرف أول الطباخين
- طباخ حلات
- مساعد طباخ الحفلات
- طباخ الحلويات
- طباخ | ٥) قسم الخدمات:
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- عامل الخدمات | ١٠) مشرف الإستقبال
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Yemeni Press Scanner

AL-HAQ WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

1) TNT Explosive was Found near the Residence of the Presidential Counselor

The security police have found a TNT bomb explosive weighting 2 kg, behind the walls of Al-Mansourah Jail, in the Aden district and near the Residence of the Presidential Counselor, Dr. Hassan Al-Salammi. The same day the security police launched a wide arrest campaign for any suspected figures related to the incident, sources added that most of the detainees were released after quick investigation. However, the search campaign is still carrying on.

2) Eight Britons and French from the Islamic Group Released from Yemen and Left back Home

A reliable source asserted that the eight Britons and French from the Islamic group, charged in Yemen for carrying out subversive acts targeting Yemen stability and security, actually have left Yemen. Notably, AL-Twahi Primary Court had found them not guilty and announced their innocence, on the 9th of August 1999.

AL-SHOWRAH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

1) Waelah and Daham Tribes Resumed their Clashes

Contradictory news was received lately regarding the casualties of the ongoing armed clashes between the Waelah and Daham tribes resumed recently. Sources said that different kinds of weapons were used. Sources from Waelah said that five persons were killed from their clan and six others from Naham were seriously injured. Notably, the current clashes are the second time of its kind between the two confronted parties, since it started two months ago over a land dispute.

2) Yemen is to Participate in the Seeds for Peace Program

Yemen is participating for the first time in the "Seeds for Peace Program" which is organized by Jewish-American organizations, reliable sources said. The program aims to normalize the relationship between Arabs and Israelis by erecting joint camps to eliminate the psychological barriers between themselves. Yemen has delegated three students and a female supervisor to attend the program, as it is the last country, which lately jointed the normalization course supported by different countries, such as, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Oman, Qatar and some European countries.

AL-METHAQ WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

1) Presidential Decree No. (20) of the Presidential Election

SANA'A - The Presidential decree No. (20) of the year 1999 was issued, calling the voters to participate in the general election to elect the President of the Republic -The contents: The President of the Republic having the constitution and the Law No. (27) of the Year 1996, concerning the general election and its amendments: Article (1) The citizens registered in the General election sheets in all the elections constituencies are called to vote in the general election to elect a president from 08:00 am on Thursday 23. September 99. Article (2), this decree came into effect from the date of its issuance and to be published in the official newspaper.

2) Vital Projects in Al-Mahowet Financed with YR2700 million

The completed projects in Al-Mahowet, Sana'a district is estimated to YR 2700 million. It is decided that the projects would be formally inaugurated in the coming months synchronized with the September and October revolution-celebration. Out of the amount allotted, one billion will be for water projects, 500 million for education, 68 million for health projects, 1132 million in the fields of agriculture, culture, internal transport and youth welfare.

RAI WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

1) Tribal Efforts to Release the two French Hostages

All efforts of more than 100 important tribal nobles from Mareb were unsuccessful to release the two French hostages, kidnapped last Friday by one of the Kholan tribes. Reliable sources say that, The mediators of 100 persons gave the government two alternatives, which states that, their intervention to solve the problem requires solving it through tribal customs or complete withdrawal, in case of government interference. Notably, 100 persons are surrounding Habab area, where the kidnapped are still detained. Another reliable source said that, the government is arranging full army mobilization to attack Habab and release the hostages. The kidnapers claimed the need for compensation because their area has suffered from enormous flood damages.

2) Sana'a Court Postponed the Case of Bab-Al-Yemen Explosion till the End of this Week

The Primary Sana'a court has postponed the case of the Bab-Al-Yemen explosion, carried out by Ali Abdullah Al-Hajri and 12 others till Thursday August 26, 1999. The Lawyers Union will nominate a lawyer to defend the accused, the Head of the Lawyers Union, Mr. Ahmad Al-Wadee, refused for the second time to defend the main person accused in the incident. In the first and second court sessions, the judge read the charges, against Al-Hajri for the possession of weapons and explosive devices and murder. The second charges to the other 12 is deception.

3) The Supreme Committee of the Election Asked for YR1,300,000,000

During the past few days, harsh arguments took place between the Supreme Committee of the Election and the Cabinet, as the Committee asked for YR1,300,000,000 to cover the cost of election card issuance. The Cabinet in return believes that the amount is very exaggerated.

AL-RAI AL-A'AM WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

1) The Criminal Detective in Hadramout Arrested a Forgery Gang

The Criminal Detective in Hadramout district is investigating a gang of males and females forging local currency, especially the Bank Notes of YR200, using latest technology equipment. During the inspection, the security police

have captured several pieces of equipment and computers used in their residence. More over, they found 512 forged Bank notes.

2) Fighting the smuggling business needs fighting all the involved regardless of their posts.

A reliable source in the Custom Authority said that, fighting the smuggling business in Yemen will never achieve any success, unless the legal procedures will be fully implemented against the important figures of the Yemeni society, who proved their involvement in such activities. Latest reports said that, the smuggling business severely destroyed the national economy, in direct and indirect. The current meeting of the Ministerial Council, attended by many governors of several districts of the Republic, discussed various issues. Another source said that the Yemeni citizen became doubtful, whether the Government is truly capable to fight the smuggling, due to the involvement of important social and political figures in the business. Most of the attendees in the meeting claimed a fair punishment of any person carry out such activities, regardless of their post.

3) Mr. Baoum intends to practice his political life

Mukalla - A political source declared lately that, Mr. Baoum, the first secretary of the Socialist Party, who disappeared after leading demonstrations 27th April 1998 in Mukalla that caused the death of many civilians, said that he will appear once again to practice his political life. The same political source added that, Mr. Baoum had to surrender to the nearest police station to be investigated for several charges against him.

AL-BALAG WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Armed group claiming a resignation of the District Director of Lower Usafal

More than 2,000 armed men surrounded the Lower Usafal Administration District. The armed group submitted a very strong oral warning to the District Director, subjecting on Mr. Al-Abassi, to leave his post in the District Administration or the consequences will be unpredictable. Apparently, Mr. Al-Amassi, informed Damar Governor and the concerned parties in the Ministry of Interior and the Chairman of Parliament to intervene and solve the problem. Furthermore, no group has the right to change a man nominated by the government.

AL-AYYAM NEWSPAPER

1) An attempt to kidnap Mrs. Sam Bony in Attaq

Mrs. Sam Bony, wife of the General Manager of Tash project in Ataq, Shabowah district was attacked by four unknown persons, who tried forcefully to open her car. She stated that, she stopped by the residence of the doctors, when another car carrying four men paralleled her car. First, she thought, they will say hi, then when the driver tried to open the door of her car forcefully, he tried once again. Ultimately, she pushed him away and moved with full speed. Notably, Tash project is financed by the Netherlands Government. She criticized the tribal behaviors that do not respect a woman armless. While well known that, in 9th December 98, Mr. Bony (her husband) was shot, in attempt to take his car too.

2) British exhibition in Yemen canceled

A British Company had intended to organize an exhibition in Yemen to display its production. But lately, the exhibition was canceled, due to high custom fees imposed by the Sana'a airport customs. The company's productions are the latest equipment of personal protection and security devices to protect buildings, cars etc. The company stated that the cancellation of the exhibition in Yemen is due to complications and formalities in Sana'a airport, as they asked for 150,000 Sterling Pounds for Custom fees. Notably, all companies have to submit financial guarantees, when they organize any exhibition in Yemen, which are refunded afterwards. The Custom Authority said that the British company tried to import the equipment without placing necessary guarantees.

3) Some newspapers offend the Yemeni relationship with its brother countries

In an interview with the President of the Republic, Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh said, "the media has the right to say anything and everything." Conditionally, it should completely adhere and comply to the constitution, Yemeni law and national principles, he added that some of the newspapers in Yemen intentionally offend the Yemeni relationship with its brother countries in the neighborhood. Subsequently, the government must revert to the judicial procedures to stop such transgression, which negatively affects the national interests. In regards to the kidnapping of the tourists in Yemen, he said that it is a political behavior supported and subsidized from external parties, targeting Yemeni security and stability. Most of the kidnapers have been arrested and regarding the latest incident of the two French, who are still hostages, he assured that the kidnapers were accused in the attempt of murdering political leaders, such as, Omar Al-Jaoui, Al-Hureebi and others. The same kidnapers are followers of the hostile parties outside Yemen who are responsible in breaking up the Summer war of 94.

4) Mine exploded in Koud Duais, Lahj district

On Monday, a mine exploded in Koud Duais, Lahj district, causing serious injuries of two shepherds. Sources say that the two shepherds found a piece of iron, when they hit it, it exploded enormously. The two shepherds are still in the hospital for medical treatment.

5) Enormous explosion in the capital of Sana'a

Enormous explosions blew up the biggest supermarket called(City Center), on Haddah Street, in the capital of Sana'a, causing complete destruction. The explosion took place exactly at 2:15 am, followed by shooting for quite a time to cover retreat. Neither the explosive device, nor the casualties were yet reported although the building was heavily damaged. The buildings in the neighborhood areas were clearly observed

AL-SAHOWAH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Immense explosion took place in Saadah area

In the Saadah district, an immense explosion took place, in a nearby residence of one of the areas inhabitants. For the first time, the Criminal Detective captured one of the perpetrators of the explosion, who is still denying the charge of carrying out the bombing. As reported, there is a gang who carries out such operations, as several explosions took place during the last period of time in the same district.

AL-SHOMOU WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Government lands pieces are exposed to confiscation

In the Hadramout district, several government properties were exposed to confiscation. The estimated cost of those properties is reported to value more than YR70 billion. Sources said that the confiscated land operations created a social crisis while many families were living there. Some sources added that there are many thieves in the Government Housing and Real Estate Offices, which illegally pass the land ownership to others for funds.

AL-THOWRI WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

1) Serious tense week in Sada'ah

Sada'ah district is still observing a serious and tense week due to the clashes between the Waelah and Daham tribes. Latest reports said that the clashes resumed, causing the death of one person and the injury of 8 others from both confronted parties.

There are great expectations during the coming few days that the clash will resume any time, there fore, each party declared full fighting mobilization. Furthermore, there are many military figures who are agitating the clashes between the two confronted tribes, the report added. On the other hand, clashes broke up between two tribes in the same district, causing the death of three persons and the injury of four others when using different kinds of weapons. The inhabitants were terrified, as current news said the clashes will be more aggravated soon. So far, the security police did not interfere to stop the ongoing clashes.

2) President's statements agitated great decay of the political figures

The statements made by the President of the Republic, during the press session agitated great decay and dissatisfaction of the political figures, precisely the statements using harsh vocabulary such as mercenary, subversion, revenge, betrayal etc. The statements referred to the separation

time and offense of the national unity of the Republic. The Supreme Council of the Opposition Parties said that, the President's attack is a trespassing of the constitution and an obvious infringement of freedom and rights. They also expressed their great astonishment from a leader who is supposed to adapt and sponsor the peaceful competition among the people of one united country.

AL-OMAH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

1) Tribal efforts are still on-going to alleviate the death penalty against Al-Mehdar and Al-Junidi

The tribal committee of the Shabowah district did not succeed to meet the President of the Republic, as it intended to appeal to the President in requesting him not to sign the death penalty against Al-Mehdar, the leader of Aden/Abyan Islamic army. Sources said, other intensive efforts are exerted by sheikhs from different Yemeni tribes to alleviate the death penalty against Al-Mehdar and Al-Junidi. During last week, the Supreme Court studied the file of the appealed submitted by the defense of the case. Source said that, it is expected that fifteen of the Aden/Abyan Islamic army might be called by the court to hear charges for forming an armed gang, possessing weapons and carrying out bombing acts in different areas of the Republic.

2) Armed clashes inside the campus of Damar University

Lately, in Damar district, arguments aggravated to clash with weapons and exchange of fire between the Chief Accountant and the General of the Education Center of Damar University. The motive of the clash is still unknown and the incident caused injury of the General Director of the Center and another person. Consequently, all employees of the University launched a semi-strike, protesting against such behaviors on campus.

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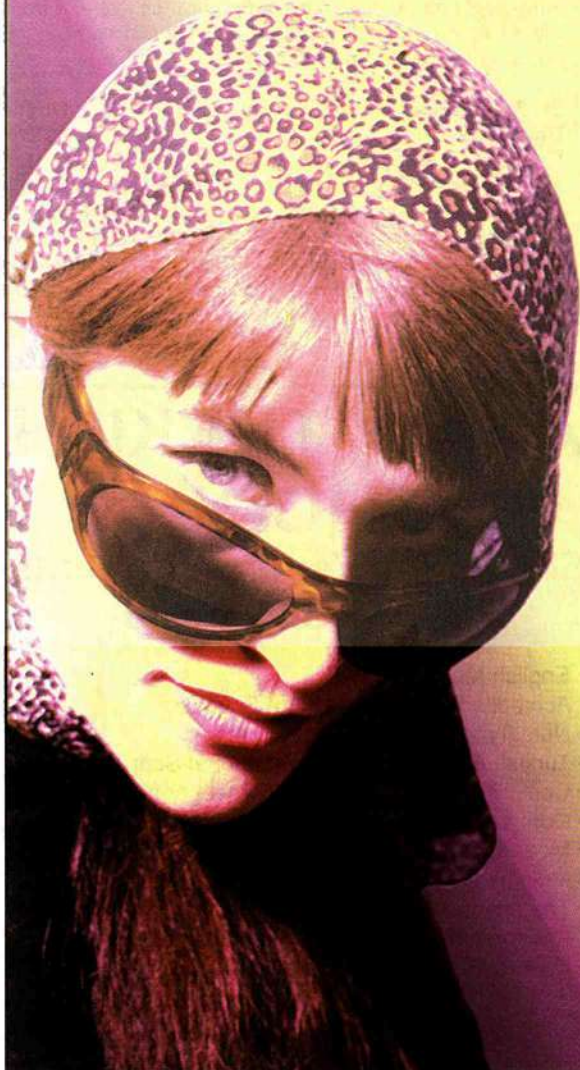
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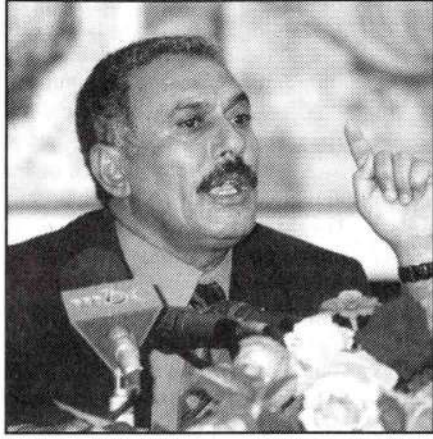
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President Saleh in a press conference"

"The parliament had the right not to endorse the candidate of the opposition"

In a press conference held last Monday and which was attended by the local, as well as international newspapers and news agencies and representatives, President Ali Abdullah Saleh said that he himself did not intend to be a candidate because he has been in power for nearly 21 years and is acquainted with the sufferance of the job, and the internal and external problems related to it. He said that he had called upon the leaders of all parties to set an example and convene their parties general conferences so that elections become a democratic competition between



parties and programs. But it was noticed that there were no serious candidates, or candidates with whom the homeland did not have a "REVENGE". Because of that, he had to accept the call by the PGC, the Islah,

and the Supreme Opposition Council and other prominent activities to accept nomination and become a candidate. He said the parliament had the right not to endorse a candidate of the opposition, as some parties of opposition don't recognize parliament and the results of the 1997 elections as legitimate. "The parliament's resolution was good, as the candidate played an open play. He came from London with his candidacy and intended to withdraw at the end," the president noted. The president said that he hoped that the opposition shall develop into a real and

truthful one so that power can be exchanged peacefully, and to gain the respect of the citizens of Yemen. He said that what is called the Opposition Coordination Council has no weight and consists of leaders who had problems and revenge with the homeland. Asked about the hard times anacing the Yemeni press and the harassment of the government against journalists, the president said that it is good that the Government does not take actions against the press, but to go instead to a court of law. He said that the government has the right to take stiff actions against journalist who try to destroy the relations of Yemen with other countries.

He said that there is no doubt, there is a difference between good information and paid destructive propaganda. He called upon the press to seek the truth and rise up to its positions, so that it becomes read here and abroad.

On the subject of Yemeni Jews, he said there is only a very small group of Jews in Yemen, and they are treated well. They are Yemeni citizens and enjoy equal rights and bear the same obligation as other citizens. But he dismissed that Yemen is ready to receive Jews from occupied Arab territories, and said this is unthinkable. Israel still occupies Arab lands and had not leaned fully towards peace and didn't accept up to now to return all Arab occupied territories.

About the Yemeni-Saudi borders the president said

that this is 60 years old, but there is some progress towards the implementation of the Understanding Memorandum which was signed in 1995. Many issues relating to borders have been finalized and a small number only remains which is disagreed upon. He said that the solution for the border problem with Saudi Arabia should be cordial. Arbitration shall only be sought if both parties agree on that.

On the most important issues in his Election Program and whether new rules for state machinery shall be applied so that people shall be able to see the seriousness of the administration, he said that his program concentrates on overcoming all negative phenomena in the administration and the development process. All mistakes shall be put straight.

When asked whether Mr. Najeeb Al-Shaabi, the only other competing candidate, who is considered as another candidate of the PGC, he said that Mr. Al-Shaabi is a member of the PGC, but the constitution guarantees his rights as a citizen to nominate himself for the presidential election, whether he is a member of the ruling party or not. He said that Al-Shaabi introduced himself as an independent candidate, and that is his right. On whether Mr. Al-Shaabi might withdraw the president said that he has no knowledge on what was published, and it might be some kind of fabrication.

When asked about the contradiction between his call upon the opposition to take part in the presidential elections and the refusal of parliament to endorse the candidate of the opposition and whether it was a decision taken by parliament by

itself, he said the decision was made by the parliament and that he keenly hoped that the opposition shall be in the right level of responsibility and truthfulness and become the face of the regime, as it is understood everywhere, and to become the alternate of the regime to receive power.

He felt sorry for those who call themselves opposition, while they are only a small antique group of politicians who carry the genes of disagreement among them and the homeland.

He accused the Socialist and Nasserite opposition parties that they have seen no change or development with regard to their cadres, that they are still keeping their conflict with the people and the homeland, and are tied strongly to their past.


The president said that the nation has a revenge with the royalists who fought the September and October Revolutions and it is unacceptable to come to power with one who started the war secession or who sought power through coup d' etate, as the Nasserites did in 1978.

On whether a national coalition government shall be established after elections, he said that it is still early to decide. He said that such governments come when parties which respect the rules of the game are available.

The press conference of the president agitated the anger of the opposition parties which issued a statement in which they considered the conference as a ruthless attack against them and a backsliding on democracy. Yemen Times talked to some leaders of the opposition to know their reaction towards the press conference of the president.

SILVER LINING

By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Managing Editor, Yemen Times



Yemen: Where to?

What happened in the City Center Supermarket on Friday evening is actually catastrophic and indescribable. The blast could be heard all over the capital, Sana'a. In fact, it made the people of the capital, particularly women and children restless. It is really a heinous crime. Everybody could not believe is merely a mere blast of TNT explosives or any other kinds of such stuff. Rather, they thought it could be a mass destruction rocket.

In any case the incident is of many-faceted detrimental and dangerous aspects. First of all, the incident gives a bad image about the security situation in Yemen. In other words, it gives a clue that the security situation is zeroed and that Yemen is not a safe country. This accordingly makes the investors who are willing to invest their capital in the country reconsider their decision and hence leave the country, seeking for a better and safe place. This puts the economy of the country on the precipice. The first target of the explosion is the Yemeni economy.

The government always tries to shrug off and ignore the sense of insecurity overwhelming the country. Further, it tries to show that everything is fine while, in fact, everything is deteriorating and backsliding as well as getting worse and worse. Now and again we hear about such disturbing hideous actions like murders and blasts all over the country. However, we do not take them seriously. Even in the official statements it appears as if it was some kind of a routinely entertaining hobby practiced by the people. In other words, the government officials don't give them their due attention.

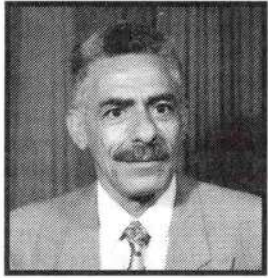
I believe if the government shows its muscles and exercise stiff measures against law breakers and troublemakers, such heinous and inhuman practices will be gradually downsized. But neglect on the part of the people in authority actually help exerpate the situation.

It is reported that the reason behind the explosion of the city center supermarket is a personal dispute amongst the owners of the supermarket. This is horrible, isn't it? A personal dispute can break all the hell loose and make the people of the capital live moments of fright and restlessness. It is something incredible. I believe a personal dispute will not reach this extent, if law and order is applied to all people. As a matter of fact, people feel no more the sovereignty of the government. Otherwise, they will not take the law into their hands to finish off any showdown. This is why the sense of lawlessness predominates and the law of the jungle prevails. The reason of the Sanaa blast is, as stated by the government, vindictive. How about the explosions which took place in Aden and Abyan at the same day? Who is responsible for them? I wonder what is actually happening in our country and to which direction it is led! I can envisage the future is dark and would be rather dismal if this security mess is not stopped and nipped in the bud. Besides, the security people can only harass and tease only journalists and opinion makers and block their way to do a good work. What happened to me and the editor of the Yemen Times Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf on the last Saturday makes me conclude that democracy and press freedom can only evolve only in an institutionalized society. We were deprived of our camera and tape recorder for nothing but we wanted to find out the heart of the matter and see the injured of the blast and report the truth to the people as we believe it is our duty towards the people and the sacred mission of journalism to search for the truth and make it reach the ears of all people. But we were confiscated this right.

By and large, I believe that the explosions taking place from time to time would uproot and bury any potentiality for investment in the country. We do call people to come and invest their money in our country. But we should at the same time remember that no investment can operate and flourish, if the country lives under a constant threat of terrorism and lawlessness. In my opinion, the issue of security is one of the main challenging issues faced by the president after the ensuing presidential elections. However, this blast of Sanaa and some others rise my curiosity to ask: YEMEN.. WHERE TO?

Garalla Omer, the prominent politician of the Yemeni Socialist Party said:

"The man went too far. He was blatantly saying I shall keep on holding to power forever, and shall pick my choice for succession. Any other alternate is not allowed whatever is its color. This means he is rejecting all sorts of opposition and accepts only his own party and those who support him. This is regrettable. The press conference was another setback for democracy. In my opinion, it was endorsing what had taken place. He was tending political revenge. This is a kind of political charging in order to create a new tension and civil wars. He was frank. Peaceful exchange of power is prohibited and not allowed. The President's press conference was a declaration of war against democracy. It was an open threat to personal safety of opposition members. We hope the President should concentrate on current issues, such



as the harsh economic and security crisis surrounding our homeland. We hoped that the past and clinging to the bloody past was surpassed. Everyone among our people knows the past and what occasioned the bloody past and it isn't wise to open those files. The President has associated himself with the homeland and considers it a dangerous case for anybody to have a difference with the homeland! When such a situation takes place; it does not go well with the principal of multiparty system and democracy. How can a competition takes place in a situation with a leader of a political party associating himself with the homeland.

How can people speak about peaceful exchange of power in this country. When we differ with the People's Congress, which is headed by the president that does not mean that we are differing with our country. It would have been better if the President accepted our call for a serious national dialogue, for the making of a future in which all miseries of the past are surpassed. In order to open future files. It is fully regretted that the President was dragged - we don't know why - to painful issues we prefer not to mention.

We are committed and fully insisting on retaining our constitutional rights and on democracy. We reject being aligned with the past and insist on serious and competitive presidential elections, whether the President rejects that now or accepts it in the future, we insist on peaceful democratic activities to emphasize our right in demanding true and competitive presidential elections."

Mr. Ali Saif Hasan of the Nasserite Unionist Party gave his reaction to the President's press conference as such: "I would like personally to express my deep sorrow

towards what was said in these presidential statements. They do contain a high level of danger and expose the nature of the political thinking which is in power now in Yemen i.e. keeping itself in power forever, dismissing opposition under different names or by different excuses. This is a retreat from constitutional legitimacy and from seeking power through ballots and replacing it by legitimacy of power."

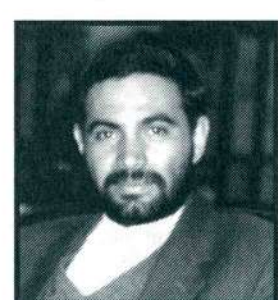
When Mr. Hasan was asked what should be the next move by the opposition he said that the opposition, he answered, "shall issue an important statement today and clarify its position towards what was declared during the President's press conference. We shall continue our peaceful struggle among the people in order to seize our people's democratic rights. We depend on peoples' consciousness and on the future and believe that democracy shall take over by the end. It is regretful that the president spoke about political revenge. This is some kind of giving a green light and shall lead to more tensions. I fear that this might be preparing for some kind of violence



against opposition parties and especially against the leaders. We are considering what was said by the President as serious and raise the alarm. We call upon all people who are keen on liberties to condemn these policies which divide the Yemeni people i.e., its political foes between royalists or secessionists or those who have a revenge with the homeland - which means that every political opposition is rejected and condemned. This is a call for political decay and hegemony. To conclude, those expression in the press conference reflect impasse through which the political regime is going, it can neither go forward nor retreat, the contradictions between what the regime declares and what it practices."

Mohammed Al-Maqalih, a well-known politician and writer said the following:

"Hearing the president's statements in the conference, I really felt that he has forgot his role as a responsible official of the Yemeni people. Instead of settling things down, he launched a war against journalists, the opposition and some other countries. He was completely biased against the opposition and its nominee. The president said that the rejection of the opposition's nominee was a right political decision because it is impossible to nominate a person who has bad intentions and wants to have revenge, forgetting that this nominee is presented by the opposition council which includes different parties admitted in the political domain and work accordingly. In fact, his speech was very disappointing for a president he should be fair and just. I wish what the president said in the conference was a temporary anger



that will be over soon. I also wish that the President's speech was owed to his feeling that elections has become of no meaning to the people, especially after the withdrawal of the opposition. In my viewpoint, I did not approve such statements at all. What the opposition council did was absolutely expected and justified, especially after the rejection of their nominee. The statements of the president shows the narrow democracy implemented in Yemen. I also believe that the future of Yemen is not promising at all."

تياشوب

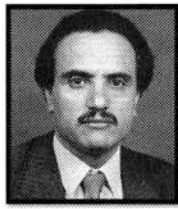
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Enjoy The Taste of Quality

Reviving Tourism in Yemen

Too Much Talk, Too Little Work



Ismail Al-Ghabiry
Yemen Times

The talk about the current situation of tourism investment in Yemen can not be separated from the talk about tourism in Yemen and its features, as well as the nature and volume of investment. What are the obstacles to investment in Yemen, in general, and tourism investment in particular? The tourism sector is extremely devastating and continues to decline. Despite that, not much is being done in practice to stop this decline, which is costing the country millions of dollars every year.

As reported by the International Organization for Tourism, Yemen holds the 18th position (the last one) among the other Mid-East countries in regards to the number of tourists visiting it. The same report indicated that, tourists coming to Yemen are from limited European countries like Germany, France, Italy and Britain. Hence, we think that it is very necessary to present Yemen as a tourist country to the other countries that are ignorant of Yemen. At the same time, we should concentrate on the Arab tourists and providing them with tourist attractions. Coming back to the deplorable situation of tourism in Yemen, we find that it

does not agree with the tourist attractions Yemen is gifted with. This is because most of the touristic places haven't been discovered yet while the available ones are not properly managed.

Tourism infrastructure

The tourism infrastructure in Yemen is not strong enough to make a great move in the field of investment in general, and tourism investment in particular. In fact, great attention must be paid to the tourism infrastructure, as well as to the places aimed at for tourist investment.

Are the tourist establishments working in Yemen sufficient?

One-star hotels form 55% of the total number of hotels available in Yemen. The number of rooms in such hotels forms 27% of the total number of hotel rooms while their beds form 43% of the total number of beds in all hotels. Such hotels are considered to be the preferable retreat for the domestic tourists. Unfortunately, the capacity of these hotels as well as the accommodation offered by them is not as it should be. Another problem facing the domestic tourism is that most of the tourist service centers are mostly located in the main cities. However, provides a good chance for tourist investment in places other than the main cities.

Features of the tourist investment at the present time

The general atmosphere of investment and tourism in Yemen is shaped by a set of positive circumstances as well as the development Yemen has witnessed since its reunification on May 22, 1990. For example:

- The democratic policy followed by the government
- Security and stability
- The free market policy
- Encouraging the private sector in the field of investment
- The execution of the Financial and Administrative Reform Program.

Privatization

The investment law that was issued in 1991, grants investors a lot of guaranties and facilities. Yet, there is a problem in applying this law in reality, as well as the insufficiency of guaranties offered. At the same time there are a lot of obstacles to the execution of the tourist investment projects. Chief among them are the following:

- The lands and locations licensed for such projects are randomly given out.
 - The cost of partnership.
- In spite of this, tourism can still be a fertile field for foreign investors to invest in.

Tourist Facilities

Regarding the tourist facilities, they are still insufficient. For example, the official routine in many authorities, such as immigration, passports, airports, harbors, customs and alike. These authorities should be more considerate of the following:

- Drawing a rosy picture of our country in the eyes of the investors and tourists.
- Providing documented information about the requirements of investment in Yemen.

- The insufficiency of the judiciary.
- The absence of the state control in some tribes, villages and remote districts.
- The insufficiency of the tourism infrastructure.
- The insufficiency of tourism laws.
- The lack of resources to support the investment projects.
- The absence of a good coordination between the ministries and the other organizations which are concerned about tourism and investment.
- The absence of tourist attractions and this is mainly due to the following:
 - The dirty streets and areas.
 - The polluted environment.
 - The carelessness about the tourist places.
 - The lack of the tourist-service centers.

Suggested Actions that are Required Immediately

- Making judiciary a separate authority.
- Punishing all the responsible for kidnapping tourists.
- Prohibiting the carrying of weapons, especially in tourist locations.
- Specifying the responsibilities of the local Authorities.
- Organizing the responsibilities of both the General Organization for Investment and the Ministry of Tourism.
- Protecting the lands and locations specified for investment and tourist projects.
- Organizing the tourist activities.
- Specifying the places and lands of that are suitable for future investment projects.
- Allocating a fairly reasonable budget for advertising the beautiful tourist attractions in Yemen.

Mr. Leonard S. Chaikand:

“One of our objectives is to introduce a stock exchange in Yemen”

Foreign investment in Yemen could be very helpful for the economic growth in the country. The government issued a law concerning investment which could drive the economic prosperity ahead. But the process of investment is plagued with a lot of pitfalls and difficulties. Investors are coming to Yemen and perceive that it has a good potential for investment. Mr. Leonard S. Chaikand, Chairman and CEO of the Institutional Investors Consulting Company has been working with the World Dutch Shell for 35 years in many countries like India, Korea, and Thailand. He has recently arrived in Yemen and conducted talks with Petro Yemen upon which his company (IICC) has been hired to raise \$200 million to build an oil refinery at Raseesa. The goal is to have the refinery come on stream by the year 2000 or early 2001. If everything went smoothly, the refinery would come on stream and it would produce between 40-60,000 barrels a day. On this occasion, Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Managing Editor interviewed Mr. Leonard S. Chaikand and filed the following.

Excerpts:

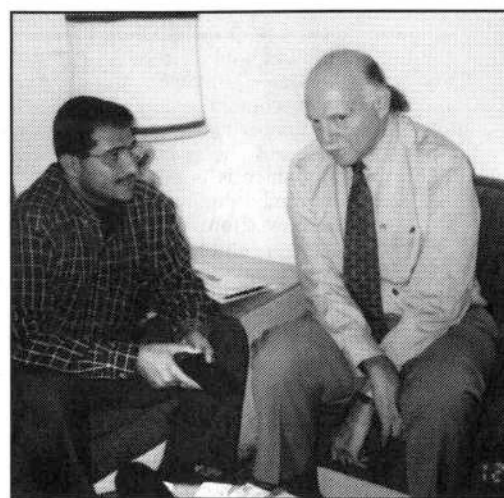
Q: What is your focus on your visit to Yemen?

A: It is to understand what is going on here and to build some confidence in myself that the people we are working with can do the job. If I am going to be raising some money in the United States and Europe and other places, I want to be comfortable that we have the right group.

We need a lot of technical people and our long term goal is to be an integrat-

good. For example, they American women that was here for two years. There is something about the place that is very attractive. So, it doesn't hurt that the city is high and that their is all kinds of agricultural products. However, in order to take the benefits of this infrastructure, industrial projects are required, including roads and hospitals.

I'm a capitalist! There is no question about that and I believe every capital-



One way to do it is to make yourself better known. For example, do you know which country gets the second or third most aid from the United States? Well, Israel is first, Egypt is second, Columbia is third and fourth is Armenia. Why does Columbia and particularly Armenia get so much aid from the US. One reason is they know how to market themselves, they present themselves. Yemen is not very well known. We went out to buy some books on Yemen from the bookstore. We found the history of Yemen and the culture amazing. It predates many of the other countries in the Middle East, so it has a lot to offer.

Q: Have you signed any contracts with any companies in Yemen?

A: Well, Petro Yemen is a Yemeni company. Right now, we are in the process of meeting with the banks and various groups that can help us with the construction. My guess is that much of this will come from outside Yemen. You always try to have as much from the local country as you can. In terms of complex refineries and chemical plants, a lot of the technical work has to come from outside. Now, one of the things that we are saying is that when the refinery opens, their will be a year training process. Hopefully, a year after the refinery

“I believe every capitalist country should have a stock exchange”

ed oil and gas company, a Yemeni company because it is Yemeni controlled. We will be the largest integrated oil and gas company in Yemen and probably within 5-6 years, the 4th to 5th largest company in Yemen. The World Bank is building a road from the main road to our refinery and from my perception, it is a country that has tremendous potential and a lot of problems. We could end up doing a number of other projects and so, we have been meeting with a number of government officials. I'll be meeting with all the major banks in Yemen. I'll also be meeting with the ambassador from Yemen to the United States in September, to talk to him about the project and also some other things that I might be beneficial to the country. I have been very impressed by Yemen, versus other countries. I think their are certain things here that make you feel

ist country should have a stock exchange. One of our objectives is to introduce a stock exchange in Yemen. They are in about six countries in the Middle East, including Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. I think Sana'a should have one too. This is something that I would like to work with as another side issue. I know a lot about this and I think I can be helpful. This is one of the reasons why I want to talk to the ambassador because its important to tap into American capital.

“..we (Ptero Yemen) are one of the companies who is meeting with Shell to see if we can form an alliance. We would ideally like to have some strong Yemeni alliances.”

opens, most of our employees will be from Yemen.

Q: How long will the project take?

A: If it works the way we like then the refinery would start operating next year and become profitable the following year. One of the things we haven't worked out is how many employees the refinery will employ and that will be pretty hard to guess. It will be a fairly large amount, but more importantly we will be getting into distribution, marketing and selling gasoline at service stations. It would be very nice if we can form a strategic alliance with Shell, particularly in the marketing area. So, we are one of the companies who is meeting with Shell to see if we can form an alliance. We would ideally like to have some strong Yemeni alliances. Our market, in addition to Yemen, is Eastern Africa and India.

India is a natural market for us because India is major importer of Petroleum products. As a result of that we are going to have petroleum products in other places. However, initially my role is to raise the \$200 million.

Q: How do you feel about the investment potential in Yemen?

A: In general, you mean? Well, since I have been here I must have had about 30 calls from people who are looking for funding and investment opportunities, including Mutaheer Al-Saeedi. We talked a lot and one of the things that I told him that privatization is an area that I am very interested in because typically, private companies run better than public companies. The investment climate in Yemen on a scale of 1-10 is probably 7, and maybe 5-10 years ago, it was probably lower. Their seems to be much greater stability now and I know things aren't perfect in Yemen, in terms of democracy. In my opinion, Yemen is doing it the right way and China is another one. I think human rights is moving in the right direction.

Q: Say something about the Yemeni society, if you may?

A: OK, I will critique everything. In the United States, we have it easy. It is not really that everybody is rich, but not everyone is that poor! Everybody

has a minimum wage and the minimum wage there, is probably higher than the average wage here (\$6 an hour). Very few people starve in the United States because their is a lot of places where people can get food. It's really discerning to go through the streets of Sana'a to see the people begging for food and alike. I think the best way to make it is to slowly evolve through privatization. It seems that the World Bank has a lot of influence on Yemen.

Q: Do you have any other projects you want to bring to Yemen?

A: Well, we have talked about a lot of projects and we plan to bring power plants, fertilizing plants, cement plants, roads and alike. Now, our position would be to loan money for these projects. There is only one major bank operating in Sana and that is Indosuez, we met with them today. The Arab

bank is large, but not like Indosuez. In both cases we will hopefully get support from these banks.

Q: Any last words?

A: I really like Yemen and the people. I will bring my wife, although she is a feminist. But, I am very, very positive about things. The US. embassy said a lot of positive things even with the kidnappings, and I would say there are more people murdered in New York City a day, than a year in Yemen. It just gets big headlines, especially if its a tourist. Yes, I would ruthlessly punish these people but proportionately, its not bad.

Fortunately, the food is good in Yemen and you find all types of food. I am very open to interviews and E-mails, especially if its positive. The beginning of the project is always the hardest and Askar is the father of all this so he deserves most of the credit.

“I would say there are more people murdered in New York City a day, than a year in Yemen”

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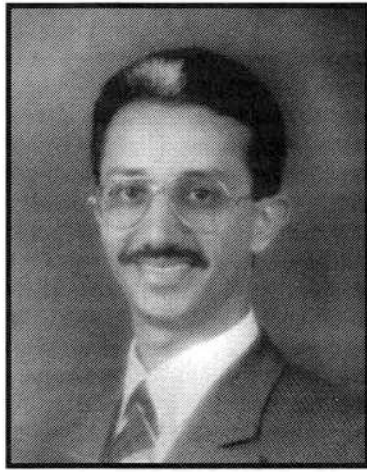
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Shawqi's Ahmed Hayel Saeed to Yemen Times:
"Taiz deserves much more, such as the united effort of all its lovers in all economical, social and cultural aspects."

Shawqi Ahmed Hayel is one of the sons of Ahmed Hayel Saeed, the elder son of the famous businessman Hayel Saeed. He was born in Taiz in 1961 and was able to obtain Bachelor's degree in Management. Currently, Shawqi is the Deputy General of Industry and Director in the Hayel Saeed Group. Another position of his is the Chairman of the Aghabira and A'arooq (Taiz) Society. He is also a Financial Official at the Yemeni Society of Industrialists. It is also worth mentioning that besides being a successful businessman, Shawqi also was honored several times for the support of sports and youth. Among his honorary posts are the Honorary Chairman of the Football Union, the Honorary Chairman of Al-Saqr Cultural and Sport Club, and the Honorary Chairman of the Talia'ah Club in Taiz. Imad Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Bureau Chief in Taiz interviewed Mr. Shawqi to know how their work after the death of the late Hayel Saeed is going on, and to also ask of future projects ahead. Excerpts:



Q: We start with Taiz, this dreaming and wonderful city, whose name was associated with the late Hayel Saeed, God rest his soul in heaven, and the Hayel Saeed Group. If it were not because of the activities of this pioneering group; Taiz would have been a dead city, while Taiz has all the necessary conditions to be a prosperous cultural center and tourist destination. Despite this, Taiz is miserable and lacks the minimum services and investments in tourism. Do you intend to make an investment in the tourist sector in Taiz?

A: I would like in the beginning to thank the Yemen Times for this interview. As for your question, you know that investment in tourism is very important and has a big role in helping the economy of any country to prosper. Tourism is sometimes called, "the smoke industry". So, it is only natural for us to think in entering this sector with a wide range of activities, a sample of which is the tourist project being constructed currently. In the past our group may have concentrated on industrial affairs, but now we are thinking in embarking into a wide

range of investments and projects in tourism, because our Group is convinced in providing a service that reflect our society's history, traditions and civilization. In general, we are not completely absent in this respect, but our group's investments in the tourist sector wasn't at the same level of our current industrial investments.

This is a general overview of our group's tourist sector activities. As for Taiz, it is spontaneous to think in establishing a tourist project in this beautiful and wonderful city. The first such activity for us may be current "Al-Saeed Hotel" which is being concluded in Taiz.

Q: Let us move to trade and local manufacturing industries. These have started to suffer lately because the local markets are being dumped with foreign products and due also to smuggling. How do you consider the dangers of smuggling to local industries? It's reasons? Who stands behind it? What is your opinion in the this policy of opening the local market to whoever wants to indulge in, and to all foreign made products?

A: Smuggling is one of the most serious issues facing any economy. It is a phenomenon that needs to be curbed and the means to fight it, looked into. The damages of smuggling equally strike the country, local consumers and investors. I think that opening the Yemeni markets in such a way to everybody and dumping the market with foreign imports (or locally made products) inflicts many dangers in the long run on the national economy. Every nation should execute harsh punishments on smugglers that may include confiscation and prison. The Yemeni government has to be fully aware of the dangers of smuggling and to help the investors and to take into consideration the situation that the country's economy is currently in. Any economy has to advance from its own circumstances and understandings. The government has to stop this destructive march of smuggling in order to maintain a balance in the Yemeni economy which is in great need of support at the first place.

Q: It is said that the production and sales of your group's factories have dwindled and a number of

laborers were discharged from your factories. Is this right?

A: I see that this the natural and unavoidable result of the above mentioned damages resulting from smuggling and dumping the Yemeni markets with imports which compete with local products(though it may be lower in quality). Such policies result in lower sales; but our companies are in good shape and we are capable to continue serving our homeland and fulfilling its objectives.

As to the situation of the labor force in our factories and companies, is it not true that we are discharging laborers. We have tried every possibility to maintain the opportunities for the Yemeni labor force in general, and to the disguised unemployment in our Group.

Q: Your continuous support to Youth and Sport activities in Taiz is a known fact. Are you trying to establish an example to other businessmen in respect to supporting sport clubs? And how do you estimate the situation of sports in Yemen generally and in Taiz especially? What hurdles are facing sports? And how can they be overcome?

A: As for whether we are trying to put an example for businessmen to support sport clubs and unions we would appreciate a call for everybody capable of doing so to do that and support sport activities in Taiz and in Yemen in general. As for sports' situation in Taiz; it is not a bad situation; especially with everybody concerned with sports trying to make some achievement or to develop or improve the sports' situation in Taiz. Every possible effort is being made, and we hope that all material and moral hurdles in the way of sports shall be erased so that Yemeni sportsmen and women shall be able to represent Taiz, in Yemeni and Arab competitions. If people join their hands and efforts the said hurdles shall be transformed into real achievements.

Q: The initiative made by the Hayel Saeed Group in establishing the annual Awards in the name of the late Mr. Hayel Saeed "may God have mercy on him", and in establishing the Al-Saeed Establishment is the first such move in Yemen. But, it is noticed that Al-Saeed Establishments' activities are seasonal, and that it lacks a program which throughout the year similar to that of Al-Affif's. Why are the activities of Al-Saeed Establishment seasonal and not all year?

A: This question was raised several times before. We appreciate such interests in culture loving and encouraging individuals; but a 1000 mile journey starts with one pace, and Al-Saeed Establishment started with more than one pace. As you have just mentioned the Award of the late Hayel Saeed for Arts and Sciences is considered one of the most prominent cultural manifestations inside Yemen. The same is right for Al-Saeed Library. Every intellectual in Yemen awaits like us the conclusion of the Buildings of the Al-Saeed Library and Al-Saeed Establishment. These buildings shall acquire a program that covers the whole year. While works are being finalized in this regard; the officials at the establishment shall by than have earned more energy and arranged their papers for the beginnings of a new born cultural activity whose features are starting to come to light.

Q: Back to Taiz, which dreams of a better future and of her dream knight who shall lift her out of misery and wretchedness. You have given much of what Taiz deserves; and it deserves more love and generosity. What are your future plans for Taiz?

A: There is much talk of future plans but less of the activity. This city deserves much more, such as the united effort of all Taiz lovers in all economical, social and cultural aspects. This affair isn't in the hands of any individual alone. Everyone should join hands. Praise goes to one who gives without awaiting anything in return. Everyone who does his best to provide happiness to Taiz and it's

Art & Cultural Stations



Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor

Arab Music in Ravenna International Festival

It was great, this is the easiest expression by which I can describe the unforgettable Arab musical manifestation in the Ravenna Festival which started on June 23rd, 1999. Halls dedicated to the Eastern Arts were crowded with the Italian audience who were impressed by the elegant performance of the Arab musicians, singers and dancers coming from Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon and Tunisia. In spite of this, a small number of the Arab participants were able to draw a beautiful picture of Arab music in the eyes of all the audience in the festival which was also attended by many other participants from Asia, Europe, America and Africa.

In fact, this festival which is held yearly in Europe can be considered as a living exhibition for the peoples' music and cultures. Participants as well as the audience get the best chance ever to enjoy the various magnificent cultures of the other countries. In their part, the Arab participants did their best to successfully present the Eastern music with its rhythm, meter and scales. Though they were ignorant of the meaning, the audience enjoyed and danced the Arab songs. Music was the prevailing language and means of communication among those chanced to be their.

The Arab participation was initiated by the Iraqi famous Oud player, Nassr Shamma and Randa Abu Murad and his band, which was distinguished by the Arab musical instruments that were unknown to the European audience. The great Tunisian singer, Lutfi Bushnaq accompanied by his own Oud presented some sweet religious chants (Mwashahat) and Tunisian songs. Though it was the first time for them to participate in this festival, the Yemeni participants could mark this a success. Among the musical instrument brought by the Arab bands, the Oud attracted most of the audience. Many of them came and asked us about it and its characteristics.

This big event will lead the Yemeni artists for further international participations in which they will choose the more Arabic advanced instruments in order to reflect the Yemeni musical heritage.

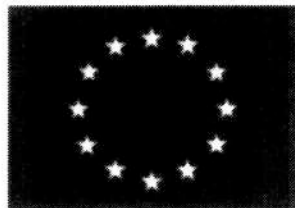
dweller shall be its dreamed and future knight.

Q: The death of the late Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf was a catastrophe to all quarters. How did you receive the news? Do you have any special recollections or memories with him?

A: Yes, his death was a disaster! We lost his keen economical and cultural interests; especially his important role in establishing and publishing the Yemen Times through which he brought out clearly the role of the private sector in trade and industry, not

to mention his prominent role as a Professor in Economics and his unrivaled courage.

I remember that he, may God rest his soul in peace, called me just the day before his painful death. The subject was the Democracy Forum which was prepared for its convenience in Sana'a and that Yemen Times shall be published daily on this occasion. His death was a real shock to me. I hope to God that his soul is in the highest of paradise and send his family and lovers of patience my condolences. But I believe that Yemen Times will continue to prosper over the years.



Republic of Yemen
National Population Council
Technical Secretariat
EU-AT to the National IEC Programme



The European Technical & Financial Assistance project to the National Population Council - Technical Secretariat for an Information, Education and Communication program on Reproductive Health

Is inviting Ministries, NGOs, and other Yemeni organizations and agencies interested in implementing IEC activities related to Reproductive Health and Family Planning to be funded under the EC-project to submit proposals for IEC activities to the project office.

Who is eligible for funding?

Interested Yemeni agencies, organizations, NGOs etc. MUST be officially registered and MUST have experience in IEC on population, Reproductive Health, Family Planning and/or related topics already.

What are the target areas for activities?

Proposals may be for nation-wide activities (for example mass media messages) or target "our" selected pilot regions of Aden & Sana'a city, and/or the rural area of Hajjah, Al Hodeidah, Taiz and Hadramout Governorate only (especially interpersonal communication IEC activities).

What are the criteria for proposal format?

All proposals MUST be in English and Arabic and fulfill certain other criteria (e.g. format, contents/topics to be covered, personnel, budget), for which the project elaborated written guidelines.

What to do if you need more information?

The Guidelines and additional Technical Assistance for writing your proposal will be offered on request. Please contact Ali Yeslam Ali Badurais for any further information Under Tel/Fax: 231 313 during official office working hours.

Looking forward to receiving your IEC on Reproductive health proposals within the next 2 weeks and to working together with you in the future.

Best Regards.

The Project Management

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After the many violent incidents lately, Weapon Salesmen at Jihana Cry: "WE DON'T WANT THIS TO CONTINUE ANY MORE!"

The popular tradition of bearing arms is a problem that continues to survive despite all of the government's efforts during so many years to curb it, at least within Sana'a, the capital and the main towns of Yemen. All these efforts went in vain because "quick and solemn" can not uproot old habits and traditions that have been established for decades in the collective consciousness of the people. And because the tradition of bearing arms in Yemen is time-honored, arms has become nearly a part of any Yemeni. This habit resulted from the tribal life in Yemen; many Yemenis consider arms a part of their costume and the

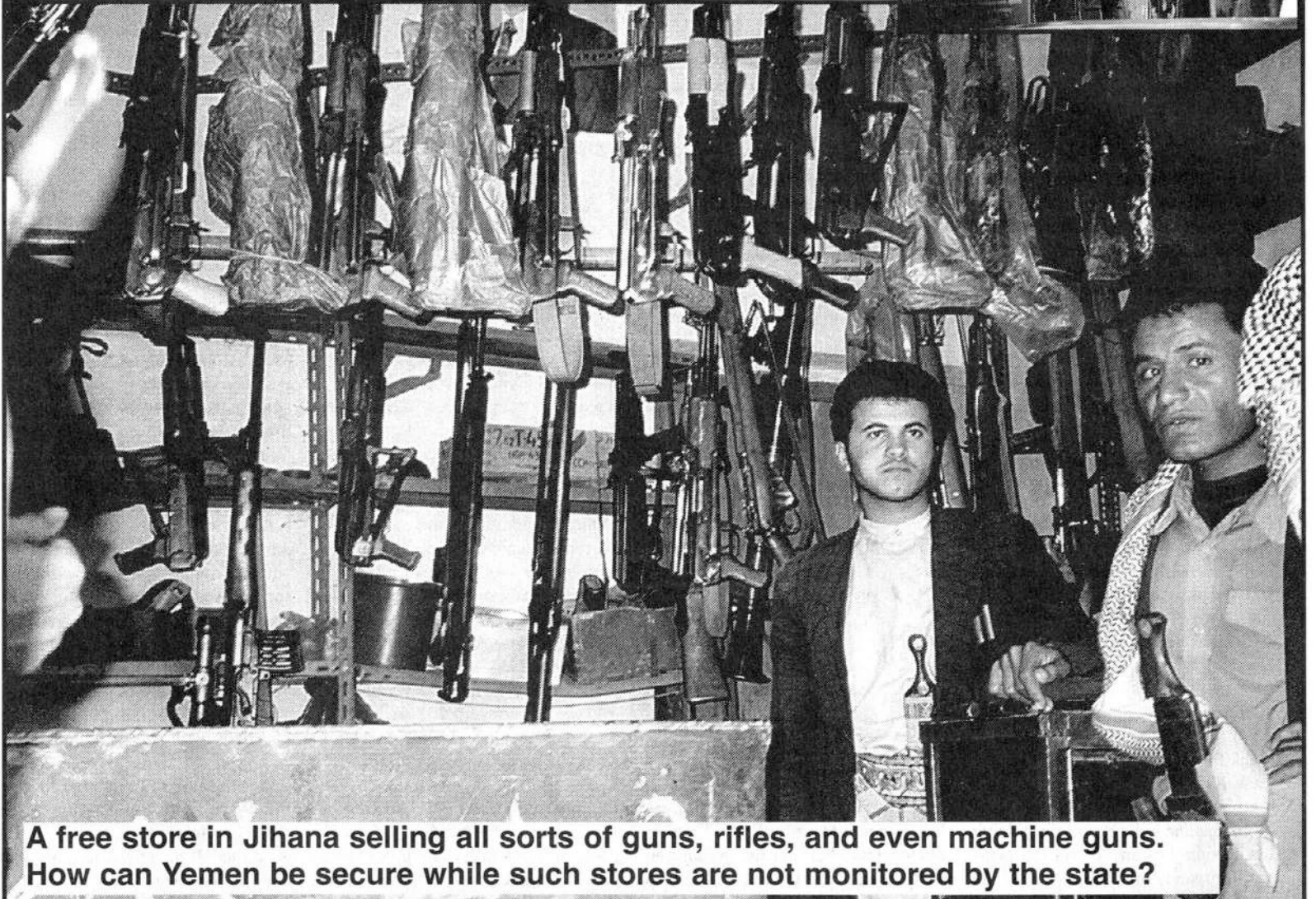
veiled, especially when we told them that we want to only forward the facts to our readers, only then did their opinions on how to curb the tradition of bearing arms in Yemen begin. We told them also that we want every body to know weapons have a very unique and special status in Yemeni society. By the end of the day, we had the following interesting interviews with arms traders.

Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Al-Jabri
"For Yemeni men - and Tribal men to be more exact - arms are the most important part of our dress. But in the more recent number of years it seems

"If the government is keen on finding an optimal solution for this problem, it will have to close all sources of imported arms and to buy those which we have."

symbol of manhood. It is also the efficient mean for a man to protect himself and his family against any aggression. The availability of the arms markets in Yemen helped the spread of arms among Yemenis. These markets are mostly located near the borders between Yemen and neighboring countries. The most famous market is that of "Al-Talh", at which all kinds of

the tribes have stopped buying heavy arms, because of the difficult economic situation which seems to have affected the people's purchasing powers, arms trade has decreased a lot in Jihana and many traders moved into food stuffs. Many tourists come to Jihana and take pictures for themselves with us and some of them try some arms. They feel safe with us. It is



A free store in Jihana selling all sorts of guns, rifles, and even machine guns. How can Yemen be secure while such stores are not monitored by the state?



"They shouldn't imitate old behaviors of their forefathers who believed that it is a shame for a man to be unarmed, or that such a man is a coward. I think education and information have an important role in this process."

arms are available from pistols to heavy guns, rocket launchers, spare parts of tanks and wireless communications.

Jihana, a small town located 30 minutes by car, south east of Sana'a, is another arms market visited by Yemen Times. Jihana was much more prosperous in the past. Trade in arms seems to be decreasing. Some shops have transferred to other kinds of commerce such as vehicles, spare parts and food stuffs. But the trade in arms is still a characteristic of this town. There are stores for whatever kinds of arms are demanded; but only light weapons are exhibited in shops. When Yemen Times visited Jihana, it was very difficult to interview arms traders there. They were all suspicious about the intentions behind our questions on different kinds of arms. My companion started to fear when traders refused to be photographed. But usual tribal magnanimity and knightly conduct of Yemeni tribes pre-

true there is nothing to frighten them here. What is happening here is the selling of arms, which was practiced by Yemenis for decades. If the government is keen on finding an optimal solution for this problem, it will have to close all sources of imported arms and to buy those which we have. We are ready to cooperate in this regard with the government."

Mr. Abdulwahed Ahmed Albaridah
"When tensions rise between tribes, arm sales and especially, heavy arm sales increase. But nowadays, there are no tribal wars as in the past, so arms trade has deteriorated. Sometimes, we have to rent arms on marriages and other festivals during which the use of live ammunition and bullets is considered necessary as an expression of delight and happiness. The increase in young peoples consciousness helped in putting limits to this phenomenon, and this is a good beginning. Time is needed although,

long habits can not be dismissed in a day. We have moved into food trade, and also make some light deals in arms.

In the Jihana market, different kinds of arms are sold. They are mainly brought from Al-Talh market. Arms used to come in the past from Mareb and from Al-Buqa', in Saada. After the 1994 war, Adenese people brought many arms. They sold arms which were hidden during the war. Some others come from Hadhramout. Checkpoints are not a problem for us. As for my opinion, well, the spread of arms is becoming dangerous. It is also uncivilized to bear arms. But our circumstances force us into dealing in arms. Many children get killed or injured while playing with arms. I think the youths should make an example. They shouldn't imitate old behaviors of their forefathers who believed that it is a shame for a man to be unarmed, or that such a man is a coward. I think education and information



Slogan of Jihana's weapon traders: "Whatever you want, we've got it!"



have an important role in this process."

Mohammed Salah
"Arms trading is just like the other kinds of trading. The Jihana tribe is an important tribe due to its location between Khawlan and Marib. Presently, arms trading has slowed down because the number of problems between the tribes has decreased. This trading is no longer a profitable one, we are now practicing it just to earn our living."

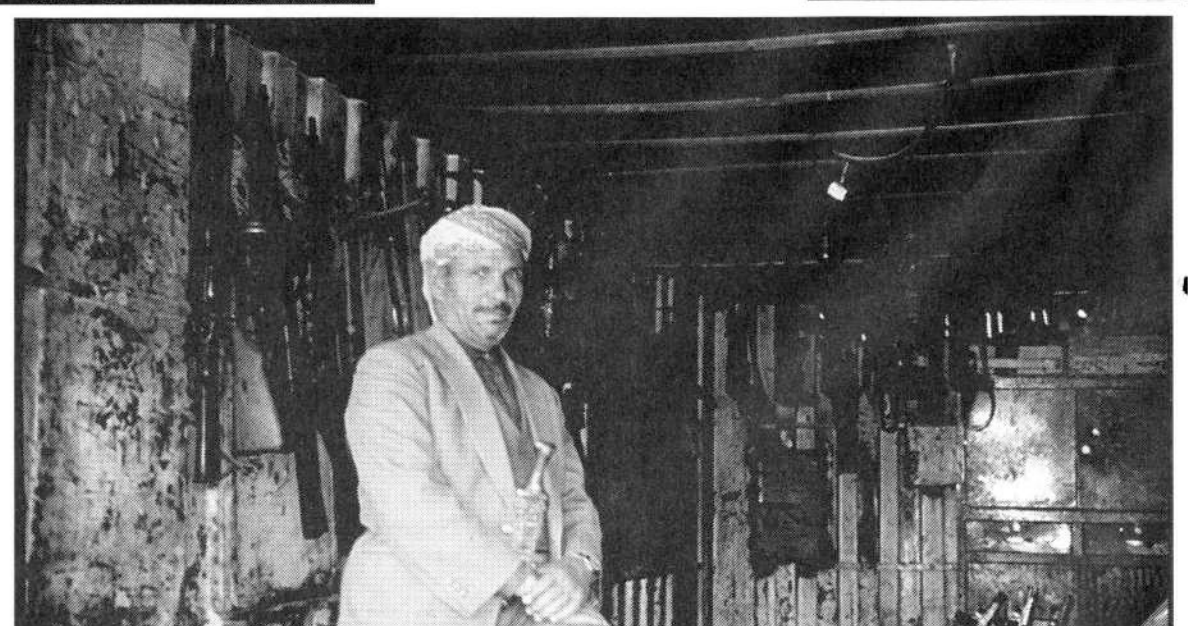
Saleh Al-Azazy
"The tribesman looks at the gun as part of him. Its cost and quality form a source of pride for him wherever he goes. Some people say that arms means destruction. These people have

ignored the fact that they are used for self-protection. In addition, they help their owners when they are in need of money. The solution in my opinion is not the withdrawal of all kinds of arms. It is enough to withdraw the heavy weapons because they are the source of all the problems."

Mobarak Mutahar
"If the state is really sincere in its desire to solve this problem, it must stop its sources. Everyday, we witness the appearance of new kinds of guns and ammunition. I repeat it again that the only solution to this problem is the closing down of these markets."

The various point of views we have heard from the arms traders lead us to one conclusion, that the spread of this trade threatens the future of Yemen. However, the solution can not be found in a short time. It should take place gradually and the start should be with the heavy weapons."

"The various point of views we have heard from the arms traders lead us to one conclusion, that the spread of this trade threatens the future of Yemen."



How "City Center" Turned into Dust: AS SERIOUS AS CAN GET!

It started with a gigantic boom that shook the whole city of Sana'a. The air was filled with smoke, flames, lightening in the sky- in the middle of the night, pieces of glass and ruins everywhere, screaming and shouting, gunfire, ambulances, security forces, and news on CNN saying, "A huge blast took place in Sanaa city, 9 people were reported killed, several injured". "It was like a nightmare", an injured said, "I felt as if it was doomsday." "I am going to die, I am going to die", I was thinking." Then I found myself on this bed, in the Police Hospital, near the incident's location."

People say that they have never heard in their lives such a loud voice. The sound of the blast was clearly heard in the furthest areas from the site. People were awoken and frightened as if a missile has hit the capital. It reminded some of the ugly days of the civil war. Even then, the sound of blasts were not this strong. Something must have gone wrong in our city. What is the issue and how it happened? What explains the other two blasts that occurred in the south? Was

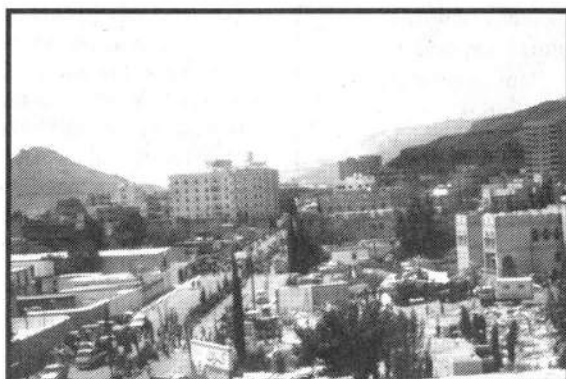
it a coincidence that in the same night, another small explosion in Al-Tawwahi, in Aden, and a third in Abyan's Zinjubar town took place, even though both explosions caused no substantial damage or casualties.

Even though there were reports saying that Abu Hamza claimed responsibility of the accident and it is again the Abyan Military Army, the truth is still unknown. It is unlikely that this is true because how can everything be managed by this army, without leaving a single clue or evidence behind them? It is the duty of the



police to know the exact truth behind the incident. But Yemen Times, as always tried to know and deliver what is being said of the reason of the blast. The many speculations in regards to the cause of the explosion continue, yet none of them was confirmed. One of these speculations is that the owner of the market had personal problems with the shareholders in the company and that this disagreement between them might have led to committing explosion. Luckily, one of the workers at the City Center agreed to give a brief statement regarding the explosion to Yemen Times on condition of anonymity, "On the night of the explosion, I left the supermarket before 12:00 am. On that night, the owner of the supermarket, who is one of the dead, was present

in order to monitor the issuance of the employees' salaries tables. The salaries of the employees were planned to be given either on Sunday or Monday. The accountant and Al-Omeiry stayed late to review the records of salaries when the blast happened. I don't think that the explosion -if intentional- was aimed at killing people. If that intention was valid, the bombs could have been placed earlier in the day to kill as many as possible. However, the blast was late, and usually employees leave the market around 11:00 pm, but on that particular night they stayed there until 2:00 am -as I said- to review the reports. I have not heard of any problems between the owner and others. Everything in the market seemed to be going quite well."



Being in the diplomatic neighborhood, the effect of the explosion was felt by several significantly important buildings including the British, Turkish, and Dutch Embassies, the residence of the French Ambassador, the Canadian Occidental Petroleum Company, and the Yemen Times building. The authorities did not give any kind of statement regarding this incident, and ordered the lifting of all the remains of the blast and the cleaning of the area.

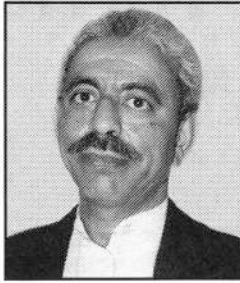
It is still uncertain how the inspections on how and why the blast happened. The coming days would reveal the truth behind the incident, even though there are no ruins left in the investigation. As seen from those pictures, the damage was extreme, and the issue is not simple. How can we feel secure? If this explosion happens here this time, next time, where will it happen? Who guarantees that it will not be repeated? These questions are left to our officials to answer!



COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

In a Democracy, Is It Good Guys vs. Bad Guys?



It is understandable that the ruling party should want to maintain control of the reigns of power and authority in the country. That is a constitutional right granted to them. The General People's Congress also enjoys a broad base of support among the population, especially among the traditional power wielders and social dignitaries, although its grass roots can not be recognized for their strong political activism and full unquestionable loyalty out of sincere political conviction.

The reunification of Yemen - formerly composed of 2 diametrical regimes and political "philosophies" - brought with it political pluralism and democracy (the proponents thereof have pretty much been removed from the political

theater as a result of the ungodly Civil War of 1994). It was not sure whether the introduction of this new political approach came out of a sincere belief in them, or that perhaps the once powerful, but increasingly threatened Yemeni Socialist Party saw it as a balancing act to overcome the strong political and military muscle of its former rivals - then partners in the new unified state. The YSP may have gambled that with political pluralism and democracy, its adversaries would lack the sophistication in a free for all political game, in which mass public appeal becomes the deciding factor of the winners and losers. The YSP was going to take on a populist platform, in order to assure itself the edge it needs accordingly. But the Civil War would never give the YSP the chance to see if its gamble would work and the will of the people was never given a chance to be truly tested, as the YSP had probably envisioned.

Of course the political equations have long since (1994) shifted dramatically, with the Peoples General Congress and its "religious"/tribal offshoot, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), pretty much carrying on as before unification, but now with uncontested control over a much larger territory and greater economic resources. The Yemeni Socialist Party lost the gamble and the semi-statehood status it enjoyed. With the balance of power now pretty much removed, as a significant political factor, what would happen to the political inputs of democracy and political pluralism, especially as those who were the proponents thereof, and who rested their hopes for survival on activating them in the political arena have now been sent packing out of the country?

Not surprisingly, the "winners" of the disguised struggle for power, which has been decided, not by the voting polls or any other institutionalized democratic practice, but by the nozzle of the gun, have found good reason to maintain democracy and political pluralism, although not necessarily in tune with the conceptual and sincere political manifestations implied in a true

democratic and pluralist framework, as originally envisaged by its proponents and as recognized and practiced in modern democratic societies. With the reigns of power and authority firmly in the hands of the PGC/YCR alliance, it was easy to placate the New World Order with the slogan "democracy and political pluralism" by having it continuously aired by the state media, and with a faint margin of democratic practice, such as some freedom of the press - subject to severe visible and invisible limitations, and elections, that are pretty much staged to yield results that could in no way disturb the existing political status quo. Nor can it translate into a "peaceful" transition of power, no matter how bad the existing status quo may provide the motivation for a change in the public will as to who should have a chance at managing the affairs of state in the country. On the other hand, the existing ruling "political parties" know full well that the prevailing socio-economic and cultural environment allows them a great degree of manipulative power to organize just the right political scene and "popular" political participation that will not in anyway upset any of their interests or firm hold on the elements of power and influence, which they have monopolized for the last 20 years. In an environment, with widespread lack of political awareness among the general population, in addition to the general apathy fostered by deteriorating economic conditions, unemployment, a vanishing middle class, which only just started to make its short-lived appearance, the absence of institutional frameworks, which cater to issues of public concerns and interests and which advocate for human rights and public interest, there is no problem for the ruling regime to project an image of civilized political behavior, while at the same time, bluntly and literally telling the people: "hay, this is not for you!". It is a skill that the well entrenched regime has mastered to the point where democracy in Yemen has come to mean, as even the most misinformed laymen in the country have come to rightfully put it: "You say what you like - to a certain extent, and we do what we like - to an unlimited extent!". The existing regime really sees no threats to its unrelenting control of the political arena - and its direct or indirect control of the national economic resources and assets, by a lot of talk on democracy and political pluralism, but with really no substance behind all the flowery political jargon that is being used to promote the regime's "strong commitment" to them.

On the other hand, the political activities fostered by "democratic practice", Third World - and now Yemeni - style, such as "free elections" have become an institutionalized form of income generation for those who "volunteer" to actively participate in the voting and electioneering activities, as their reward for ensuring that the results are just what the rulers had in mind. Thus they are a way of channeling badly needed public funds from the purposes they are intended for to "divide the cake" among those civil servants who see a great opportunity to supplement their almost worthless salaries by extravagant per diem allowances for their "volunteer" work on behalf of a supposedly grateful regime.

When we speak of political pluralism, we can expect that all those who the state has duly recognized as a viable political assembly, shall not be treated by the ruling party or the various state organs that fall under its control - which are all the state organs - as outcasts or villains that are subject to slander or insinuations of treason or unpatriotic activity, etc. As long as the constitution has guaranteed them rights - as limited as they are - they should not be subject to any name calling, simply because they stuck to a strong opposition stand to what the ruling regime is making out of the political process, which seems to suggest that the political game has now become more of a self serving enterprise rather than a true reflection of public will and mandate. Thus, it is not understandable why the ruling regime insists on using the terms that should have died with the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen. Terms like "reactionary, secessionists, rebels, etc." have no place in a democratic arena and certainly do not project a more enlightened image of the regime, if it insists on using such tactics to hide its misrepresentation of democratic political activity. Such tactics are also not good for the regime itself, as it would lead the other political organizations, especially those opposing the ruling regime, to likewise come out with their unfavorable terms to describe the elements that make up the ruling regime, including terms that the regime has used against the opposition, since there are elements in the regime who also could be considered as having been once also a part of the "untouchable" political forces, which the opposition being slandered as being in. In fact, because the elements in the ruling regime have had literally unrestricted and unregulated control over state resources, the opposition could come out with even more direct and slanderous terms that would illustrate an unfavorable and more true to life picture of the re, to say the least.

The point to be made here, is that with so much power wielded by the ruling party, it serves no meaningful purpose to try to maintain that power, through rhetoric that seeks to slander, scare and put down any voice, which mostly is trying to say: "Look you guys, would you please stick to what you proclaim to be, or else forget about these political games, which you want us to partake in, but in the end give us no part to play in, except to give you a stamp of disguised "legitimacy", which the people of Yemen are completely innocent of!" Furthermore, such political schemes have cost billions of Riyals, from the state treasury, with the people's interest the last to be served accordingly. "We say what you do not like, you do what we do not like". Isn't that the way it really is?

The Evil Practice of the Dowry System in Yemen



By: Abdulrahman Khaled Al-Mikhlafi

Islam looks upon marriage as a sacred social need, and makes it a duty for every man and woman to get married, unless he or she is physically unfit or has other important reason for not marrying. The following Hadith show the importance of marriage in Islam.

- "It is necessary for you to marry, because marriage is a protection against the wickedness of the sight. If one of you can not marry, then let him fast"
- "The prophet declared that marriage is a sacred duty and whoever dislikes this way of life is not of me" (Bukhari).
- "When a man has got married, he has made his Islam half perfect. Then let him fear Allah for the remaining half" (Baihaqi).

Marriage in Islam is a contract between two parties. The object of marriage is that man and woman may live together in peace and happiness, and raise a family for promoting the good of society. However, for what we observe in our society, the extortionate price of dowry is considered to be one of the most important of the social problems, which face our society, especially the youth (males and females). Who is to be blamed for this problem? The fathers are regarded as mainly responsible for this social and serious problem. The high price of dowry plagues both boys and girls. Some fathers may ask for a dowry of 400,000 YR or more. In reality, the dowry in Yemen varies from one country to another, and from one region to another, and from one family to another, also, from one father to another. It may extend to more than YR 1,000,000.

What we see in our society is something illogical, the disparity between the very low income that does not meet the minimum family requirements and the worsening economic conditions. I am here neither to discuss nor to go into the negative aspect of this serious problem, which is known for each member of the society.

I want to dispatch both a supplication and an admonition to all fathers to be merciful toward their children, informing them that, money, no doubt, is going to vanish, just the good manners will still remain. O, fathers, don't destroy love and happiness inside your sons and daughters' hearts, and let them heartbroken. Don't permit greediness of making you blind. As you have daughters, you also have sons who want to get married. You do know that the majority of the people in our society do not dwell in the seventh heaven. Life has become unbearable and going from bad to worse, since the hard economic circumstances and the unceasing corruption of the administration. So, you should not assist in worsening the situations. Isn't it better to participate in your children's suffering instead? The number of the unmarried, all over Yemen, is cautioning.

So, be careful, and stand at attention to confront the inescapable sequences. Let us speak candidly and distinctly. What will happen if we pay no attention to the matter? Think a little bit! The phenomenon is going to be aggravated, and many evil phenomena, God forbid, will be created, such as, immorality, adultery, prostitution, and the like. Why do we lead this conservative community to lose its reputation?? I also send a letter of gratitude and an appreciation to those contented fathers, who pay no attention to the amount of the dowry, and care only about the manners of the finance, showing that they seek for the peace and happiness of their daughters.

I conclude, by sending an invitation to the university students and new generation, telling them, that many evil traditions such as, dowry have been taking place among our fathers and grandfathers for along time. So, we should not keep quite and let things continue. No, we should try our very best to put an end to such bad traditions in our society evermore, if it is not now, let us swear to change these conventions, when we become fathers.

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is inviting application for the two posts of "PROGRAMME ASSISTANT". These positions are open to **YEMENI NATIONALS ONLY**.

Term of Reference:

A. Tasks

The incumbent will be entrusted with the following tasks:

Collect, register and maintain information on programme/project activities by reviewing reports and through first-hand sources; contribute in the preparation of status and progress reports, prepare tables and draft selected sections of it, prepare background material of use in discussions and briefing sessions; arrange for the recording of and administrative processing of government requests for assistance; participate in the identification and formulation of development cooperation programmes/projects and participate in the preparation of draft programme/project documents; monitor programme/project activities through control plans, progress reports, programme/project inputs, budgets and final expenditures, etc.; maintain, process and analyse information on matters relevant to the organization and on external assistance provided to the country; carry out specific administrative/operation control tasks for programme/project activities, when needed, which may include field visits to project sites. The incumbent shall be a focal point for procurement, budgeting and he/she shall be responsible for translation and training database.

B. Qualification

Minimum High School, preferably university degree in development related studies and supplemented by technical courses in the field of project management. Computer skills and fluency in written and spoken English and Arabic are essential.

C. Experience

Seven years' progressively responsible development works preferably with UN or International Agencies.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications with a detailed curriculum vitae to: Personnel Unit, UNDP, P. O. Box NO. 551, Sana'a NOT LATER THAN 9TH SEPTEMBER 1999. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply, and acknowledgement will only be sent to applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات للأخ

وحيد أحمد ناجي

بمناسبة دخوله القفص الذهبي. ألف مبروك.

المهنون: هاني حسين البتول، نشوان عبدالله البتول،

عبدالرحمن سعيد محمد

Letters to the Editor

Disappointment!!!

For many years, we have been studying very hard and doing our best to get high averages at the secondary school to join the university and then to get jobs. Some students joined private universities and others joined a government university. Unfortunately, those students who joined the private universities are faced by a decision. This decision stipulates that the graduation students of the private universities are not allowed to get jobs at the governmental sectors. It is said that this decision decided by the high minister of the civil services. I am sure that it is thought that because these students joined private universities that mean they have money. In fact, every one has money but there are many classes. Therefore, it is not a matter of money but these students had joined the private universities because of the following reasons:

- 1- There are not enough departments at the government university, especially, here is Taiz such as scientific Dept.
 - 2- In the Government University, there are many students in the same department. In other words, it is very crowded.
- There are also other reasons but they shouldn't be mentioned. Through Yemen Times, I am writing to whom it may concern. On behalf of my poor friends, we are calling the minister of the civil services to do something for us or to find a solution otherwise it is disaster.
- Another point I want to explain is that some of poor friends who have graduated three or two years ago, went to get licenses to make their own business. These poor friends were heard the news says that they don't know

NOTES: Any Letter sent to the Yemen Times office is subject to correction and modification. Letters which are seen suitable for publishing will be published as soon as there is space. Letters without the name of the author will not be published.

these universities or they have never heard about them. If it is like this treatment, then I have some questions to be raised; why did they give them license to open private universities?! Why do they encourage private universities? For the last time I am asking this question **WHAT IS OUR FATE?!**

Abdulaziz Al-Boreihag Taiz, National University.

Suggestion

Many thanks to all the workers of Yemen Times headed by the son of the late, Yemen Times founder, and a special thank to the Managing Editor for his beneficial articles that are always of vital importance because of the phenomenon and the social problems it discusses. I have been reading Yemen Times for the last three years and I benefit from it in two ways. I read it for information and for new vocabulary to improve myself in English.

My suggestion, which I hope you will take into consideration is to add a new paper to the press that will concern with English literature. We would like to participate in short verses and romantic writings and we will be very glad and thankful if we are given a chance to do that through our mother, Yemen Times.

Thank you, very much to Yemen Times and I wish her a brighter future.

By: Fuad Al-Sabri

I Vote for Najeeb Al-Shaabi

I am really happy to see such a newspaper and such a website coming out to keep us up to date on the "happy

Land's" news. Thank you all for making this possible. Let's make a good use out of this. I am really interested to know everything about Najeeb the presidential candidate. Why are they making it difficult for him to run against Ali. We are approaching the 21st century and I think it is time for giving some else a shot, don't you? Please let me know if I am wrong. I wish I were in Yemen for this election, I would run an independent campaign for Najeeb. I like his educational background and by God I hope he means everything he said in the Yemen Times last interview. I Have to make this short, but this what I have to say to Mr Najeeb: Please Don't give up and remember this " In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins not through strength, but through persistence" Good luck and you have my VOTE.

Ali Al-Humaid

E-Mail :alhumaid@yahoo.com USA

My name is as stated above. I am 27 years old. I was born in Somalia/Africa. My grandparents are originally from AL-BEYDA, in the northern part of Yemen. I have finished my MBA (Master Of Business Of Administration - Marketing) this year. I have been in India for quite long time.

I came across this website by accident and really didn't believe my eyes when i saw many educated Yemenis around the world. I would also like to thank YEMEN TIMES for introducing the (YEMENIS ABROAD) page on the Internet at

www.yementimes.com/yemenis.html. To be frankly with you, I didn't like outside my country or here, but I have to stay to finish my studies and get the experience that I would need when I go back to my homeland.

I would like to see political changes in Yemen that will improve the living standards. I have a lot concern for the people of Yemen especially in this age of technology and to overcome the ultimate evil Qat and they will prosper and eventually be like Gulf countries.

Dear brothers, let us eliminate the following obstacles:

- 1) Qat
- 2) Bribery
- 3) Corruption
- 4) Sheikhs
- 5) Illegal weapons in the streets
- 6) Unjustice
- 7) Monopolies
- 8) Uneducated politicians
- 9) Ignorance

I wish Yemen would improve in many ways: politically, economically, socially and also I wish all Yemenis prosperity.

I love my country dearly and I have all my families there i only wish the best in our life. We are in a strategic position in the region, and let us hope that all foreign investors come our land and invest and lets pray for them hospitality. The main problem facing our country is the unlimited expenditure of the qat, and it creates problems in the families or in the country. Is it possible to limit chewing qats or stop it? And I am sure it won't create any

problems. That is to all our brother qat chewers.

By the way, my interest is Internet surfing and reading and listening to music. I really like to get in touch with my Yemeni brothers and sisters, and please e-mail me as soon as read my profiles and you can ask me what ever suggestions or comments you have. Any one who seeking help in the commerce and Business administration fields are welcome to contact me.

Abdull Alawi Salah

E-Mail :abdullaalawi@yahoo.com Aurangabad - india

Most Yemenis are Racists

I originally from Yemen born in East Africa and only visited that country a couple of times. Well what can I tell you? I visited it during the Communist regime and visited after that I visited the united Yemen. But to tell you the truth they have a long way to go. If you have a doubt about what I m saying, please write to me because I suffered from racism a lot in Yemen. Many people in Yemen are extremely racist. People there don't care if you are holding a Yemeni passport or a different passport. They don't care if you were originally from Yemen or not. They only look at your skin, and where you are from. After looking at you and hearing your accent, they immediately consider you not a Yemeni and do not belong to Yemen. Well I a m better off without them. They are too because I will only go back to Yemen if I had no other place on this earth to go. May god help these people and enable them to understand the true value of human being.

Saleh Mzalendo CANADA

Dear Editor,

At first, I would like to introduce my pleasure and love to Yemen Times. Yemen Times which millions of people love and think of it as the best newspaper in Yemen or maybe in the Middle East.

Would you believe me if I told you that Yemen Times helped me much in improving my English because I always read Yemen Times and that gave me a lot of words especially new ones.

At the end, I thank all the staff of Yemen Times C.E./Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, and M.E./Mohammed Al-Qadhi. Faithfully yours,

Talat Al-Ariki



ببالغ الأسى والحزن تلقينا نبأ وفاة
الزميل الصحفي المقيد
الاستاذ / عبداللله سعد محمد
رئيس تحرير صحيفة الوحدة
وأحد أعلام الصحافة اليمنية.
ونحن إذ نعزي أسرة المقيد
نعزي أنفسنا والصحافة اليمنية بمتقدان
فارس من فارساتها.
تفقد الله المقيد بواسع رحمته.
وإدخاله فسيح جناته.
والهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان
وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.
الأسفون،
وليد عبدالعزیز السقااف،
محمد حاتم القاضي،
محمد بن سلام،
جمال العواضي،
وكافة أسرة، يمن تايمز.

ROYAL JORDANIAN AGENTS HONOURED



Mr. Omar M. Omar

Royal Jordanian Sanaa held a party for Top Productive Agents who never saved an effort to support RJ at all occasion and in all seasons.

In a speech to the Attendees, Royal Jordanian Area Manager - out going - Mr. Abbadi thanked all the agents for

their support during his tenure.

Mr. Mohamed Nour Atari, new Area Manager who took office from 17th of August pointed out the importance of the role taken by the top cargo and passenger agents - highlighted the facilitates in Shannon Airport for passengers to Chicago, and made on the traffic rights between Doha-bangkok.

Mr. Fursan Asfour Director Arab Countries and Mr. Omar M. Omar, Managing Director and Vice Chairman, GSA Universal Group of Companies were among the chief guests to honor the occasion.



From Right: **Mr. Omar M. Omar, Mr. Abbadi, Mr. Atari and Mr. Asfour**



Mr. Atari

Mr. Mohamed Nour Atari, Country Manager, Yemen Qualified as master in Political Science, International Relations. Trained in All Areas such as planning, financing and commercial

Saying Thank You and Good Bye

With a mixed feeling, I take this opportunity to inform you of my departure from the Republic of Yemen on 16th August 1999 to take up a new assignment in jakarta, Indonesia as Country Manager Royal Jordanian.



Mr. Al-Abbadi

Mr. Mohammed Nour Kh. Atari will be my successor effective 17 August 1999. Four years of work in this splendid country has proved to be fascinating and unforgettable. I shall always cherish the good memories that I shared with you all. It is a small world and I am sure that our paths will cross again. I shall be delighted if I could be of any assistance to you in the future. My warmest appreciation for your kindness and ever-friendly cooperation through out my stay in Yemen. Wishing you my best wishes for a future of best health and prosperity.

Best Wishes Regards

A. JALIL AL-ABBADI

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Al-Rawhani Travel Agency

B) SILVER CERTIFICATE
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2. Abu Yaser Travel and Tourism
3. Yemen Felix Travel and Tourism
4. Adhban Travel and Tourism

C) BRONZE CERTIFICATE
1. Marib Travel and tourism
2. Yemen Intercontinental Travel and Tourism
3. Wings Travel and Tourism
4. Ashtal Travel and Tourism
5. Yemen Travel Agencies

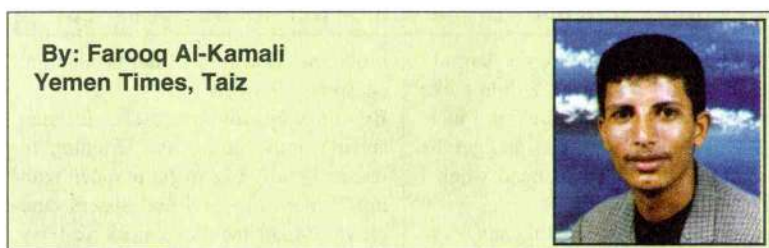


RJ Management Staff

ROYAL JORDANIAN شركة الاردنية للسياحة والتourism

Al-Ganad Mosque: A Milestone of Magnificence for Muslims

Taiz -also known as "Al-Halemah"- is one of the most beautiful cities in Yemen. It is distinguished for its polite people and location. It has a splendid beauty that lures and charms lots of people who find it irresistible. It is also a historical town where there are lots of ancient antiques that show the great civilization of the Yemeni people. One of the most well known and beautiful antiques is Al-Ganad Mosque. It is the first mosque in Yemen. It was established by Moaad Ben Gabal sent by the Prophet Mohammed to Yemen.



By: Farooq Al-Kamali
Yemen Times, Taiz

Emad Al-Saqqa, Taiz Bureau chief as well as Farook Al-Kamali paid a visit to this historical landmark on one of the most lovely days in Taiz. Upon our arrival, we could see a large group of tourists going around wondering at the magnificent beauty of this mosque.

located in the middle of the wall in the east. However, the small prayer niche in the east of the platform is the original one that remains from the mosque of Moaad Ben Gabal. Inside the mosque, you can see the Islamic vividity with all its sanctity.

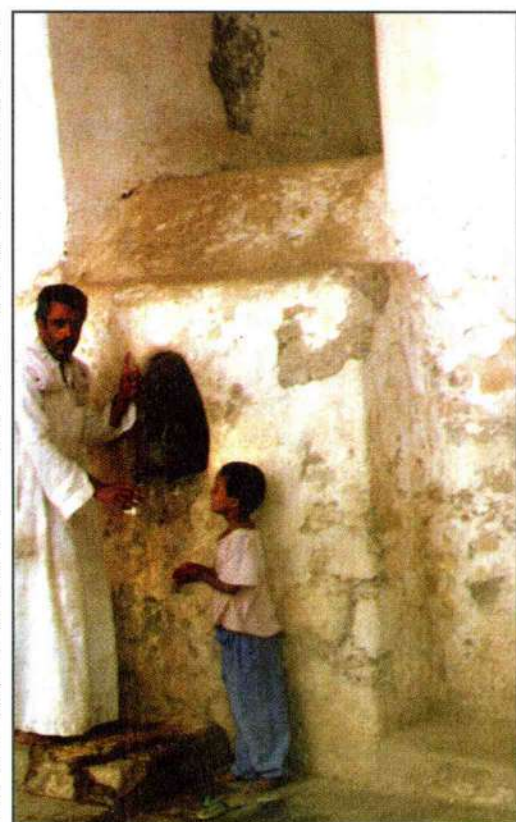
My Goodness! How great our ancestors are! It is actually beyond description. When you get in, you feel the glory of the Islamic religion and the ingenuity of its advocates. You can see all these engravings and decorations alive until now. There are also some writings on the prayer niche and the platform go back to different ages. They embody prayers as well as news about writing. However, most of them have been changed of their original place except for those engraved in the south wall. In regards the place of ablution, which consists of different

small rooms with small dooms lined one next to the other, is in the south east.

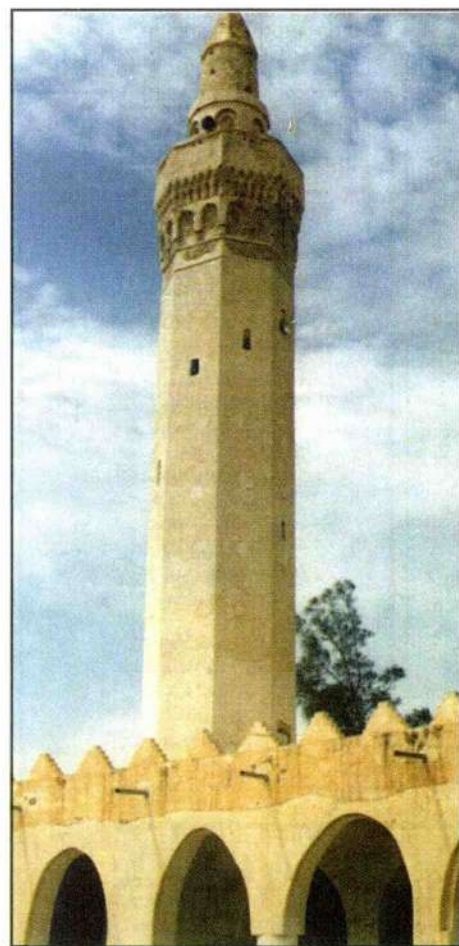
There is a board on the east wall in which a sentence was written to show that the building of the mosque was done by the order of the king. In the north room opposite to the east wall, the rest of the sentence was written to indicate that the king was the well-mannered, dear, glorified and highly respected. In the right room, it was written that he was the leader of the nation and its establisher. In the north room, it was written that he was the unified king the defearer of rebellions. In the right room, it was written that he was the destroyer of the unbelievers and the king of all Arabs, Ben Ayoub 20 Gomad Alawal 75. In the room of the mosque, it is written in a board in 1393 that the west half of the mosque was **rehabulated** by the king Faisal. It is worth mentioning to say that during the reign of the king Arwa, the Al-Salihioon changed the water path from mountains. There are still some signs of this irrigation canal. It is also said that the king Arwa dugged out 11 wells as well as vaults and made something like vaults for 300m.

This went on until a robust flood destroyed everything.

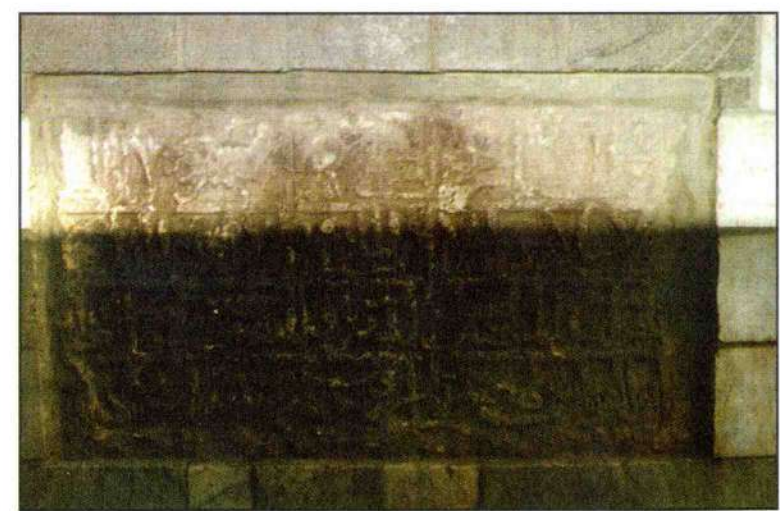
Then, Hossain Ben Ismaeil, the ruler of Ibb came and changed this irrigation canal. The Imam of mosque also told us about the role of the samaritans to repair the mosque from time to time. He said the following: "After the irrigation canal was stopped, Mr. Al-Hashdi the owner of The Red Sea for Cleaning connected water to the mosque. The late, Hail Saeed Anaam repaired the doors, tank and pathrooms. He also established a school for teaching Qura'an. The carpets and the Holy Qura'an of the mosque are the responsibility of the immigrants. In 1989, The Ministry of Religious and Endowments repaired the pillars and added some of the marble stones to them in the campus of the mosque. The repairs made at the expense the King Faisal in 1970 were actually great changes which embrace all the sides of the mosque. The mosque, however, needs a lot of support to protect this mosque because it had been not only a place for praying but also a school that had graduated many great scholars who did a lot to spread Islam in different



parts of the world. Therefore, this mosque should be given special care and attention to be the center of illumination as it used to be in the past. On our way back home, we still saw many tourists coming to see and visit this mosque. To sum it up, paying a visit to this mosque will solicit a never ending sense of awe and admiration. Therefore, we wish that it would be given its due.



They were completely amazed of everything in the mosque especially the sculptures and the minarets. We ourselves did not believe ourselves because we could feel the allure of the Islamic civilization present again. Then we met with the Imam of the mosque who opened the interior doors of the mosque. As we entered a shiver, went through our bodies. We saw the Mehrab "prayer niche" of the honorable Moaad Ben Gabal. There is also another Mehrab built by Al-Aioboon. It is located in the middle of the mosque. Historians say that there is a verse of Holy Qura'an written in a perfect way. It can hardly be read out, in the above curved line which appears as a decoration. The name of the person who built this Mehrab was written on the right of it, quoting "The building of this Mehrab was done by Abdullah Ben Abi Al-Fotooh and it was over in Ragab 618." Prayers on the prophet Mohammed were engraved on the left side of it. It is worth mentioning to say that this prayer niche was decorated by gibes in 612\ 1215 which is



For Those interested in the Cement industry and contracting activities

In order to go on improving execution and quality, the administration of the factory has done its best to make cement available in the marketplace. the sulphate resisting cement is our new product in the world of construction and with international standard as it is clear in the quality certificate enclosed hereby. We are always here to meet your requests and our slogan is "Quality is our aim and satisfying the customer is our purpose."

PRODUCT CERTIFICATE

1. Date: 03/05/1999	1999/05/03 التاريخ									
2. Producer: ALBARH Cement Factory, Yemen	الجمهورية اليمنية / مصنع البرح / الجمهورية اليمنية									
3. Cement Type: Sulphate resisting	نوع الاسمنت: اسمنت بورتلاندي مقاوم للكبريتات									
4. Laboratory: Tests were carried out in the laboratories of cement companies in Syria in accordance with the Syrian standard specifications	المختبر الذي اجري التحاليل: اجريت التحاليل في مختبرات شركات الاسمنت في الجمهورية العربية السورية. طبقا للمواصفات القياسية السورية									
5. Test results:	نتائج التحاليل									
5.1. chemical test results (a):	نتائج التحاليل الكيميائية (A)									
(1) Loss on ignition	(2) MgO	(3) CaO	(4) Cl	(5) K2O	(6) Na2O	(7) So3	(8) Fe2O3	(9) Al2O3	(10) SiO2	
0.81	3.33	60.43	-	0.075	0.34	2.08	4.99	3.99	22.04	
5.2. Chemical test (b):	نتائج التحاليل الكيميائية (B)									
Liquid phase:	C:AF	C3A	C2S	C3S	SM	AM	KST			
27.23	15.17	2.14	34.33	38.57	2.454	0.8	86.75			
Consistency:	نتائج التحاليل الفيزيائية									
Setting time:	نسبة الماء (%): 26.5									
Initial	195	بداية الأخذ (دقيقة): 195								
Final	280	نهاية الأخذ (دقيقة): 280								
Soundness	التمدد (طريقة لوشاويوليه) (مم): 0.00									
Lechutelier mm.Max	التعمية (بلين): 2985 سم ² /غم									
Fineness: surface area (blaine) cm2/gm	المتبقي على المنخل 0.09 (%): 1.1									
Residue on 0.90 sieve % max	نتائج الاختبارات الميكانيكية:									
5.4 Strength test results:	اختبار على نماذج مشوشورية: 16x16x16 سم (كغ/سم ²)									
Tests on cylinders: 16x4 cm (kg/cm2)	مقاومة الضغط									
Compressive strength	3 Day	7 Days	28 Days							
	171	249	466							
Flexural strength	3 Day	7 Days	28 Days							
	46	54	80	مقاومة الانطاف (الكسر)						
Comment:	تعليق:									
In comparing the test results of the cement sample presented by ALBARH Cement Factory of Yemen, it is revealed that the cement conforms with the requirements of the Syria standard specifications for sulphate resisting cement. Syrian standard specifications have been elaborated by adapting the European standard EN 196	عند مقارنة نتائج الاختبارات الموضحة لعينة الاسمنت المقدمة من مصنع اسمنت البرح في الجمهورية اليمنية، اتضح بأن العينة تطابق الاشتراطات القياسية المطلوبة للاسمنت المقاوم للكبريتات. طبقا للمواصفات السورية المعتمدة، والمستقاة من المواصفة الأوروبية الموحدة EN 196 بأجزائها المختلفة.									

The Yemeni General Organization
For Cement Manufacturing & Marketing
AlBarh Cement Plant
The Laboratory & Quality Control Dep.

PRODUCT CERTIFICATE CEMENT TYPE: sulphate resisting cement type-V Test are carried out according ASTM-C150 1-CHEMICAL PROPERTIES:-

ITEM	UNIT	ASTM C150 Requirements	Product test result
Loss of ignition	%	Max. 3.0	0.92
Insoluble residue	%	Max. 0.75	0.47
MgO	%	MAX. 6.0	2.83
SO3	%	Max. 2.3	2.02
C3A	%	Max. 5.0	3.2
2C3A+C4AF	%	MAX. 25	19.5

2- Physical properties:-

ITEM	UNIT	ASTM C150 Requirements	Product test result
Specific Surface area (blaine)	Cm2/g	>2800	2960
TIME OF Setting	Initial	>60	256
	Final	<600	362
Compressive strength	3 days	>8.0	20.0
	7 days	>15.0	27.1
	28 days	>21.0	37.2
Autoclave	%	<0.8	0.1



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Yemen won the Gold and Three Bronze Medals in Al-Hosain Tournament

Hatem Al-Hadrani, the Yemeni International Chess Master, won the gold medal in chess. Moreover, Zandan Al-Zandani and Wagdi Abo Bakr also won two other bronze medals, after they defeated their competitors in their final turn in chess. On another level, Ali Al-Mekhlafi, a Yemeni Caritas player, received the third place in the 55kg weight class and received the bronze medal. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Mohammed Al-Ahgari, the General Secretary of the Yemeni Olympic Building, held a honor ceremony for the winners in the Capital city of Jordan, Amman. Hatem Al-Hadrani has been awarded with \$ 500, \$ 300 for Zandan Al-Zandani, Ali Al-Mekhlafi and Wagdi Abo Bakr.



Wahdat Sana'a Defeated Al-Hilal 5-3 Itehad Ibb Will Play the Back and Forth in Qatar

In a strong match that joined Al-Hilal and Al Wahda, Wahdat Sana'a showed their merits and won the match.

At the beginning, it was equal, but soon things changed, especially after Al-Wahda scored a goal in minute number four in the first match. After that Al-Hilal made different attempts to score a goal but all in vain. Soon, Al-Wahda scored two goals in the twenty one and thirty two minutes of the

could not. The match was ended 5/3 for Wahdat Sana'a. This result make Wahdat Sana'a entitled to play in the next turn, especially after the withdrawal of the Arab Kuwait. Wahdat Sana'a is going to play with the aircraft Iraqi Army team. The two teams will play back and forth matches in the two countries. Wahdat Sana'a will go to Baghdad in 19/11/99. The Iraqi team will arrive to Sana'a in 3/12/99. On another

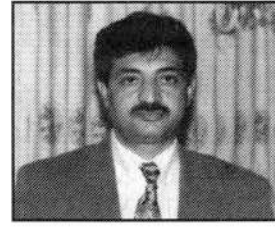


first match. At the end of the first match Wahdat Sana'a scored the fourth goal. By that time the Sudanese audience was at rage and called names at their players and their coach.

Then, the Sudanese coach changed the goalkeeper as well as some of the players. So, Al-Hilal players tried to exercise pressure on Wahdat Sana'a. However, Wahdat Sana'a exploited a chance to score the fifth goal. Then, Al hilal in a very skilled way, scored three goals in six minutes. They tried hard to score other goals but they

level, Itehad Ibb, the President's Cup Winner, is going to participate in the Asian Teams Competition. It is going to face Al-Rayaan of Qatar in its first match. It is said that they are going to play the back and forth matches in Qatar. It was specified that the back match will be played on 3/9/99 and the forth match on 8/9/99. This is done after the two two unions in Qatar and Yemen agreed to have the matches there in Qatar.

A Football Tournament for the Prince Faisal's Cup



Ali Al-Ashwal, the chairman of the Yemeni team of football match, affirms that the union is trying to organize an Arab tournament that include teams from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Bahrain in the memory of the late Saudi Prince Faisal. He also added that the prince was very supportive for sports and youths in all Arab countries. He also said that he deserved to be honored for he is very much appreciated and respected by all. His death was a heavy loss for the whole Arabs. We in the Yemeni Union have contacted these countries in order to hold this tournament in his commemorative ceremony in September 30, 1999. We hope that all will respond favorably to this call.

Yemen Times would like to apologize for postponing the Tourist Guide till the end of September

تود صحيفة «يمن تايمز» لفت الإنتباه إلى أن الملحق السياحي سوف يتأجل صدوره حتى نهاية شهر سبتمبر.

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Issue no. 35

Yemen Times Weekly Competition

مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعية

ابحث في محتويات هذا العدد عن اجابة السؤال المبين في الاسفل مع كتابة الاجابة باللغة الانجليزية وكتابة عنوان المقالة مع تحديد رقم الصفحة التي بها الاجابة بخط واضح وارسلها إلى عنوان الصحيفة الرئيسي في صنعاء. لا تقبل الاجابات من دون ارفاق هذا الكوبون الخاص بالسؤال. الاجابات التي تصلنا بالفاكس غير مقبولة. سيتم اختيار الفائزين من بين جميع المتقدمين بواسطة القرعة. وسيمنح الفائز بالمركز الأول مبلغ 8000 والثاني 5000 والثالث 4000 ريال والرابع 3000. وحتى يتسنى للجميع إرسال الاجوبة إلى بريد الصحيفة فإن باب المشاركة سيظل مفتوحاً لمدة اسبوعين من يوم الإصدار (أي بعد 13 يوماً من الإصدار). ستنشر أسماء الفائزين في العدد بعد القادم لاستلام جوائزهم. كما نرجو كتابة رقم عدد الصحيفة على مظروف الرسالة. كما بإمكان نفس الشخص إرسال أكثر من كوبون باسمه.

Search for the answer of the below question within the contents of this issue and write the answer clearly along with the article's title and page number. Please cut out this coupon and send it to our Head Office in Sana'a. The winners will be selected through drawing lots. The awards are YR 8,000 for 1st place, YR 5,000 for 2nd place, YR 4,000 for 3rd place, and YR 3,000 for 4th place. The winners' names will be announced on the issue after two week's. Answers will be acceptable within only 13 days after the date of issuance. Please write the number of the issue of the Yemen Times that you cut the coupon from on the envelope. One person can send more than one coupon to have a higher possibility of winning. Answers sent by fax will not be accepted.

Question of the Week

Who is the Honorary Chairman of the Yemeni Football Union?

Answer: _____

Article's Title: _____ Page no. _____

Name: _____

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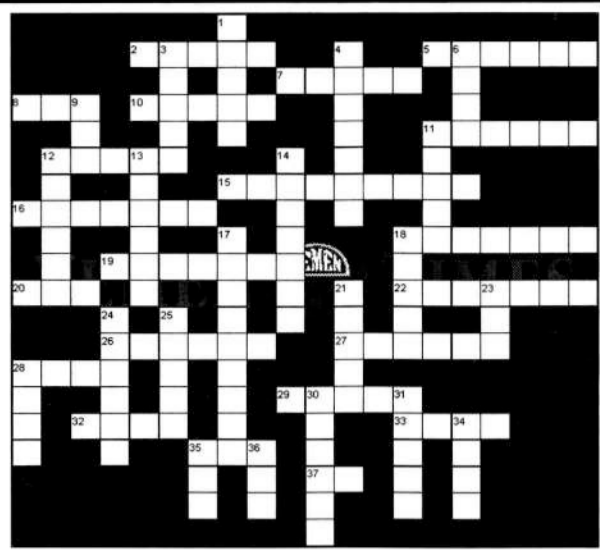
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Winners of Last Week's Competition Will Be Announced Next Week

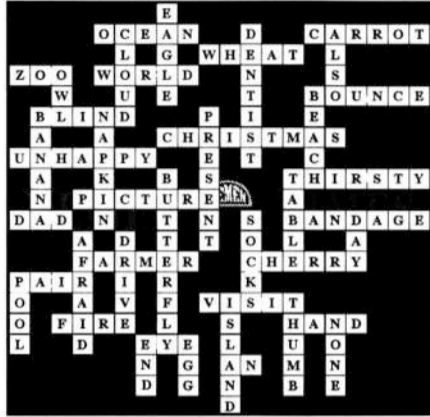
أسماء الفائزين في المسابقة في عدد ٢٤ ستُنشر في العدد القادم

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across Clues:
2. Most of the world is covered with the water of the _____.
5. A _____ is an orange vegetable.
7. _____ is a grain. Flour is made from _____.
8. I like to go to the _____ because I see many different animals there.
10. The _____ is the earth.
11. I like to _____ a ball. I drop the ball and it _____s back up.
12. My friend Mary is _____. She can't see.
15. _____ is a holiday for Christians. They celebrate the birth of Prophet Jesus on _____.
16. I was _____ when my friend died. I was sad.
18. I get a drink when I am _____.
19. I drew a _____ with my crayons.
20. _____ is another name for father.
22. When I hurt my knee, my father put a _____ on it.
26. My grandfather is a _____. He raises cows and chickens. He also grows wheat.
27. A _____ is a small red fruit.
28. A _____ is two of something. Socks and gloves come in _____.
29. I like to _____ my cousins. I like to go to their house.
32. We cooked our meals over a _____ when we went camping.
33. I have two _____s and two legs.
35. I use my _____s to see. I have two _____.
37. There is _____ apple on the table.



Answer to Last Week's Puzzle



From the Internet

This section is dedicated to linking the people in Yemen with Yemenies abroad. It will act as a tunnel between the readers who live in Yemen and read the printed copy of the paper and our readers online at www.yementimes.com.

includes information for Yemenies and others interested in Yemen. There is also a discussion room and offers many other services. We, at the Yemen Times, are trying to give the Internet more importance and attention.

For The Beginners

I have been receiving a lot of letters and requests from YT readers asking "What is the Internet?" After the last three issues that had a section called (Online Debate), the number of people interested to know of the Internet how they can subscribe, how can they use it, and how they can benefit from it had tremendously increased.

Suite, after the two initial protocols developed: Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and Internet Protocol (IP). This was the beginning of the Internet, the joining of research and other networks enabling them to work together and share information regardless of their physical location to each other.

So, what's the Internet anyway?

On its site at (http://www.y.net.ye), Yemen's only Internet Provider Teleyemen describes what you would get after subscribing to the Internet in a short sentence, "... gives you access to the Internet, and you'll be linked to millions of computer users around the world. You have instant access to the world of information and entertainment... It is your window to the world!"

Internet is the word used to describe the world-wide network of computers. The word "internet" literally means network of networks. The Internet is comprised of thousands of smaller regional networks scattered throughout the globe. On any given day it connects roughly 20 million users worldwide.

Having access to the Internet usually means that one has access to a number of basic services: electronic mail, interactive conferences, access to information resources, news groups, and the ability to transfer files. The World-Wide Web uses the Internet to transmit hypermedia documents between computer users internationally.

In technical terms, the Internet is a worldwide network of networks which interconnects computers ranging from desktop Macs to the largest supercomputers. No one knows how large the Internet is. Some estimates range as high as two million computers used by close to 20 million people.

It's possible to use World-Wide Web software without having to use the Internet. But Internet access is necessary in order to make full use of and participate in the World-Wide Web.

How the Internet Started

In 1973, the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) initiated a research program to investigate techniques and technologies for interlinking networks. The objective was to develop communication protocols, which would allow networked computers to communicate across multiple, linked packet networks.

Both public domain and commercial implementations of the roughly 100 protocols of TCP/IP protocol suite became available in the 1980's. During early 1990's, OSI protocol implementations also became available and, by the end of 1991, the Internet has grown to include some 5,000 networks in over three dozen countries, serving over 700,000 host computers used by over 4,000,000 people.

The Coordinating Committee for Intercontinental Networks (CCIRN), which was organized by the U.S. Federal Networking Council (FNC) and the European Reseaux Associees pour la Recherche Europeenne (RARE), plays an important role in the coordination of plans for government-sponsored research networking. CCIRN determined that while the idea behind the Internet of sharing information across networks, the use of this system was difficult at best.

تعزية
نتقدم بالاعزاز الحارة لاهل واصدقاء الشهيد
عبد الله العميري
والذي توفي في حادثة انفجار سيدي سنتر
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U. S. A. 238842/52
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North Korea 272987
Norway 272983
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Egypt 231270
Germany 232162
Libya 233611
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U. K. 232712/3/4/5

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Haddah 204538/550
Shaub 250833
Zubeiri 260834/5
Head Office 232381/9
Reservations 250800/1
Airport 250868/831

HOTELS:

Sana'a (01)
Sheraton 237500/1/2
Taj Sheba 272372/3
Plaza Suites 209074
209903
205483
Hadda Hotel 415212/4/5
Shahran Hotel 418320/1/2
Aden (02)
Movepick 232911
Elephant Bay Beach Resort 202055
Crescent Hotel 203471/2/3
Hodeidah (03)
Ambassador 231247/50
Al Burj 239336
Al-Fakhama 247881
Bristol 239158
Taiz (04)
The Plaza Hotel 220224/26
Mareb 210350
Qaser Hemyar Tourism Hotel 223129
Yazan 217997
Mareb (063)
Bilqis Mareb 2666/2371
Sadah (0751)
Al Mamon 2203
2459
Mukalla (05)
Hadhramaut 2060
Al-Itimad 552493

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Aden: 255333
Taiz: 213489
Hodeidah: 218168

DHL 268551

American Express 272435 / 6

FedEX Sana'a: 412604
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Taiz: 232838

SkyNet 212698

UPS 416751

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GAS Aviation Services 412309
ITS Agency 218142
Pacford Int'l Forwarding 203375
Red Sea Pac. & Gen. Services 26489
Sheibani Shipping and Clearing Corp. 212989
Hodeidah: 212989
Sana'a: 207028
Aden: 243319
Taiz: 219292
Mukalla: 303913
Yemen Freight Agency (YFA) 272135
YEMPAC 208898

NATIONAL TEL. CODES

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Aden 02 Al-Shuhr 05
Lahj 02 Soqatra 05
Al-Dhale 02 Dhamar 06
Yaf'e 02 Al-Bayda 06
Abyan 02 Marib 0630
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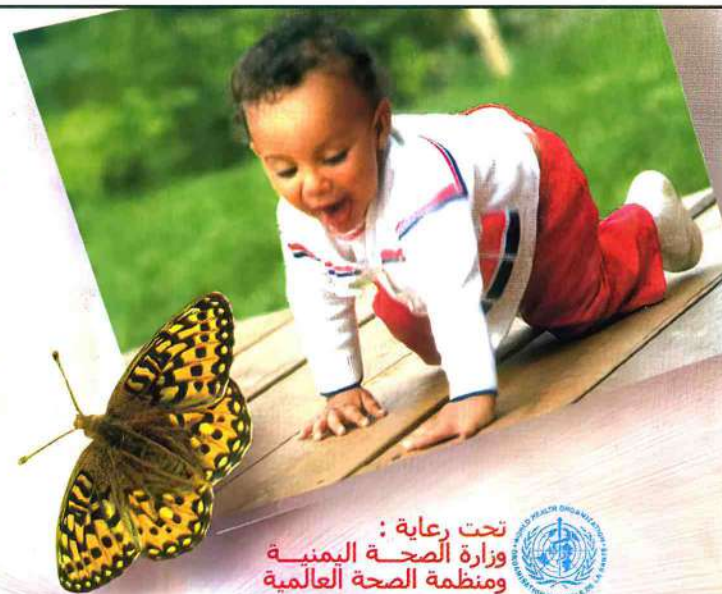
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