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Yemen Delegation for YSCC Meetings Arrives in Saudi Arabia

The Yemeni delegation to the meetings of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council (YSCC) headed by PM. Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani has left Sana'a today for Al-Madinah Al-Munawarah in Saudi Arabia. The delegation includes ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Planning & Development, Health, Labor and Vocational Training, Information, State for Cabinet Affairs, supply & Trade, Agriculture, Transportation, and

Communications. The delegation is expected to discuss with the Saudi party headed by Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz several issues that would enhance the relations between the two countries particularly after signing the border agreement on June 12, 2000. The issues to be discussed during the two-day meetings are projects of nine agreements conducted by the preparatory committee three weeks ago in Sana'a.

These agreements include protecting investment, customs, transportation cooperation and other issues that aim at strengthening bilateral relations. The resumption of the Saudi support to the Yemeni budget estimated at 100 million dollars and reopening the Saudi projects office in Sana'a are put on the YSCC agenda. The Yemeni side in the preparatory committee meetings suggested some devel-

opment projects like roads, electricity, hospitals be financed by Saudi Arabia. They will also discuss the question of Yemeni expatriates in Saudi Arabia, its loans to Yemen, oil exploration, health, and sports cooperation. Facilitating the access of Yemenis and products to Saudi Arabia will be prioritized. The resumption of the YSCC activities after 13 years of suspension is viewed



by some observers as one of the fruitful results of the Jeddah Agreement that would revitalize the relations and create a new scope for partnership.

4th International Conference on New and Restored Democracies Concludes Yemen Offers to Host 5th Conference in 2003

The International Conference on New and Restored Democracies was concluded last Wednesday in Benin. More than 110 countries and a number of non-governmental organizations took part in the 3-day conference under the theme 'Peace, Security, Democracy and Development.' Yemen participated in the event with a high ranking delegation that included Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, head of the delegation, Mr. Ibrahim Al-Adhofi from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Yahia Hunaish from

the President's Office. One of the most important issues highlighted by the Yemeni delegation was the Palestinian cause and stress was put on considering Palestine as one of the democratic countries. The delegation also offered hosting the Fifth Conference scheduled for 2003 in Yemen. Although Mongolia expressed interest to host the fifth conference Yemen's suggestion is likely to be more welcomed. The suggestion is expected to be discussed and decided by the General Assembly of the United Nations to decide.



As Yemeni Interrogators Visit Amman Cole Bombing suspects' files back to police

Yemenis interrogating into the USS Cole bombing in Aden, October 12, headed for the Jordanian Capital to check information on Raid Hijazi, of Palestinian origin, who was extradited last week to Amman by Syrian police.

Sources said that the Yemeni interrogators left Sana'a last Friday to gather information about investigations carried out by the Jordanian police with hijazi who is believed to have been involved in training Cole bombers.

Yemen and Jordan signed a security agreement four years ago concerning fighting terrorism, exchange of information and extradite of criminals from both sides.

Files of the six suspects in the Cole bombing were sent last Thursday back to police from the prosecution where they were before for further investigations, which the American investigators insist on.

Meanwhile, official sources declared that the

police identified the main suspect in the bombing named Mohammed Omar Al-Harazi, from Haraz east of Sana'a and it is now launching a huge manhunt in Yemen and outside. The police said Mohammed Al-Harazi main mastermind and financier of the bombers. Yemeni interrogators expected that the process of search for the suspects will widen to includes other suspects. This means that the investigation process will take longer time and wider range including persons thought to be somewhere outside Yemen. Sources in Aden said that Al-Harazi was living in the UAE and that he used to visit Aden, although he disappeared four days before the bombing. He is thought to have to an anonymous residence outside Yemen. This development, may reveal further details about the case and the people behind the explosion. It is worth mentioning that around 35 suspects are still under arrest by the political Security Office.

American Flour Aid to Burn

The Eastern Court of Ibb ordered last week to burn 5400 sacks of flours presented as an American Aid to Yemen after it has been proved unsuitable for human consumption. However, the Economic Corporation seems to refuse the orders.

Informed sources in Ibb said that some flour sacks had been distributed to bakeries and that so many people were complaining about the quality of bread.

Mrs. Donna Visocan, the American Economic and Commercial Attaché in the American Embassy, in Sana'a has largely put blame on the Yemeni authorities regarding the spoiled flour. In a meeting with vice chairman of the Yemeni Society for Consumer's Protection, Mr. Hamoud Al-Bukhaity, she said that it was the carelessness in storing the flour that spoiled it. She added that Yemen had the right to reject any shipment if it was spoiled.

Informed sources revealed that some influential people in the Economic Corporation are trying to sell the shipment while false reports about burning it are being registered.

Confrontations Between Jahm Tribe and Mechanized Brigade 25

Two soldiers were injured in gun shooting confrontations last Thursday in Serwah - Mareb. The soldiers were from the Mechanized Brigade 25 stationed in Serwah. The confrontations occurred because one of Jahm tribesmen was prevented from passing through the check-point of the Brigade as he was not holding an ID. This led to a quarrel between him and the soldiers who fired

at his car. A group of tribesmen attacked the check-point with weapons and bazookas wounding the two soldiers after which they were taken to the Military Hospital in Mareb. It is worth mentioning that the region is witnessing continuous confrontations between tribesmen and military forces that led to killing and injuring many people.

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Sunday	YV 740	Sana'a/Rome/Frankfurt	0901	0750
Sunday	YV 742	Sana'a/London	1230	1930
Monday	YV 748	Sana'a/Paris	1400	1725
Tuesday	YV 740	Sana'a/Rome/Frankfurt	0801	1930
Wednesday	YV 742	Sana'a/London	1230	1930
Thursday	YV 740	Sana'a/Rome/Frankfurt	0801	0750
Friday	YV 748	Sana'a/Paris	1100	1725

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Words of Wisdom
Only strong individuals can build nations. Strength here refers to the values that give people the self-esteem and confidence badly needed to participate in the development process. For this purpose, our society needs to embark, not on an indoctrination process, but on giving individual Yemenis their rights and respecting them when they exercise them.
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951-1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

Our Opinion
Cole Incident, A Quiet Discussion

Nobody can deny that the incident of attacking the U.S. warship Cole while in port at Aden on October 12, 2000 was an hostile act of terrorism that Yemen had immediately condemned. Although we deplore such acts wherever they take place, the case of Cole was quite different because it happened in our territorial waters. We feel it is Yemen's moral and material responsibility for providing all possible forms of security to the US destroyer or any other vessels mooring at our ports or navigating in our territorial waters.

As a nature and principled policy Yemen is opposed to terrorism whatever was its kind; individual or state. Yemen is a country friendly with all countries of the world and seeks always to have good and cooperative relations with world nations particularly with its neighbors. Cole attackers' choice of Yemen, specifically its sea port of Aden was really a surprise decision unless it was it was premeditatedly planned for and for reasons and motives the ongoing investigations and trial of suspect attackers would reveal. The port of Aden has always been a safe commercial port for mercantile marine and everything in it goes smoothly and securely. Thus it could be concluded that such reputation has been an impetus for perpetrators of the attack to choose as a place rarely one expects hostilities to happen.

Out of its obligations and policy Yemen has immediately after the explosion incident in Cole recruited all its security potentials and capabilities to deal with the event. So far the Yemeni security apparatus has succeeded in traversing a long distance in the pursuit to disclose all complications of the incident. It is also expected that it will not take long time to begin trying those accused of carrying out the Cole attack.

Since the incident Yemen has come under an iniquitous media campaign in a bid to blemish its international and regional good reputation and to mar the developed friendly relations with the U.S. In fact Yemen is so keen to preserve good and friendly relations with the U.S. and it expects that the latter exchanges the same feeling.

Now after the immediate shock of the incident is over and investigations are going on very seriously there must not be any jumping to speedy conclusions and convictions upon which stands are to be based. Whatever news about the incident and investigations coming to the surface now are mostly speculations and groundless assumptions. Facts and complications would not be divulged but after the suspects are brought before court.

Domestically, the state and the people of Yemen are coming under a conspiracy trying to undermine their good reputation. Therefore the people with all their political forces and parties are required to be fully aware of this fact and should not be dragged behind prejudiced propaganda. The danger threatening the country would not exclude any sectors of the people or certain political forces, whether of the state or of the opposition. We have to be quite alert with eyes wide-open to confront any hostile propaganda against all of us.

Yemeni press, governmental and non-governmental has a very patriotic role to play at this very time when the country is facing this crisis. Yemeni press has to carefully study and scrutinize any information becomes available to it and should cleverly deal with it. This is our country and all of us are responsible for its safety, security and stability as well as its prosperity.

Cabinet Signs Agreement on Fighting Terrorism

A ministerial commission grouping ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Legal Affairs and Interior has been assigned by the Cabinet to further discuss an agreement on fighting terrorism that was approved by the United Nations on December 9 1999.

The parliament has already endorsed an agreement on resisting bombings despite the objection of many MPs.

Political parties have expressed their concern about the agreement which they say would make Yemen subject to more external pressures.

People's Coordination Committee On Boycotting U.S. Products

The People's Coordination Committee for encouraging people to economically boycott the US, was formed in Sana'a last week. Sheik Abdullah Bin Hussien Al-Ahmer, Speaker of Parliament, was chosen as chairman of the committee and Farag Bin Ghanem, former Prime Minister, was chosen as vice-chairman. The committee

membership includes secretaries general of the Yemeni parties of Islah, Nasserite, Socialist, Ba'ath, Al-Haq, and People's Forces Union and Engineer Faisal Bin Shamlan, former Oil Minister, Chairman of Parliament Independent Bloc and Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Maqaleh, president of Sana'a University.

Extraordinary Session For Civil Society Organizations

An extraordinary Session for the members of the civil society organizations in cooperation with the follow-up committee of the post-Beijing activities project. The meeting introduced the new head of the project Miss Nadwa Al-Dawsary and discussed the working plan and elected for the coordination council.

Five associations were formed for managing the communication net between the non-governmental organizations. Those associations are elected every three months. The tasks of the coordination committee are to follow up the activities approved in the working plan

of the net, propagating for the net and inviting membership of other associations to the net, marketing the programs of member associations in the net, supporting the associations, determining the tasks among them, and preparing future working plans.



Poland Embassy Holds Press Conference

A press conference was organized last Tuesday in the Embassy of Poland. The press conference held by the commercial counselor, Daniał Wasilewski was attended by a number of media people. In the conference, Mr. Daniel answered questions about trade relations between Yemen and Poland besides, his prospective of trade and investment in Yemen. In answer to a question by YT, he said that his visit to Yemen was unofficial and that he has already visited Aden and saw the Free Zone and some other governorates as well. He highly appreciated the Yemeni-Poland cooperation. He delivered a speech in which he indicated the achievements Po and has made so far at all levels. He

indicated "One of the main problems facing Polish economy is 18 billion US dollar trade balance deficit. For that reason it is important to attract and to co-operate with the new attractive markets. Yemen is one of them. From the beginning of 2000 year, trade exchange between Poland and Yemen has shown rising tendency. The turnover and Polish exports rose about 150% and import from Yemen rose about 130%. The total volume of Polish exports to Yemen amounts to 11.2 million US dollars from January until October 2000 while the total volume of Polish imports from Yemen amounts to 120 thousand US dollars from January until 2000.



Last week Mr. Bob Baartz General Manager Interline/Offline Sales & Marketing Europe/Middle East & Africa of Continental Airlines visited Yemen to promote "CO" business to USA Standing right to left are: Mr. Ali Yahya Alsunidar Managing Director of "CO" GSA in Yemen, Mr. AbdulWahab M. S. Sadaka then Commercial Director Yemenia, Yemen Airways, Mr. Bob Baartz of Continental Airlines and Mr. Shams Tabrez Director Marketing United Travel GSA of Continental Airlines in Yemen.

Handicapped National Day Celebrated

A speech ceremony was held to celebrate the National Day of the handicapped on Sunday evening in the Center of Culture. A number of disabled were honored for their creativity in many fields. Show of Products of the handicapped Association, organized by Sam Electronics Company LTD, was inaugurated last Saturday. The show that included paintings and posters depicting suffering of the handicapped will continue until 18th of the current month.

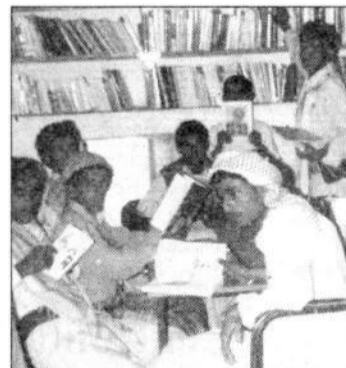
Statistics have shown that the disabled in Yemen total more than 1400,000 people among whom 928200 children and 765,000 children less than 18 years old. The statistics have also indicated that the problem will be worse in the future when the number of the handicapped increases every year. The problem will worsen due to many social and health factors and lack of facilities.

EU, Democratic Institute Representatives Meet Opposition Secretaries General

Representatives of the European Union, EU Deputy Non-Resident Ambassador and director of the Democratic Institute met a number of opposition parties secretaries general and Yemeni political personalities in Sana'a last Tuesday. They discussed nature of the constitutional amendments and the local elections that would be held in early 2001.

Library Opened In Baraqish

Under efforts made by Sheik Mohammed Mohsen Al-Azma', a library has been opened in Baraqish, Mareb. The library includes many scientific, history, literature books and references. The purpose of establishing the library is to invite the people of the region to read and benefit from the information the library provides.



Jews at Arwa Mosque

A military group evacuated Queen Arwa Mosque last week upon arrival of more than 50 cars carrying Jews who wanted to practice their rituals inside the mosque causing a state of anger and resentment among local people. Inside the mosque people were able to hear them weeping, asking for blessings, beating chests, etc. The delegation included a number of girls who had a bath in the mosque bathrooms for blessing.

IN BRIEF

Charitable Society for Social Welfare provides Iftar Meals

Iftar meals the Charitable Society for Social Welfare provided for mosques and group Iftar centers during the first ten days of Ramadhan reached 1500 meals serving thousands of people, said Dr. Hameed Ziad, secretary general of the society. He added that efforts of the society to provide Iftar meals for Traffic-police, Policemen, prisoners, students and distribute foodstuffs to poor families were enhanced day by day.

During the first 10 days of Ramadhan more than 264,772 people and 24,854 families benefited from the project.

Sharyoof-2, Another success for PEPA

Sharyoof-2 is a 1612m deep exploration oil well, 1120m west of proven Sharyoof-1 well, drilled in 12 days with 100% core recovery by lucky Rig 905 of China ZPEB. Its tested oil production is up to 16,150 barrels per day on top of Sharyoof-1 that was officially announced earlier to be of 5,000 barrels daily production, Mr. Lui Xiangang, Senior Manager Marketing, ZPEB told the Yemen Times.

Beside Rig 905, ZPEB dug three other wells and conducted two work-over jobs at Block 32. It has recently brought Tasour field at Block 32 on production. According to official sources, the Sharyoof field at Block 53 and Tasour field at Block 32 will add primarily 50-80 thousand barrels of crude oil a day to Yemen's oil production by the year 2001.

Ceremony on Handing Over 29 Clinical Kits to the Ministry of Public Health

The Ministry of Public Health and United States government held on Sunday, December 10, 2000, handing over ceremonies of clinical equipment, consisting of 127 items delivered through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to Amran and Masyab Health Centers in Amran and Sana'a Governorates. The cooperation began in the 1990's with the "Options for Family Care Project" that helped 28 primary centers and health units in Hodeidah, Hajja, Hadramout and

Lahj. The 29 kits value is \$840,500 and their distribution is underway in Sana'a, Hadramout, Shabwah, Al-Baida, Dhamar, Taiz, Amran, Mareb, Al-Dalae, Ibb, Al-Mahweet, Hajja and Abyan. Since 1990, USAID has invested \$10,000,000 in improving maternal and child health care in Yemen.

329 Billion Rials Expected Value of Yemeni Oil Revenues

Informed sources of the Ministry of Finance expected that oil and minerals revenues in Yemen will reach 329 billion rials in 2001. The sources added that volume of oil and minerals revenues will increase to 329,35 billion rials and that our country will export 59,9 million barrels next year. Production of gas is expected to rise to 425 thousand metric tons.

Establishing Amnesty International Organization Branch In Abyan

A speech ceremony was held last Saturday in Abyan and the International Amnesty Organization work was inaugurated on the occasion of the Universal Declaration Human Rights marked on December 10. Many political personalities attended the ceremony which was sponsored by Ms Ilham Abdulwahab, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Coordination with the Yemeni groups.

This ceremony, held at the hall of Faculty of Education - Zanjiyar, coincided with the Coordination Council and International Amnesty Organization agreement on establishing Group No 14 in Abyan.

HR Seminar in Aden & Lahj

den and Lahj Organization organized, yesterday, a seminar under the theme "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" where specialists from groups of the Amnesty International Organization discussed many topics about woman, child, sexuality and punishment. Many governorates have seen similar activities and seminars in which the attendants discussed the violations of human rights and achievements made in this field in the past years.

Rothmans Honors Billiards & Snooker Champions

The Fourth Championship for Billiards and Snooker organized by the Hawaii Sports Club is concluding tomorrow. About 84 participants from different Yemeni governorates and Arab countries took part in the event which started a week ago. The following have been able to qualify for the eighth round in billiards: Abdul-Hakim Mohammed, Zaid Al-Qasemi Ibrahim Al-Sayyaghi, Mohammed Ahmed Naser, Qaderi Ali Dhaif Allah, Fahd Sinan and Mohammed Sadeq No'man. Finals of the first positions had begun yesterday to name the winners.

Hakim Mohammed Wase', Mohammed Al-Gundi, Mohammed Sadeq No'man and Al-Shaikh Sinan have been qualified for the eighth round and will compete with each other on the first positions. Many participants performed well during the championship. Those along with winners will be honored by Rothmans Company at the end of the event.

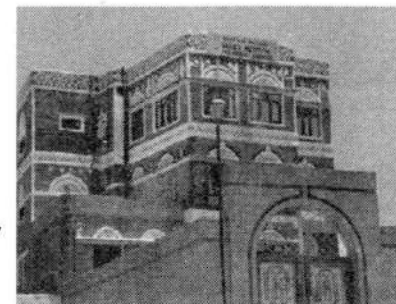


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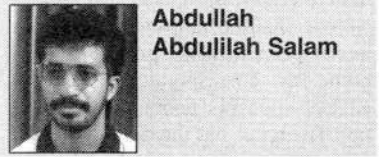
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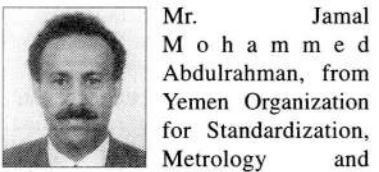
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Yemenis Lose Trust in Local Products PART 2



Abdullah Abdulilham Salam

Mr. Abdullah al-Harazi, Industrial Office Chairman, Hodeidah, said "Yemeni consumer has not lost trust in Yemeni products. The point is that there are many products being smuggled into the country and are sold for cheap prices, consequently making consumers buy them in large quantities being unaware of the harm. I've noticed that myself. Despite the fact that many establishments of the private sector have made laudable strides to improve, these establishments are facing strong challenges caused by smuggling foreign goods into the country. The government should have a strong and decisive action to monitor land and sea crosspoints banning smuggled products."



Mr. Mohammed Abdulrahman

Mr. Mohammed Abdulrahman, from Yemen Organization for Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control (YOSMQC), Taiz, said "There are many local products that meet the international standards. Tests conducted by YOSMQC on these products attached credence to this. Besides most of the national factories are regularly monitored and supervised from the first stages to the final stages of production. The reasons that has made the Yemeni consumer lose trust in local products are as follows:
1) Aggressive campaigns conducted against local products undermining the consumer's trust.
2) Some bad local products being quite spread in the market.
3) The baseless common assumption on the part of consumers that foreign products are of high quality. To help develop local products, the following suggestions can be adopted:
1) The industrial sector should focus on obtaining ISO and HACCP certificates, especially factories producing food products. The media should play a pivotal role in raising the awareness of the people to the importance of these systems and certificates.
2) The governmental institutions should support YOSMQC in terms of providing the resources needed to establish labs that monitor work in these factories.

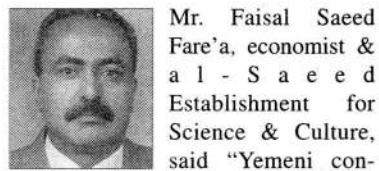
- 3) Protecting the national products and encouraging them in terms of lowering taxes.
- 4) Combating smuggling in all its forms.
- 5) Developing the awareness of consumers through the media to the good quality of the national products.
- 6) Combating the policy of flooding local markets with foreign products, imposing regular monitoring campaigns on all imported products.
- 7) Combating commercial counterfeiting, imposing heavy penalty on violators."

Mohammed Omar Ba-Mashmush, Industrial and Trade Chamber board director, Aden, said "Reasons behind losing confidence in local products is the "Foreign Complex" on the part of consumers. People have believed in this assumption over a long span of time and without any basis. This belief can only be refuted if we pull together to develop standards of local products. When we prove that, only then can we restore people's trust in our products. Consumers don't support any product unless it is good and cheap. However, sometimes people buy diseases by buying these products which are harmful. Therefore awareness promotion programs should be launched to make ignorant consumers aware of these products' quality standards. So as to encourage local products, aggressive campaigns have to be launched to convince consumers of the good quality of these products. Comparisons between local and foreign products should also be drawn to set forth the ins as well as the outs of both the products. People are always supportive of their national products. However the point is that their local products should be made in accordance with world quality standards so as to have a chance to compete with foreign products. GATT has abolished all restrictions to let competition rule. Only the better and stronger has to live up."

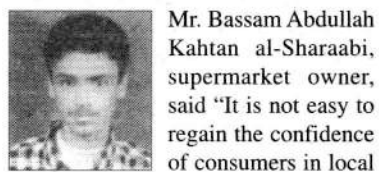
Mr. Hamoud K. al-Bukhaiti, Consumer Protection Society vice chairman, said "Many are the reasons that made the Yemeni consumers lose confidence in local products, chief among which are the following: the Yemeni consumer's culture. The culture obtained by the Yemeni consumer has been negative for local products. What the consumer sees in national festivals and what he finds on the Yemenia airlines about foreign products makes him believe that there is no way to compare local products to foreign products. Second is the state of indifference manufacturers show

towards consumers. In fact, manufacturers aggravate the problem considerably. Products should be made after conducting surveys and studies on the market and consumers' needs. Besides, the role of the General Union of Industrial and Trade Chamber and that of Yemeni Industrial Association seems to be stagnant. The relationship between the producers and consumers should be based on credibility and transparency. However, this is not there. There are some good local products, but how many manufacturers do follow and keep up to the world quality standards and specifications? So often we used to ask the manufacturers association to do their job and promote awareness about local products. However, it has failed to maintain its commitment to the aims and goals set for this association. Another thing is the weak purchase ability of Yemeni consumer which forces him to buy the cheaper variety.

In order to overcome all these setbacks and retrieve the situation before it's too late, manufacturers have to show their good intents by setting right all their conditions to regain the consumers' confidence. The industrial sector should be re-structured qualifying the products that can stand competition. The international quality standards should also be followed and adhered to. Local products should be promoted and encouraged in terms of re-evaluating the Tariffs, taxes, etc."

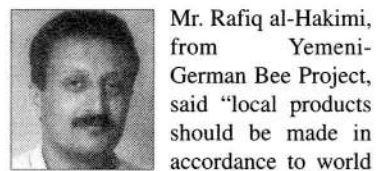


Mr. Faisal Saeed Fare'a, economist & a l - S a e e d Establishment for Science & Culture, said "Yemeni consumer has not lost trust in local products. If it were true, factories would have closed down. This won't happen for local products are still enjoying good support and patronage of consumers. Many consumers have lately tried foreign products. But, they came down to find they are not up to the standards. So to protect local products and support them there should be a clear-cut strategy based on three factors: the government, national capital, factory and consumer."



Mr. Bassam Abdullah Kahtan al-Sharaabi, supermarket owner, said "It is not easy to regain the confidence of consumers in local products. Reasons behind losing the public trust are as follows:
1) Unabundance of manufacturers to the world quality standards

- 2) Mistaken assumption of consumers towards local products.
 - 3) Indifference of factory owners to export local products.
 - 4) Some consumers' sluggishness to support local products.
- So if we want to support local products, we have to promote the standards of local products so that they can compete with foreign products. There should also be some programs about promoting awareness about the local products."



Mr. Rafiq al-Hakimi, from Yemeni-German Bee Project, said "local products should be made in accordance to world quality standards. In our project we always make bee keepers aware of good ways to collect honey. Honey should be collected in clean plates so as to compete with foreign honey. We are often criticized for not having labs to examine whether it is pure or not. This is true, for after conducting surveys in Taiz, Sana'a, Hodeidah, Aden and Ibb, we came to find that more than 1800 honey consumers were asking that standards of Yemeni honey should be in line with the foreign honey."

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Candian Muslim Dr. Ismael MacDonald: "ISLAM IS PERFECT BUT MUSLIMS ARE NOT"

Dr. Ismael MacDonald is a Canadian Muslim living in Yemen for the past 4 years. He is married to a Canadian Muslim lady who has converted 30 years ago. He did a lot of researches in different religions before he finally converted. After doing his doctorate in America he taught in Canada and ran several private businesses. Presently, he is the head of the National University in Taiz. He has run a group-home for disadvantaged children, established a lending libraries in small communities, built boats, developed an important business charitable foundation.

Q: Some people think that there are plots hatched against Islam and Muslims world wide, what do you think?
A: That is a very complicated issue, and I am uncomfortable with simple answers to these problems. We should unite efforts and aspire for a better tomorrow for our ummah. Muslims should strive hard to defend the dignity of their religion.

Q: Do you preach people from other religions and encourage them to convert?
A: When I was in Canada, I had the opportunity to give many speeches about Islam and I found that there was great positive interest. I believe it is important that I should struggle day and night to please Allah and perform my duty as a Muslim.

Q: What made you convert?
A: I believe in God, and I looked for a continuation of the prophetic tradition. I became satisfied with Islam. I studied about Islam and I accepted Prophet Mohammed (peace and prayers be upon him). When that happened I joined Islam.

Q: How was your societies reaction then?
A: In Canada, changing ones religion is not a significant event. Therefore, my social position wasn't affected.

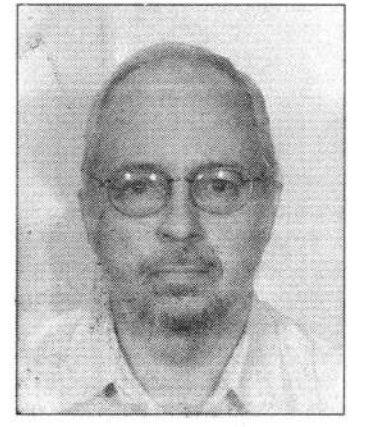
Q: What kind of future cold you predict for Muslims and Islam?
A: Muslims need to recapture the spirit of dynamism that was typical of

the days of the Sahaba (time of the prophet and afterwards). If we do this, then Islam will be viewed as the real answer the world's problems. Unfortunately, many Muslims have become passive in their approach to understanding of their religion.

Q: Which is your favorite "Sourat" from the Holy book?
A: My favorite sourat is "Al-Ikhlash" and "Al-Nas". I feel that Quran is a light from Allah that shows people their way.

Q: Do the violations of Islamic rule by Muslims themselves affect your belief in Islam?
A: No, I don't expect everybody to be perfect. We are all human and I shouldn't seek perfection in others when I myself am not perfect. but it bothers me when I am with people who say they are muslims and behave in a non islamic way. if it is possible I try and talk to them, but I am aware that I don't act in the best way either.

Q: What is your impression about Yemen and Yemenis?



A: I find that being in Yemen is an exciting opportunity to be able to use my knowledge and skills to help in the development and education of this country. Yemenis are intelligent and industrious. They want to learn and to improve themselves.

Q: Last comment?
A: We, as Muslims must adhere to what we say, what we believe. All of us together must work hard to follow our teachings of Quran and Sunna. If we do this, then most of our problems would be solved.

Brigadier General Al-Habili Talks

On the 30th Nov, Yemeni people celebrated the thirty third anniversary of independence of the southern part of Yemen from Britain.

On this occasion, we have hosted on of the most important political and military characters who's been refusing to talk about himself and his role during the revolution for independence. We tried hard to persuade him to write about one of the most important stages of the 14th Oct. revolution. He finally agreed and started writing about the time before independence.

Brigadier General, Al.sharif Haider Bin Saleh Al. Habili, was born in Mareb in 1940, married and has four children, finished high school at Jabal Hadid college in Aden then joined the Jordanian military academy in 1956. Did many courses in Jordan and Britain in 1962 and 1963 then he got masters in military science in 1965 from Britain. For a while, he worked for the British army working in Western Germany.

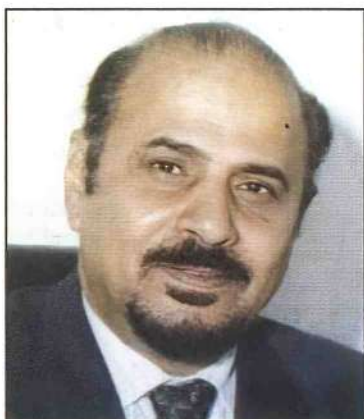
The following are some of the posts he's had in the south before independence.

- commander of the eastern region, 1960,
- commander of the western region, 1963,
- commander of the union guard, 1965
- chief of staff, 1967,
- leader of 'peace forces', 1981- 1994.

These were forces opposing the regime in the south of Yemen and were situated in Saudi Arabia.

After he returned to Yemen in 1994, he was assigned for the post of consultant of the president in 1995, then a member of the consultative council in 1997.

At the beginning, I would like to thank the reporter of the Yemen Times for giving me the chance to talk about this great occasion, which is the 33rd anniversary of independence, that took place on November 30, 1967. As we start the holy month of Ramadan, we celebrate the 33rd anniversary of



Brigadier General Haidar Bin Saleh Al-Habili
Consultative Council member

independence of the southern part of our country on Nov 30 1967 from the British rule. Independence crowned a long march of struggle against British occupation for the southern part of Yemen. Undoubtedly, struggle against British occupation started on the first day Aden was occupied, 18-19 January 1839, a battle took place in which 139 Yemeni were killed while the losses of the British troops were 15 people, some killed and the other injured. Clearly, the revolution on the 14th October in the southern part was an extension of the revolution on the 26th September in the northern part and greatly affected by the revolution led by Jamal Abdul.Nasser in Egypt in 1952. The main goal of both revolutions, the 14th Oct. and 26th Sep. has been the unity of the two parts which indeed what happened

Reasons forced the British to leave the southern part

The reasons behind that were the increasing rejection to British occupation and the balance that has to be maintained between eastern and western camps. The withdrawing party should prepare the ground for the coming one and indeed that what happened, Britain left Aden and went to the Gulf countries under the excuse of fighting communism in the Gulf leaving the southern part of Yemen to be ruled by the communists.

There were three parties in the south competing with each other to receive power from the British, union of the Arabic south, liberation front and national front. Britain had to decide which of those parties to be given the power without harming its future interests in the region then it chose to pass power to the national front and rejected both of the rest because the union wasn't prepared to have power and Britain wanted to get away with the commitments it made of paying an annual amount of money to cover some expenses of the union and keeping a sea force to defend Aden against any external aggression. The liberation front was supported by Egypt and had strong ties with it, that what made Britain work very hard to keep it away from power and even fight it. For all those reasons, power was passed to the national front. Measures taken by the front after receiving power were to make the whole country pro-Communist and implement Marxism in a Moslem country. On its way to do that, the front brutally killed many, filled jails with many others and showed severe aggression to Islam. All that made many people leave the country. What happened on the 3rd Jan 1986 was the start of the end of that regime until the actual came on the 7th Jul 1994.

Revolutions on the 26th Sep and 14th Oct have had many accomplishments that are not easy to list down, the most important of which are having the British leave Aden and the unity accomplished on 22nd May 1990. During the last 38 years, the country has witnessed development in all fields and as the president Ali Abdullah Saleh said that the revolution has moved Yemeni people from the dark centuries into the third millennium and created new values and foundation to move into the twenty first century. Now, we are at a stage where we have to forget our conflicts and start serious and sincere work according to certain priorities to build a democratic state of law and order that respects human rights.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Adopted and proclaimed by
General Assembly resolution
217 A (III) of 10 December 1948

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."

PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law, Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,
Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11.

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal

offence was committed.

Article 12.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13.

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14.

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15.

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.
(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16.

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17.

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.


Article 20.

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Continued on page 14

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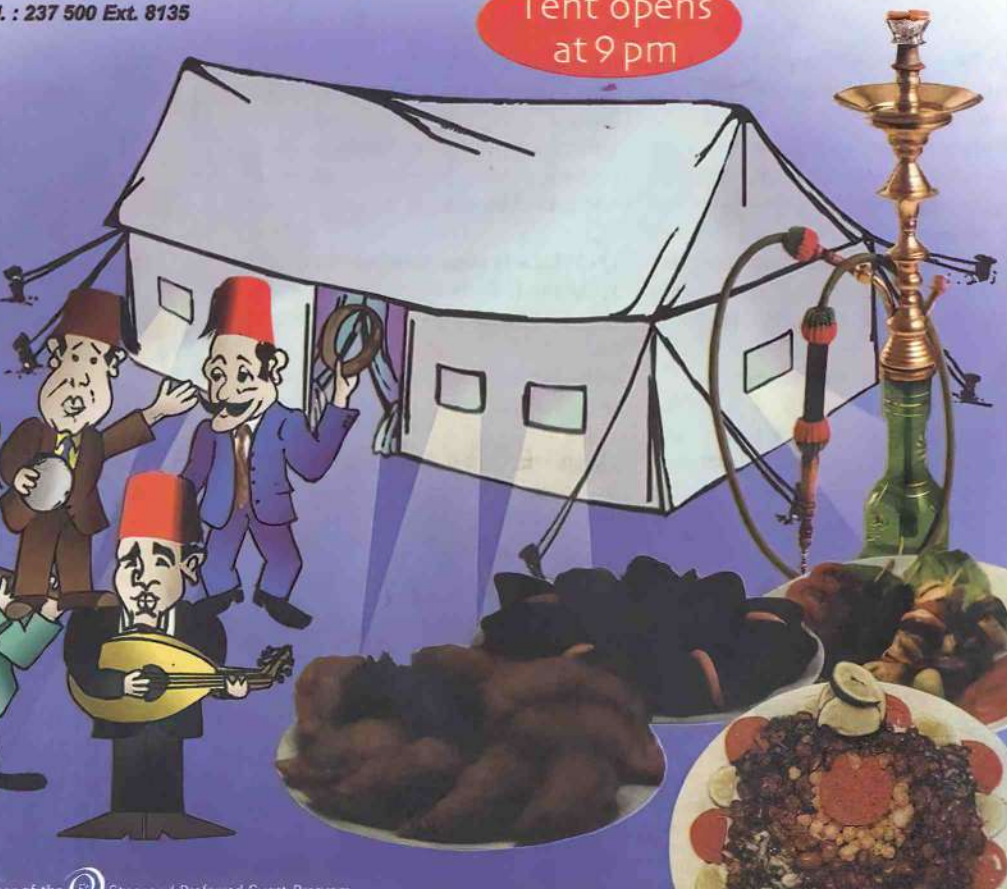
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Notice



Rector of the National University in Taiz was mistakenly mentioned as Dr. Shakib Al-Khulaidi where it should have been Dr. Shakib Al-Khameri. Our Apology!

James Rawley to YT

“Human development and human rights are mutually re-enforcing and that they expand capabilities by protecting rights”

On Saturday, December 9 the world celebrated the 52nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. During this time some countries have made a big leap in terms of abiding by the content of this declaration but some other countries are still crawling and some failed to put an end to aggression against its people. This question of human rights has now become the talk of the time; people and governments are making a big fuss about it. In Yemen, this issue has made a quite good progress since 1990. However, violations are still taking place everywhere in the country. There is a long way for us to go to assimilate this concept which is still for many people alien and exotic. To spotlight this issue and see the situation of human rights in the world and Yemen in particular, Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi of Yemen Times met Mr. James Rawley, Resident Coordinator of the UN System's Operational Activities for Development and UNDP Resident Representative in Yemen and filed the following interview.

Q: Could you please tell us a bit about the progress made internationally on human rights issues and their challenges?

A: Let me say first that it is quite understandable for the Yemen Times to follow such a topic taking into account that its late editor Dr. al-Saqaf was such an important leader in this field in Yemen. We all know that human rights have been an integral and key part of the mission of the UN as reflected in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, during the period of the Cold War there were two competing visions between those who expounded, on the one hand, civil and political rights and those who focused on social and economic rights. Indeed, just a few years ago the language of human rights was unwelcome in the work of development. Human rights was regarded as something political, provocative and contentious. Today, however, the situation has changed. In recent years there has been a revolution in the discourse on development. The right to development has been affirmed by states, large and small, in the North and South, in the developed and developing world. Indeed, virtually every international development agency, bilateral and multilateral, along with leading non-governmental organizations have now committed themselves to integrate human rights into its development work. A new dialogue is taking place between development and human rights experts. Their work has recognized that human development and human rights are mutually re-enforcing and that they expand capabilities by protecting rights. This dialogue has contributed to the development of people centered sustainable development. Today, it is widely recognized that the path of human dignity runs not through imposed technocratic solutions or imported foreign models or assumed trade off between development and rights. Health, education, housing, fair justice and free political participation are not matters for charity but rather matters of right. That is what is meant by “Rights-based Approach”. This refers to a participatory, empowering, accountable and nondiscriminatory development paradigm that is based on universal, inalienable human rights and freedoms. Great progress was made in human rights in the 20th century, but there is still very long, unfinished agenda. The goal of the 21st century must be that of achieving all human rights, civil, cultural, economic, political and social-for all people.

In short, the goal must be to transform the bold vision set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that was signed 52 years ago into a reality. Such a task will require progress on at least seven important fronts.

The first of these relates to eradicating poverty. This must be pursued for the simple reason that a decent standard of living, adequate health and education are not just development goals, they are also basic human rights. Second, democracy must be pursued and become more inclusive, as well as providing separation of powers and ensuring public accountability. Multi-party elections are not enough. Separation of powers must take place, and independent judiciaries must be functioning for they are required for inclusive democracy. It is also very important that society be open and free and that independent free media be present. Related also to inclusive democracy is transparency in policy making. Policy making behind closed doors is a violation of the right to political participation and often ensures the non-sustainability of the decisions taken.

Third, every country needs to strengthen its social arrangements that promote Human Rights. These refer to the society's norms, institutions, legal frameworks and economic environment. Community, religious and business leaders and parents all have an important role in building norms, in upholding the values of respect for human dignity, freedom and equality. Besides, they have rights and duties in this regard. Institutions also have to be strengthened. This refers to schools, health centers, courts that function as well as independent national commis-

A decent standard of living, adequate health and education are not just development goals, they are also basic human rights.

Policy making behind closed doors is a violation of the right to political participation and often ensures the non-sustainability of the decisions taken.

sions for human rights and parliamentary human rights parties. Social arrangements also refer to legal recognition and enforcement where legal reforms give people greater access to legal processes with a removal of institutional barriers. In terms of an enabling economic environment, we refer not only to a growing economy which is required in order for a country to have the resources to invest in improving human development and human rights, but also an economy that is pro-poor and pro-rights. Fourth, for human rights to be fully achieved in the 21st century there needs to be improvement in terms of global justice. The state centered model of accountability must be extended to the obligation of non-state actors and to the state's obligations beyond its national borders. Fifth, information and statistics need to be better collected in order to create a cultural ability and for realizing human rights.

Sixth, for human rights to become universal in the 21st century there must be greater commitment from the major groups in society. Here I refer not only to national governments but also to NGOs, media, businesses, parliamentarians and other opinion leaders.

Concrete tasks need to be undertaken, for example, the preparation of national assessments on human rights' situation and the reviewing of national legislation to identify areas where action is needed to address gaps and contradictions. And finally, for human rights to become a reality for all, there needs to be greater collaboration and solidarity from the international community,

particularly in support of disadvantaged people and countries.

Q: What is Yemen's state of play on human rights?

A: Although I am not an expert on Yemen nor on Islam. I understand that there is nothing in Islam that is inconsistent with human rights. Indeed I understand that the Prophet Mohammed who said in his famous Hadith that “People are equal as a teeth of a comb. There is no distinction between an Arab and a non-Arab, a black and white...” I also understand that the Fair Caliphate Omar is known for a famous saying namely “Why enslave people when they are born free.” which resonates with the first statement of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Also the concept of human rights can be tracked to the pre-Islamic times when the Queen of Sheba who is mentioned in the Qur'an for her consultative and participatory rule. Here again is another example of human rights concepts that have deep roots in the culture of Yemen.

Yemen has recorded a number of significant achievements in the human rights fields in the recent years. First, Yemen is a signatory to virtually all the international human rights instruments. Here I refer, for example, to the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, the -Intentional Covenant of Social, Cultural and Economic Rights, CEDAW and many other ones including those relating to children.

Second, Yemen has established the Supreme National Council for Human Rights and has a Committee for Rights & Freedoms functioning in the Consultative Council. On another front, recently Yemen has established a women's police force, and prisons have been opened for human rights investigations by international parties such as Amnesty International and the ICRC. It also worth noting that

Yemen has participated in all the global UN Conferences that took place in the last decade, and has voiced its commitment to implement their recommendations. Yemen has also carried out two parliamentary elections in 1993, 1997 and a presidential election in 1999.

Yemen is a country where human rights issues can be discussed in the media and in workshops. For instance, I attended a workshop two weeks ago where we celebrated on the 52nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with senior government officials as well as representatives of NGOs and the media. It is also worth noting that in recent years Yemen has seen the development of a number of local human rights NGOs. Also, and this is very important, there's been a shift in the Government's planning process to more fully embrace poverty reduction as the over-riding goal for its development efforts. This is very important since, as I mentioned before, that

poverty reduction is a key goal that needs to be pursued for human rights to be fully realized. Finally, I would like to mention the interest of the Yemeni government in continuing to strengthen its capacity in the human rights field both in terms of the government officials as well as civil society representatives. In this regard, I would like to make special reference to a workshop that is scheduled to take place in February of the coming year.

Of course, it needs to be said that Yemen, like other countries, still faces considerable challenges and obstacles to overcome. The first of these perhaps is poverty. The high level of human poverty and low level of human devel-

opment are clear evidence that more effective plans, strategies and resources need to be employed in order to make significant in-roads in reducing poverty, and thereby improving human rights. Second, as in the case of other countries, there still exists a significant degree of discrimination in Yemen in terms of access to basic social and legal services. This discrimination has a significant gender dimension, and applied to much of Yemen's Rural Population, given its dispersed nature. Another area where improvement needs to be recorded relates to reporting on the implementation of human rights instruments and follow up to conferences. Of course, like other countries an important area that requires considerable attention and that will undoubtedly take many years of hard work relates to the justice sector. Here, I refer to the judicial branch of the government as well as the police and to civil society organizations working in the justice sector. Reforming and strengthening these and other related areas is very important in order that more transparent and effective institutions and laws are put into place. This is essential for Yemen's democratic process as well as to create an environment that is more conducive for investment by Yemenis as well as by international investors. Finally, Yemen's democratic process needs to continue to move forward and this, of course, relates to holding elections and further improving the multi-party system in this country.

Q: What is the UN system doing to help Yemen enforce human rights issues?

A: First of all, there has been an increasing attention in all our work to human rights. A very specific example is the ongoing UN Country Common Assessment process. This assessment



a few years ago the language of human rights was unwelcome in the work of development. Human rights was regarded as something political, provocative and contentious. Today, however, the situation has changed.

is looking at Yemen's development situation from a human development and human rights perspectives. Very interestingly, this is an exercise that is not only involving colleagues from the UN system but also from government, civil society (including NGOs) and the media. Second, I would like to mention that our work in terms of helping the government to draw poverty eradication plans and strategies is of great importance.

I understand that there is nothing in Islam that is inconsistent with human rights.

Third, all UN agencies in Yemen-FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO-are working at the community level to better the lives of some of Yemen's most impoverished people. Finally, the UN is making great efforts to train our staff in the “Rights-based Approach” to development so that we become more

professional in this area.



Q: Talking about Yemen, is it enough to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of human rights, at a time we see lots of violations taking place on the ground, journalists are harassed and newspapers brought to trial, etc?

A: I think the 52nd anniversary is a time for celebration in all countries as well as a time for reflection. I don't think there is any country in the world today that can say it has completely implemented all the provisions of the vision that was set forth by the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Every country in the world has fallen short of the vision and I think it depends upon all of us today, whether we are occupying positions in government, international organizations or civil society, to not only to measure the achievements but also to reflect upon the gap between the vision of the Declaration and reality, and to identify concrete steps to bridge this gap.

Continued on page 14

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Ramadan in Yemen: Market Boost & Income Increase

Mahyoub Al-Kamali

Markets in main Yemeni cities have begun witnessing a tangible vitality just a week before the beginning of the fasting month of Ramadan, noticeably following a somewhat stagnation, particularly in the activities of the retail market dealing with foodstuffs, spices and sweets. Popular restaurants witness vibrant activity in serving meals to fasting people. Unemployed people cling to jobs that make them earn more money. Therefore, those people call the month of Ramadan as holy and generous for it enables them to provide for their families with income for days to come.

YT made a tour of the markets of Sana'a and came out with this report. Retailers said that the most saleable goods during Ramadan are spices such

as cumin, pepper, thyme, cinnamon and saffron that are used in preparing meals for fasting people.

Spices: Most Salable Goods

Malek Al-Hamdani, a retailer, said that his rate of spices selling rose to 35%, higher than the period before Ramadan. This is because those spices are used in preparing heavy and light meals, desserts and in cooking meat.

Consumption of Dates

Mahdi Al-Mahjari, a seller of dates, said, "Consumers prefer buying dates imported from Saudi Arabia for their high quality and competitive prices compared to dates locally produced in Tehama and Hadramaut." He added that his sales of dates increased by 65% specially because most fasting people consider dates as a main meal for beginning their Iftar (fast breaking) which provides them with energy and nutrition.

Merchants said that production of dates in Yemen is insufficient to cover local demand. The volume of local dates' production is 427 thousand tons a year. However, merchants import about 180 thousand tons to cover the local demand. According to retailers, sales of sugar, Yemeni coffee, beans, peas, canned juice, powdered milk increased by 45% at the beginning of Ramadan. This is higher than sales in other months. Retailers' profits increase and local markets revive.

Increase in Demand, Rise in Prices

Goods on show decrease as the volume of demand of consumers' rises. Although local producers redouble their manufac-

tured products and foodstuffs, prices still go up. This affects the purchasing power of limited-income people.

Ahmad Al-Odaini, a consumer, said that his salary, about \$100 a month, is insufficient for buying Ramadan requirements all at once. He buys some foodstuffs basic for Iftar, dinner and Sahour meals. He does not buy meat or fruits.

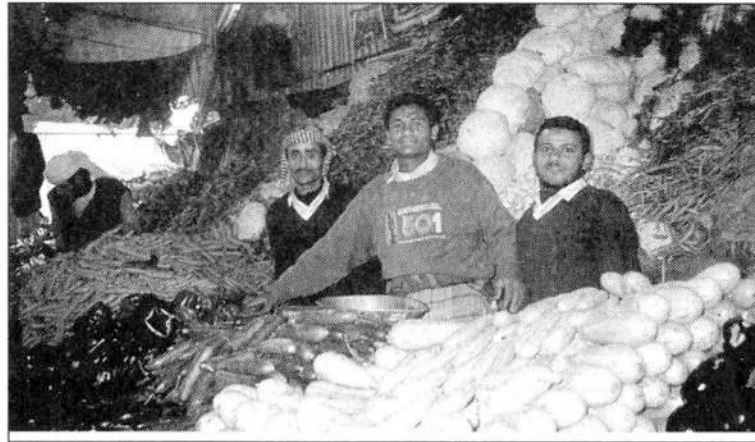
Amin Hizam Al-Huhali, a consumer, said that some limited-income families resort to borrowing to cover expenses and the high prices of foodstuffs needed for Ramadan which is a season for more profit to merchants.

A visitor to the fruits and vegetable market in Al-Hasaba Center, Sana'a, in the afternoons of Ramadan will witness crowds of people buying locally produced vegetables. Unemployed people also become active in Ramadan and work in different jobs like selling Samosa which is made from flour paste with minced meat, eggs or cooked vegetables. They sell Samosa to fasting people.

Lahoo Industry increases Family Income

Income of families, making some kind of bread called Lahoo, increase in Ramadan. Women make large quantities of Lahoo which is made from flour, corn or sorghum mixed with honey, soup, ghee or milk to be served for the fasting people.

Fatima Al-Matary, a Lahoo seller in Bab Al-Yemen, said that she prepares about 200 to 250 pieces of bread every day during Ramadan and sells each piece for 20 rials. This allows her to make much money for days to come. This bustling economic activity is not confined to poor families or jobless people alone. Restaurants in main cities witness a similar activity. They prepare Iftar and dinner meals for people who come to Sana'a from other



cities. They prepare different kinds of food that can go well with food habits in different areas of Yemen so that customers feel as if they are at home. As a result, restaurant-owners gain much money during this month. To sum up, we realized, after this tour of the markets of Sana'a, that

Ramadan is a month for worshipping God, boosting local markets and offering job opportunities for unemployed people among whom are women who become active in selling different kinds of bread like Lahoo. This allows them to save money for the "rainy days".

Saudi Products Invades Yemeni Market

It's impossible these days not to notice the Saudi products flooding the Yemeni markets whether legally imported, or smuggled. Products such as electronics, spare parts, electricity generators, perfumes and medical stuff.

Retailer Abdah Mershid Amer described the flow of Saudi products into the Yemeni market as commercial invasion which allowed those legal or even smuggled products to be present in every market in big cities and in villages as well. Not only competing with local products, consequently reducing its sales, but also creating a state of unbalance in commercial exchange between the two countries. Statistics show the exchange ratio approaches 70% in favor of Saudi products reaching a value of 200 million dollars, that too without taking the smuggled products into consideration.

Total worth of legally imported products through Saudi Arabia

More than 450 million dollars is dedicated every year for importing goods from Gulf, Arab and Europe countries through Saudi Arabia.

That was what sources of the ministry of supply and trade told the Yemen Times. However there aren't any figures telling us about smuggled goods. It was added that because of the policy of foreign trade liberation followed according to the Yemeni economic reform program, private sector traders encouraged the flow of the Saudi products in order to fulfill the demand of the Yemeni market. Which caused less opportunity for local products to find place compared with cheaper Saudi products.

Consumption capacity in Yemen

Merchant Fawaz Saleh Ahmed from Alhasaba Commercial Market, said that the large consumption capacity of the Yemeni market and the fact that 2 million of the population were at some time living in Saudi Arabia, was the primary reason that encouraged importing Saudi products which has a good reputation in Yemen. While at the same time like some is not happening with the Yemeni merchants with respect to the Saudi market. "All that those importers care for is how to make more money in less time regardless of whether this act would cause harm to the Yemeni economy, that it's the industrial and agricultural sector only who should be concerned," he exclaimed,

Saudi Products in the Yemeni Markets

Although, The Economic Reform program implemented by the government since 1995 aims at increasing Yemeni exports, yet the opposite has been happening. This is because of the low quality of industrial and agricultural products that encouraged private commercial sectors to import Saudi products, in order to cover the need in the Yemeni market for those products. Starting with building materials passing by entertainment and electronic devices and ending with food stuff and soft drinks.

It's the brand

Consumer Abdullah Hamood Al-Noor told YT that those products have high qualities and they prefer buying them because they know that Saudi producer doesn't counterfeit in producing such products.

Despite the fact that Yemeni products are almost similar to Saudi ones but consumers see them as imitations of Saudi products which they prefer. That led forty factory owners to declare bankruptcy and to close down the factories two years ago being unable to compete with imported products.

Smuggled materials

The major problem, Yemeni markets are suffering from is the enormous quantities of smuggled goods. Middlemen from both sides smuggle goods like electronics, medicines, spare parts, perfumes and many other things and sell them in Yemen at prices less than legally imported goods.

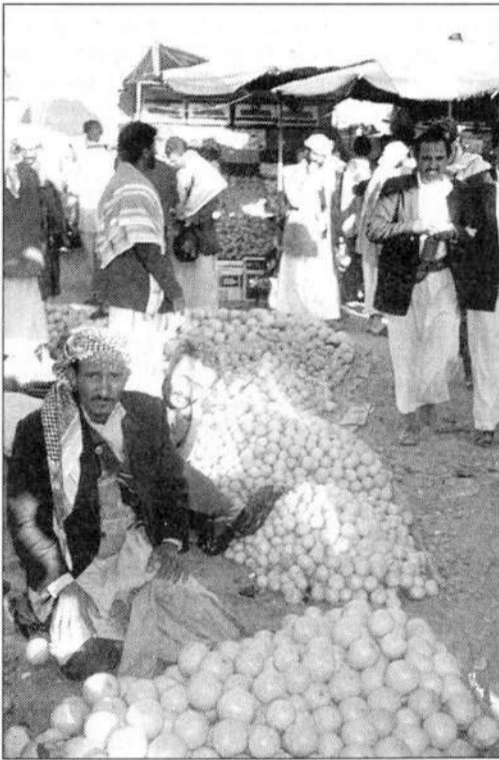
Merchants confirm that this dual smuggling harms both countries, confuses commercial exchange and affects profits of private sector. People coming from 'Hardh' border check point told YT that middlemen smuggle 'qat', live stock, honey and Yemeni cigarettes to the Saudi side. Even laborers to work in the southern parts of the kingdom. Smuggling usually takes place at night, using donkeys and cars. Smugglers avoid custom check points at the borders.

The Tragedy!

The flow of smuggled goods into the Yemeni market has effected negatively Yemeni industrialists and agricultural producers both financially and sentimentally. They found their products in a tough competition with cheaper and better-made imported cum-smuggled products.

While the Yemeni products have no market in Saudi Arabia.

When questioned, Yemeni industrial sources said that the production high cost of industrial and agricultural products doesn't allow us to export those products to the Saudi markets. And this is due to the absence of government financial support as well as the existence of primitive means of production. Shortage of water



tured products and foodstuffs, prices still go up. This affects the purchasing power of limited-income people.

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ECONOMY NEWS

Ships Warned against Anchoring at Aden Seaport

The reputation of Aden seaport seems to be tarnished following the bombing incident of the USS Cole on October 12. Arab and international shipping companies warned their ships against anchoring for fueling there.

However, sources from the Free Zone said that investment requests had not been affected by the incident and that the first phase of the industrial area would begin in March, 2001. He added that the Free Zone had so far received 780 requests of investment

Monopoly Causes Price-Rise

The Yemen Society for Consumer Protection attributed price-rise during Ramadan to traders' monopoly and increase of demand. It added that the consumers may be in control of the situation by purchasing only the basic necessities.

Souk M'abar Facelift

The Agricultural Cooperative Union is working jointly with the Yemeni Economic Corporation to finance the first phase of repairs and maintaining Souk M'abar in Dhamar at the cost of US\$ 3.40 million. The project includes providing storerooms, refrigerators with capacity of 11 thousand tons, improve production of potatoes to export 30 thousand tons of it to Europe every year.

Islamic Bank for Development Supports Dams Construction

The Islamic Bank for Development is financing 70% of the cost of constructing 5 dam in Abyan early in 2001. The total cost of the project is US\$ 3 million to which the government contributes by 30%.

Wheat Production and Consumption

The total national production of wheat last year was 140 thousand tons while consumption of wheat reached 1.5 million tons. During the same year the government spent 56 billion Rials on foods aids.

Petrol Stations Cheat

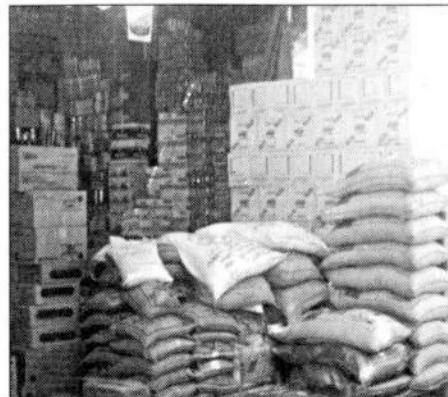
Recent economic reports have established that about 85% of the petrol stations in Sana'a cheat consumers either by mixing other materials with petrol or by playing with counters. 157 oil stations have so far been spotted and closed down.

led to the decrease of fruit and vegetable production. Yet, grocer Adel Masoud Azzan said: "We have an abundance of potatoes, fruits and vegetables that can be exported to the markets of Saudi Arabia". This grocer drew attention to a big pile of potato confirming it was in abundant amounts. He also said, those abundant amounts need to be determined and priced. There is also a need to ensure a marketing mechanism supported by the government.

Action needs to be taken

Sources from the Yemeni Industrial and Agricultural Chamber told YT that the Saudi - Yemeni agreement is to eliminate all obstacles in the way of exports, avoid dual taxation, prevent tax evasion and facilitate people and goods transportation. And this requires practical measures taken by the Coordination Council in the two countries that treat the unbalanced commercial exchange. The government should study the reasons which led to the decline in Yemeni exports and try to treat them scientifically.

If the Yemeni-Saudi relations were to flourish on economical basis equally benefiting the two parties, first of all the 283 million dollars due to the Saudi Kingdom should be settled down, and they both should together try to eliminate all obstacles in the dual partnership of trading between the two countries. Saudi Arabia should inaugurate preservation centers in its markets, for Yemeni agricultural products to be distributed afterwards in that country, exactly the same way Saudi products are treated in Yemen.



COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

What Exactly is Islam?

In looking at Islam within the context of the Five Pillars of Islam, we can see that Islam is more than just a few worship rites here and there or some do's and don'ts, that lack any spiritual connotations or for that matter any meaning to life itself. The Five pillars of Islam are: the attestation that "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is the Prophet of Allah; the Five Daily Prayers; Fasting; the Month of Ramadhan, the Zakat, or religious duty tax; and the Pilgrimage to Mecca.

It is the five pillars of Islam which represent the basic foundations that guide the Moslem to the fulfillment of the worshipper of all his life long obligations to the Al-Mighty and in essence provide that checklist of necessities, which the Moslem must fulfill to make his life meaningful in the Islamic sense and which provide the mercy of Allah in this life and in the hereafter. Of course these should not be taken to be the only criteria, by which the faithful is adjudicated in the Heavens, but they do represent the groundwork for a full spiritual attachment to the faith and serve to open the door to spiritual salvation and happiness.

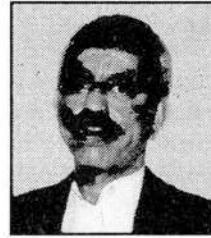
The five pillars are the firm ties that bind the faithful Moslem to his Creator, God Al-Mighty and represent the principal rites and commitments

that are obligatory, and by which the believer is expected to manifest his faith in Allah (Allah, one of the ninety-nine names of the Al-Mighty found in the Holy Qur'an, is synonymous with God and accordingly used by Christian and Jewish Arabs to mean God, as well). These form the fundamental obligations of the Moslem and accordingly enter the worshipper among the faithful, which assure the Moslem that his rights and duties have become equal to the rights and obligations of all the worshippers. Some of these are compulsory and there is no excuse from being unable to fulfill them, namely the First, Second and Third Pillar. However, the Third Pillar allows for deferment in the event of illness or travel or compensatory alms, in the event that the year following Ramadhan should pass and the believer is still under severe physical stress.

In looking at the first Pillar – the testimonial of the believer that "there is no god but Allah and Mohammed is the Prophet of Allah, we find the pre-requisite to the entry among the faithful, without which all the other pillars and the ancillary duties and commitments expected of a Moslem, would be meaningless, with respect to weighing the relationship between the believer and the Lord, Al-Mighty. It is a declaration that must be viewed not just merely as a verbal statement that is uttered every now and then, but a

commitment of the heart that insists that the authority of Allah rules supreme in the mind and the soul of the believer, and to which no compromises can be allowed to dispute the absolute authority of the Lord, in guiding the worshipper's life, in its mundane as well as spiritual context. This declaration is not a matter of convenience only for the entry pass to the fold of the faithful, or the citizenship of the Nation of Islam – the nation that does not recognize race, color or ethnic background of its believers, or even the boundaries or artificial borders that serve to cut the Nation, in present times, to the fake jigsaw puzzle, that seem to serve as a convenience for the majority of the despots that oversee the affairs of Moslem States, in their various forms and constitutions. Thus the declaration must be viewed in a universal context and the current international political map of the Moslem World has no significance as far as this declarations is concerned, for the Moslem is bound to work towards the elimination of such boundaries and to insist that every Moslem is a bona-fide citizen of every Moslem state, no matter what the international new order insists or no matter what the authoritarian regimes that rule over the Moslem states insist on as "national" affiliations. In Islam, there is only one nation, indivisible, under God with liberty and justice for all. If we cannot come to this kind of assumption about the allegiances of the faithful, then the blood of all those who died for the cause of Islam for 15 centuries would have gone in vain. The declaration implies more than a political, economic and social affiliation of the worshipper, for it means that the declarer has pledged his allegiance to the service of the Lord, who is indeed entitled to this pledge, and which can never be broken by its maker. While this declaration is bro-

ken down into two parts, both still serve to emphasize the Oneness of the Divine and insist that there can be no partnership in the Divinity. Moreover as great and pious as the Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was, he is still never to be attributed to be of any part of the Divine, but rather as a product and miracle of His own work, As Adam, Jesus Christ and Moses were before him – mortals assigned to carry out a blessed mission for their Lord and Maker. This declaration not only assures the unity of the Divine Creator, but also educates the Moslem to comprehend that mortals, in all their status and forms are also of a one humble status, in the eyes of the Lord and in the eyes of the believers as well. Thus any human beings that insist on claiming excessive power and force over the believers that is without mandate of the rest of the faithful is acting theoretically against this declaration, and does not have any blessings from the Lord Al-Mighty whatsoever. This is the fundamental principle that underlies the spiritual as well as the political implications of Islam. Thus, any mortals that seek to be glorified and deified beyond reasonable cause and in difference to this declaration should be considered as vying for quasi-spiritual status that no man has a right to even seek or claim. It is in this that the magnificence of Islam should be really viewed and anything that seeks to alter this is heresy and is damned by the Al-Mighty and all true faithful Moslems. Islam came to underscore several modern concepts in human relations as well as the principles by which the relationships of the faithful with their Creator are based upon. Thus, it can be seen that there is just no room for authoritarian or despotic rule in Islam, just by looking in-depth at this declaration, and as firmly established by the



Prophet Mohammed (P) and all the other messengers before him, as well as his early disciples, who insisted that any responsible official is to consider himself accountable to the believers, as well as to the Lord Al-Mighty for how they carry out the trust they have been burdened with. Authority in Islam is based on severe criteria, which include that the official must understand that his declaration of this testimonial is the guiding principle by which he carries out his responsibility and if he fails to understand that any effort to turn that office into a private ego trip is in defiance of this declaration and worthy of the resistance of the faithful and the wrath of the Al-Mighty together. Any Moslem failing to see this has deprived himself of the sense of freedom and liberty that the worshipper enjoys as a member of the faithful and surely brings upon himself great suffering and deprivation, both in a material and spiritual sense. It is hard to believe that very few Moslems truly understand Islam along these lines, and if they do, they lack the courage to insist that they are either given these freedoms and rights or else they are getting what they deserve!

Therefore, it is imperative that Moslems understand what their faith in Islam means and what is the outcome of uttering this fundamental declaration. God is supreme and all authority must be based on what He has clearly ordained in the Qur'an, and it is up to the Moslem worshipper to safeguard the sanctity of this declaration and to prevent any mortal from overstepping the boundaries, which this declaration truly implies, and the rights and freedoms that this declaration truly give the believer in Allah. Islam is a dynamic revolutionary religion that insists on a high degree of activism by the believers to ensure that no one defies the underlying principles of the monotheism that is emphasized by this declaration, and how this declaration was manifested by the Prophet Mohammed and the four orthodox caliphs and other pious Moslem leaders that came and went over the ages. We will deal with the other Pillars of Islam in the forthcoming articles.

Agony of Hope of Yemeni Intellectual Inactivity A Bane Permeating into Society



Mohammed Al-Hakimi
Yemen Times
Taiz

We would like to discuss one of the most significant issues that has disastrous consequences on society. It is inactivity which stands firmly as a barrier before any forward step made by any society. Our society is no exception.

The other day, I read an interview by YT with a number of people at the helm and high brow pundits. The theme of the interview was highlighting the recent-day position of the Yemeni intellectual. In fact, I was deeply impressed by such strenuous efforts by YT to focus on issues concerning culture and society. It is culture and intellectuals who determine the destiny of a country and contribute to the advancement of the civilization.

In the endeavor, civilized people create a great number of intellectuals who participate in creating stepping stones for a decent life. However, it is distressing to note that the Yemeni intellectual remains withdrawn in the corridor of ignorance. These things are wrongfully practiced against him by king-pins and persons who are in positions of responsibility who ignore his terrible sufferings, show a lack of concern, overlook the need for support for fulfillment of his aspiration of shifting from the recent dark position into a richer life through more effective and efficient performance. The people concerned in the government have been talking about their financial problems, especially those in the Ministry of Culture, giving hollow excuses and making no practical solutions. Thus, we are confronted with the sordid reality that we are not preparing our youngsters for tomorrow and thus our potential and faculties remain dormant. I wonder how the intellectual can pursue knowledge, perusing standard books and authors in the absence of libraries containing the storehouse of human wisdom. In addition to this it's very difficult for the intellectual to get his work published and thus lots of creative pundits and talents are kept confined.

If we reckon the recent cultural scene to be full of positive improvements, especially creative writings, we should pave the way for the intellectual to become established.

Recently, private cultural institutions have shown too much prejudice. The fall-out is that the desired role of those private institutions in improving the local cultural scene doesn't prove to be effective, and thus the future prospects of most intellectuals are mortgaged to a dark future.

In conclusion, I hope this investigation initiated by YT will succeed in achieving the goals it had aimed at. I would like to receive feedback on the issue from our readers, both inside and outside the country. You are most welcome to share with us your suggestions and views which would certainly make the end-result of such investigation worth-while. It's true that civilization is only made by enlightened and high-brow individuals. Yet, many people choose clinging to ignorance and inactivity.

*Oh sparks of moon, for thee I seek
Oh starts of noon, dust off thy reek
Stand by thee, get sight of light
Defame incult, discard that sleek*

"To Kidnap Or Not To Kidnap, That Is The Question"

Abdul-Hakim Afaqih
abdulhakim73@hotmail.com

As far as kidnapping is concerned, it can be said that it is an indication of the wild form in a community. Kidnapping has its historical root in any community which still suffers from. Our history is full of evidences and events that kidnapping is a vital phenomenon. Even the best modern Yemeni literary masterpiece is the novel of Mr. Zaid Damag which is entitled "The Hostage." Kidnapping is a sign of the ill exercise of law and government and the absence of the modern state. However, in Yemen, it has become a form of a joke. One starts to be skeptical and thinks that the government itself stands behind the kidnapping and perhaps in the near future there will be the Ministry of Kidnapping and Tourism. Factually, it seems that the government itself gets benefits from kidnapping. These benefits appear in the following points:

1. It is a distraction for the international media from the actual crises of political or economical shortcomings.
2. Kidnapping offers an opportunity

for the government media to change local and international opinion against the opposition by accusing them of kidnapping the guests of the generous Yemeni people.

3. Kidnapping creates a chance for the government to train its staff in the art of negotiating.
4. Kidnapping in some provinces creates a chance for the government to train the soldiers how to use weapons in live battles instead of practice ones.
5. Kidnapping creates a chance for the government to claim that its educational plan is succeeding because they give the learners in tribal areas a chance to practice languages with native speakers and to instruct the faculty of the languages of using kidnapping instead of scholarships.
6. Since very rare cases end by killing hostages, kidnapping is a nice successful propaganda for attracting tourists to visit Yemen and live the experience of being kidnapped in happy accommodation circumstances.

So the government supports kidnapping, does it not?
Is it not the government of the "Republic of Kidnapping?" Will it cooperate with the Parliament in establishing the Law of Kidnapping.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am Abdul Ghani Al-Mansoub from Ibb. I congratulate you on the occasion of the advent of Ramadhan and many happy returns. I am a regular reader of your great newspaper. I have corresponded to you more than five times. Fortunately, two of my articles were published. But two months ago I sent you a poem and an article. They are well typed and revised but none have been published. To publish my articles is to help me go ahead. I am a university student. I like correspondence because I want to develop my English. I like the Yemen Times for it teaches me.

DEAR ABDUL,
DELAYING publishing some contributions does not mean ignoring them. Follow up next issues you may come across your articles. —
Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I always read the Yemen Times which includes so much variety, but there is something missing and that is sports news which is more read by youths.
Adil Ahmad Awdah
Sheraton Sana'a Hotel
aaa1980@hotmail.com

DEAR EDITOR,

AS we are celebrating the auspicious holy month of Ramadhan, I hereby wish you and your families many happy returns and may Allah bestow on you all His blessings. This is the month when the Holy Koran was revealed to us (human beings) through the prophet Mohammed, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. And so, it is the month of forgiveness, month of reaching out to those whom you might or might not have wronged! It is the month of reconciliation, the month of healing. It is the month when you ask Allah for anything and He

makes your hopes come true. So, here I go and ask Allah to forgive us for our shortcomings and bless us.
Many Happy Returns
Abdulkhalig Mbarak Al-Jabry
Nabors Rig-1
Marib

'Ramadhan Kareem' to Everybody
IT is difficult to transfer our good feelings, especially on the happy occasions such as in Ramadhan to all people. But I think I can do so by writing on a popular paper that can be read by so many people.
I have chosen the Yemen Times to convey my congratulations to its staff, my family, teachers, classmates and all Yemeni and Arab people.
I feel that my felicitations have been received by so many people.
Many Happy Returns
Fahmia Taha Ahmad Al-Fotih
Eng. Dept.
Sana'a university

DEAR EDITOR,
IN the Name of Allah.
What a sad day this is. We, as Yemenis are really to see our sisters, wives, mothers, daughters and other female relatives work as police officers. What a sad day, have we lost our famous Yemeni 'Gheerah'? Are we ready to follow the west in their interpretation of equality and role sharing? Are we ready to give up our religion? Are we ready to join the world in what they think is progress? Instead of following the good in other nations we take that which contradicts Islam. Oh, the great Yemeni people wake up before it is too late. Wake up and do not give up your 'Deen'. We are Muslims. The best of nations, only if we follow our 'deen'. We possess a certain special wisdom from Allah. We are the origin of pure Arabs. We have much work to do in the improving of our land, but this move to allow our women, our blood,

our most respected group, our sisters to work as police officers is a move in the wrong direction. Do not forget, oh Yemeni people.

Ahmed
Yemenite@hotmail.com

DEAR EDITOR,

WITH reference to your news report published in issue No 37, on 11 Sept. 2000 and in issue No 45 on 6 Nov. 2000 regarding the pending cases of so many people who were sent to prison by a Judge called Abduljabar al-Kharasani. Some of these prisoners have spent imprisonment terms ranging from 7-9 years without looking into their cases.
We would like to inform you that Judge Kharasani has finally bowed to orders of Justice Minister and that of the Judiciary Inspection Authority and handed the cases to Judge Ameen Abdulhaq who have started looking into cases releasing some of the prisoners, including Aziz al-Jabali.
The prisoners highly appreciate your valuable efforts and congratulate you for such a successful journalist Mr. Tawfeek al-Shara'abi who works for you. Mr. Al-Shara'abi followed up the case, collected details and related evidences.
Yemen Times has been distinguished and well-known for its stand on public issues. It has been the source of all information. It is the bridge that connects Yemen to the outside world and vice versa. Therefore, it is worth going on with the same policy.
Finally, we wish you, personally, and your distinguished staff all the very best, hoping that you will go on adopting the people's problems so as to improve the judiciary system in the country.

Thanks & Regards
Yours truly,
Dr. Fadl Al-Jabali.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

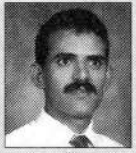
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Kidnapping in Yemen: Problem & Solution



Hasan Saeed Al-Zaidi
Yemen Times

In last week's issue No. 48 we discussed briefly the reasons for kidnapping and ways of remedying the problem. However, there are still many questions that need objective and convincing answers. If we agree that kidnapping incidents are criminal acts, then the continuation of this phenomenon makes us look for its reasons, motives and eradication. When we come to the kidnappers' usual demands, we find that they are related to the state providing public projects to their regions and assertion of their per-

sonal and tribal rights. Whether these demands are legitimate or they use them as pretexts does not matter. The crucial question is "How can this phenomenon brought to an end?"

If we consider the kidnappers' demands for public services that constitute the core of the state's responsibility, then the state must reconsider its general policies of distributing developmental projects fairly in all regions of the republic. If the resources of the state "are really limited", then it would be fair to distribute them fairly to convince people "all people" that the government does its best. If we can not differentiate between security problems, the general policy of state, corruption in administrative and judicial departments, despite a plan for developmental projects, there would neither be an effective mecha-

nism for carrying them out nor determination to fight and get rid of corruption. To provide an appropriate atmosphere conducive for national, Arab and foreign investment, those in charge must start thinking of establishing a political and secure climate with no security problems. This may take time but a serious start would ensure the cooperation of all.

What has the state done to limit kidnapping?

A serious problem like kidnapping and its negative effects on the national economy and reputation of the country, needs urgent solutions, even if they are only temporary ones. The state has issued a law of execution on those who commit kidnapping crimes. It positions military units in regions vulnerable to

kidnappings. Moreover, it has drawn a joint security plan between the Ministry of Tourism and security authorities to organize, escort and guard tours of foreign tourists in those regions at specific times. In case of kidnapping, military forces surround kidnappers, follow up citizens belonging to kidnappers' tribe or region in cities, at homes and schools, put them in jails as hostages and, at the same time, send negotiators to free the kidnapped peacefully. However, those measures did not stop this phenomenon completely. The next question then is:

Who benefits from kidnapping?

Perhaps the negotiators benefit from kidnapping by having a chance to meet the president and ask him to solve problems that concern certain people whom they themselves can benefit from. The kidnappers themselves benefit by getting their demands answered. The losers are those hostages who have nothing to do with the whole thing. Yemen, too, loses its reputation and its economy

gets weakened. The matter then requires other mechanisms and solutions beside the previous ones.

Applicable Solutions

Looking deep into the reasons of the phenomenon, measures taken by the state, economic losses, expenditures from the state budget, we can conclude that some other measures in association with the previous ones, would solve this problem. The state can involve the people of those regions, where kidnapping occurs or is likely to occur, in security forces and encourage them to invest in the tourism field. It can make them responsible for security in their regions instead of using military units. It is better to make people of the region recognize the immediate benefits of tourism for them and their big responsibility in protecting tourists rather than making tourists feel unsafe being escorted by soldiers.

In addition, the people's knowledge of their regions, relations and customs would help them provide security and stability in those regions. Moreover, sheikhs of those regions must discuss the people's problems and find fair solutions instead of ignoring them. Such ignorance may lead them to grow rebellious and encouraged to find solutions to problems such as kidnapping

rather than resort to such extraneous ways to draw the attention of the state to their problems.

Furthermore, the authorities must draft immediate punitive measures against those responsible for kidnapping and guarantee rights to all, not only to sheikhs, their relatives or sons. Over and above, the authorities must quickly respond to all lawful demands so that tribesmen do not think their demands are ignored.

I was shocked to hear from those 16-year-old students, who came out of prison in the Criminal Investigation Department where they spent 17 days for interrogation in connection with the kidnapping of the Swedish expert. They were taken from their school Al-Nawares in Sana'a although they had nothing to do with it except that they were from the same region as the kidnappers. They expressed their indignation to this spurious incident and said that there was no value in the education for which they came from their regions. They said they were victims and they would discontinue their studies and take up their guns to kidnap and achieve what they dream of by force and not through education. Such wrong measures make the people of the region stand by the kidnappers' side, not the state's side.

Hurdles Before National Industry

Yasser M. Ahmad
Yemen Times

Researchers and industrialists represented by the Yemeni Industrialists

Society think that development of national industry is hindered and blocked by a number of factors. Some of those factors are:

1- Unjust treatment of national products by customs authority.
2- Tax ambivalence and high cost of national production
Many factors help increase costs of national products against imported ones. Factors like imposing taxes on devices and systems used in production, high rate of electricity services, high taxes on imported raw materials, expensive transportation and high interest rates on loans of local banks- all lead to the price-rise of national products.

The tax ambivalence is represented by imposing taxes on imported raw material before they are manufactured and, then when products are manufactured, by disregarding the fact that these materials are subject to damage. Industrialists may have loans from banks at high

interest rates for products that are not yet manufactured which makes them increase prices later. Researchers have established that taxes on clothes is between 5% and 15% in case of other kinds of imports while foreign products are subject to only 5% taxation.

3- Difficulty of exporting national products.

Industrialists complain about long procedures of clearance of raw materials, absence of specific tariffs for air shipments, lack of any agreements with other countries to exempt some of Yemeni products from custom fees, etc. 4- The cabinet decision to impose 5 rials for each package for improvement of cities. This means that factories have to pay taxation for about four times. In other words they have to pay taxes for raw materials, after production they pay taxes for products; taxes are added to electricity service charges and there is the taxation for factories themselves as a commercial institution.

Industrialists' meetings have come out with a number of recommendations such as: classifying all raw materials as the same with the same tax structure (5%), Imposing new taxes on imported products that have similar national products to the extent of 40-50% as in many other countries, reconsidering laws of production and consumption taxes, improving transportation which is monopolized by transportation offices, and respect for all verdicts that ensure industrialists' rights.

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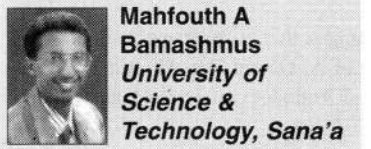
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Diet During Ramadan



Mahfouth A Bamashmus
University of Science & Technology, Sana'a

It is a globally recognized and a foremost part of dietary guidelines that one should eat a variety of food using principles of moderation and balance. This is particularly true during the Islamic month of Ramadan when Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. To be healthy, one must consume food from the major food groups: bread and cereal, milk and dairy product, meat and bean, vegetable and fruit. During the month long fast of Ramadan the metabolic rate of a fasting person slows down and other regulatory mechanisms start functioning. Body and dietary fat is efficiently utilized. Consuming food intake less than the total food intake during normal days is sufficient to

maintain a person's health. Intake of fruits after a meal is strongly suggested. A balanced diet improves blood cholesterol profile, reduces gastric acidity, prevents constipation and other digestive problems, and contributes to an active and healthy life style. Fasting during the Islamic month of Ramadan can be good for one's health and personal development. Ramadan fasting is not just about disciplining the body to restrain from eating food and drinking water from predawn until sunset. The eyes, the ears, the tongue, and even the private parts are equally obligated to be restrained if a Muslim wants to gain the total rewards of fasting. Ramadan is also about restraining anger, doing good deeds, exercising personal discipline, and preparing oneself to serve as a good Muslim and be a good person during and after Ramadan. Ramadan fasting has spiritual, physical, psychological, and social benefits.

However, manmade problems may occur, if fasting is not properly practiced. First of all, there is no need to consume excess food at *iftar* (the food eaten immediately after sunset to break fast), dinner or *sahur* (the light meal generally eaten about half an hour to one hour before dawn). The body has regulatory mechanisms that activate during fasting. There is efficient utilization of body fat. A diet that is less than a normal amount of food intake but balanced is sufficient enough to keep a person healthy and active during the month of Ramadan. Health problems can emerge as a result of excess food intake, foods that make the diet unbalanced, and insufficient sleep. Ultimately also, such a lifestyle contradicts the essential requirements and spirit of Ramadan. The body's immediate need at the time of *iftar* is to get an easily available energy source in the form of glucose for every living cell, particularly the brain and nerve cells. Dates and juices are good sources of sugars. Dates and juice are sufficient to bring low blood

glucose levels to normal levels. Juice and soup help maintain water and mineral balance in the body. An unbalanced diet and too many servings of sherbets and sweets with added sugar have been found to be unhealthy. During dinner consume foods from all the following food groups: Meat/Bean group; Bread/Cereal group; Milk group; Vegetable group and Fruits group. Fruits and mixed nuts may be eaten as a snack after dinner or before sleep. It is recommended that everyone engage in some kind of light exercise, such as stretching or walking. It's important to follow good time management practices for *Ibada* (prayer and other religious activities), sleep, studies, job, and physical activities or exercise. In summary, intake of a balanced diet is critical to maintain good health, sustain an active lifestyle and attain the full benefits of Ramadan.

Reference:
International Journal of Ramadan Fasting Research



OPHTHALMIC EDUCATION (19)

Eye Emergencies

Mahfouth A Bamashmus
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University of Science & Technology, Sana'a

Allah has given us a lot of things including our eyes and their ability to let us see our environment. Your eyes are two jewels and you should take care of them. Prevention is far better than treatment and you should take care of your eyes before anything happens to them. If something goes wrong you should seek medical advice as soon as possible and avoid postponing visiting your eye doctor.

Here are some advice and instructions on dealing with eye emergencies:

- Chemical powders and liquids:**
If your eyes have been exposed to chemicals such as detergents, insecticides or perfumes you need immediately to wash your eyes thoroughly with water. You should keep washing your eyes for a period of time until you feel that all the chemicals have been removed or buffered. Then you need to seek medical advice as soon as possible. The earlier you see the eye doctor the less complications can happen to the eye.
- Foreign bodies:**
If a foreign goes into your eyes you need to visit your eye doctor as soon as you can. Foreign bodies cause a lot of irritation and discomfort and can lead to serious infections. Avoid rubbing your eyes if a foreign body goes into your eyes and try to wash your eyes to get rid of the foreign body. Rubbing your eyes produces abrasions and damages the outer coat of the eye.
- Eye scratches and abrasions:**
Your eyes can be injured with something sharp such as metals, tree-branches or while playing with your kids. All these can cause corneal abrasions. If that happens don't take it easy and visit your eye doctor as soon as you can. If you develop an abrasion or an injury to your eyes; then you need to cover your eye with a clean tissue and visit your eye doctor immediately to get the right treatment. Corneal abrasions can develop into serious eye infections if not treated properly, especially those related to tree branches.
- Eye infections:**
If you develop a red eye and you think it is an eye infection; don't use any drops available at home. An eye infection can be due to bacteria or a virus and each of them needs a different treatment. You need to see your eye or family doctor to get the right medications. Cleaning the eye is the main treatment in these cases. So use clean disposable soft tissues.

Routine eye exam by an eye specialist is very important. It is your sight and your eyes need every care they deserve.

Reference: PAACO educational leaflets, Cairo

The Limitless Existence

Dr. Abdul Rahman Thabet
Pesticide Toxicology and Environmental Pollution
Faculty of Agriculture
Sana'a University

The wide spread of qat cultivation deserves intensive studies relating to its social, economic and health hazards. Insecticides used in the cultivation imposes a real threat on a man's health. To avoid the effect of the traditional insecticides, more attention has been given to find other alternatives by using biological elements with some chemical insecticides that have been proven harmless. The great demands on qat and its high revenues have made it preferable to the other kinds of crops. Its quick revenues encourage farmers to use chemical substances and insecticides to get good and more production, specially in winter when the tree is likely to be slowly growing.

Physical Effects
- Arterial blood pressure

Qat-cultivated land	
1970	8000 Hectares
1999	100,000 Hectares

In 1998 the land cultivated with Qat was as follows:	
Sana'a	37715 Hectares
Ibb	15854 Hectares
Hajjah	14594 Hectares
Dhamar	8263 Hectares

The first four governorates form 76.2% of the total size of land cultivated with qat.

Qat income per Hectare		
Qat	USD 84101	56%
Grapes	USD 81702	45%
Oranges	USD 5508	42%
Coffee	USD 5508	33%
Bananas	USD 3337	23%

Water consumption for qat in the governorates per Hectare	
Mareb	30.4 thousand m3
Sana'a	20.6 thousand m3
Taiz	11.5 thousand m3
Ibb	5.2 thousand m3

70% of the total imported insecticides (3205 tones in a year) plus 17 thousand tons of smuggled insecticides is used in qat cultivation.

- High arterial blood pressure and high heart beating with possible heart and blood vessels diseases.
 - Difficulty in controlling blood pressure.
 - May cause heart attacks in patients of arterial blood pressure.
 - May help cause cerebral and heart clots.
- For the above reasons patients of arterial blood pressure are advised to refrain from qat.

- Digestive System**
- Qat chewers often suffer from stomatitis and esophagitis because of the Tannic in qat.
 - It helps slow down emptying stomachache from food.
 - Slows process of emptying the stomach may cause heartburn and other diseases.

- Loss of appetite**
- Chewers lose appetite after chewing. They rarely have a complete meal on the same day.

- constipation**
- The tannic acid in the qat leaves causes constipation to those who chew qat regularly.
 - Regular chewers try to avoid this by having a meal with a lot of fat to help have a loose bowel movement.
 - It slows down discretion which is caused by the consumptional effects of qat leaves.

- Hepatitis**
- Continuous chewing may affect the liver. This may be a result of the remains of insecticides in the leaves.

- Effects on Urinary and Reproductive Systems**
- Chewing qat may lead to:
- urination difficulties.
 - oversexuality.
 - sperms appear in urine
 - weak erection

- Psychological Effects**
- Qat has a stimulating effects on the Nerves System.
- After 1.5-3 hours of chewing, chewers feel:
- highly spirited,
 - a bit excited caused mainly by social

- interaction and excessive talks, and
 - energetic.
- These effects reach the climax during the first three hours of chewing then they gradually fade away (3.5-10 hours) and are replaced with:
- Parathymia (mood disorder)
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Insomnia
 - Loss of appetite
 - Irritation

- Imported Chemical Insecticides.**
- Chemical insecticides are more often used in the northern governorates than the other places. The land cultivated with qat in the northern governorates is vaster than that in the southern ones. During 1993-1998 use of insecticides rose from 585 to 2305 tons. There is no statistics on the volume of insecticides used in cultivation of qat but the official sources indicated that it is 70%.

- Imported Chemical Fertilizers**
- Fertilizers used to improve fertility of the cultivated land to increase production has not only polluted the arable land but the ground water as well. Most of the farmers are illiterate, thus can not read the proper usage of the fertilizers causing many health and environmental problems.

- Other Factors influencing Fighting Qat Pets**
- Farmers depend on traders of insecticides and their neighbors as information sources on how to use insecticides.
 - Although using the same insecticide and fertilizers farmers use them in different volumes and at different times which indicates their ignorance of the right use.
 - Some farmers in the countryside use more than 3 kinds of insecticides at the same time.
 - Some farmers use substances that these are internationally banned such as DDT. In addition, they use kinds that have been classified by the WHO under 1-A and 1-B such that are only allowed to be used by specialists.
 - Banned insecticides enter Yemen through smuggling.
 - Ignoring the safety period after each treatment (2-3 days.)
 - Many farmers do not know how and when to use insecticides.
 - Some farmers are ignorant of the consequences of random use of insecticides.

- Effects of Insecticides and Fertilizers on the Environment**
- Effects of many kinds of chlorine hydrocarbon insecticides remain in the soil for more than 30 years.
 - Such insecticides affect man's health and the environment due to their ability to dissolve in fat. They accumulate in man's body causing poisoning and fetus malformation.
 - The chlorine hydrocarbonic insecticides banned in the beginning of the 1970s in the developed countries are still used here.
 - The random use of insecticides, specially in qat cultivation endangers man's health and the environment.
 - Local, as well as international reports have established that a number of diseases are caused by the effects of insecticides in the leaves of qat. This

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We have mistakenly published in our previous issues Dermatology as one of the faculties of the Applied and Social Sciences University. The right faculty name should have been 'Medicine Faculty', our apology.

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Wax Candle Maker



Galila Abdul-Wahab Naser Jahaf

My father is a diplomat. I was born in Moscow but raised and studied in many Arab and foreign countries. After graduation, I moved with my husband to Germany where he continued his specialization in Medicine. There I took up a hobby of making wax candles to kill time. I made candles and gave them as gifts to friends who admired them much for what I did was a handicraft. Every handicraft in Europe is highly appreciated. My knowledge in making wax candles mainly came from some books and special formulas that I had. For a long time I looked for a company and institutes in Germany to improve my skill, but in vain because this was an industry that was characterized by secrecy of formulas and most companies refused to provide me with any experience or formulas. By chance at the Dortmund Women Handicrafts Exhibition I got acquainted with a German businesswoman who had many wax factories in Denmark and Hanover. She liked my interest in making wax candles and my desire to learn it and agreed to give me a course in one of her factories. I learnt how to make the Danish extinguished handmade wax candles like the spiral and ring-shaped ones that are known in Germany and Europe for their good quality as they are made of the best raw materials, threads and dyes that make

them beautiful and light for a longer time.

After finishing my course I got a certificate. When I got back to Yemen, my friends were impressed by my work and they urged me to show them for sale. The World Woman Association, chaired by Dr. Khadiga Zabara, Mrs. Bravotela and Mrs. Barbara Demetrinko encouraged me by showing my works in the association charity bazaars. Most of my customers were from my friends, relatives and diplomats and foreigners' wives. Of course the idea is artistic and aesthetic and not commercial at all. However, many people started buying them in large quantities and some ordered wedding candles. Hotels, too, requested me to make them candles for special occasions. It is true that I have a small workshop where I work alone according to the condition put by Mrs. Intea Shtoker in Hanover that the family's inherited formulas are not revealed, but I can make all kinds of wax candles for all ceremonies and occasions.

The whole matter is a hobby and it will continue to be so as long as there is demand and appreciation. However, a very significant point must be mentioned; all nations have different lifestyles. For instance, European ladies are interested in buying flowers to decorate their homes and candles to decorate their tables. On the other hand, we here in Yemen are only interested in candles to light them when the power is turned off or to use them as part of the decoration of the house.

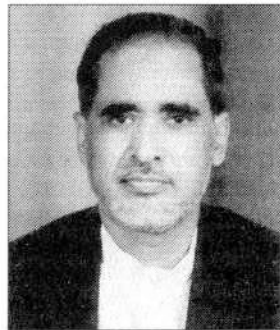
In short, our cultural level and money can play a role in crystallizing our aesthetic concerns. Above all, I am a translator and translation is one of my future plans. Of course there will be no contradiction between my hobby and my job since encouragement is there. This is a proof that the Yemeni woman can work and invent. I may be the owner of the first wax candle factory in the Arabic Gulf and one of the women in this field in the Middle East. According to my knowledge, in Syria there is a lady who practices making and sculpturing wax candles.

Cultural Institutions and Yemeni Intellectual -III

Under total absence of the Ministry of Culture role in encouraging writers, Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Maqaleh was the very person encouraging and supporting innovative them. The 90s period has seen an unusual shift in Yemeni culture. Many young Men of letters ranging between poetry, short story, plastic art and theater have appeared. In addition to that some Cultural institutions have been founded in various Yemeni cities, mainly in Sana'a, encouraging talented writers, the most famous of which is Al-Aff Institution.

In Taiz there are two cultural foundations, namely, Al-Saeed for Science and Culture and the Yemeni League for Culture and Art (TAIF) founded in March, 1995.

Yemen Times Taiz Office has interviewed head of the League Abdul-Malek Al-Shaibani, Chairman of the Yemeni Union for Culture and Arts (TAIF)



Q: Could you possibly give us a brief idea about the Union and its objectives?

A: The Yemeni Union for Culture and Arts (TAIF) is a foundation established according to a permit from the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs in Taiz. One of our most important objectives is to be a comprehensive cultural frame that involves uniting scattered literary and cultural potentials, providing appropriate creativity atmospheres to adopt encouraging talented youth and participating in shaping the cultural scene of Yemen.

Q: What relationship is there between TAIF and other governmental cultural foundations?

A: It is supposed to be good but unfortunately it is not so at present. There isn't the least contact between us and we hope this gap between governmental and non-governmental foundations will be bridged. Governmental foundations must renew their relationship with the non-governmental ones.

Q: Why non-governmental in particular?

A: A characteristic of democratic societies and democratic practice is that cultural and creative foundations should not be monopolized by the state under its official frame. Another thing is that promoting creativity and culture must not be the responsibility of the state only. Society must participate effectively in shaping awareness, culture and trends through appropriate means, too. Thus, creativity must be cared for by the whole nation.

Q: Why does the Union still have limited activities and why is it developing slowly?

A: There is a long way between ambitions and fulfilling them, between hopes and practice for many reasons, the most important of which is financial stringency. Thus, the several cultural activities TAIF offered and presented during the last period were a great achievement in comparison to the small financial facilities.

Q: Does partisan affiliation have a role in cultural activity?

A: Cultural activity is not governed by partisan criteria whatsoever stand that party takes towards those responsible for cultural activity. This is because it biases nobody. You may notice that with us in TAIF there are active and proficient members from different parties, but cultural concerns unite us all. I want to clarify that the cultural foundations existing in Yemen and in other countries which are directed by known partisans. We can not say that those foundations are affiliated to any party as long as membership in them is open for all.

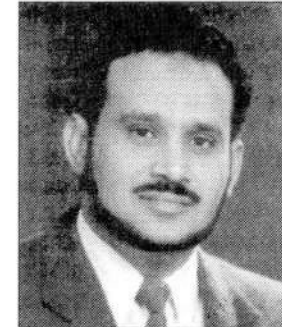
Q: How do you see the future of literature in Yemen? What does Yemeni talent need today?

A: I think the present cultural scene in Yemen is progressing. The future of lit-

erature in Yemen can be invigorated by cooperation of all cultured people working honestly for cultural concerns and cooperation of governmental and non-governmental foundations. The Yemeni talented youth need to be given the chance to be distinguished.

Q: What are your concerns and ambitions?

A: Our concerns and ambitions are those of the Union TAIF as a cultural foundation. We hope that we enter this century with an effective working plan banishing favoritism, boredom and discouragement. We hope our women and our country have a strong cultural presence. On our part, we participated in this by electing two female members for the administrative committee in TAIF, Mrs. Olfat Al-Dubae and Afrah Al-Az-azi.



Al-Ibda Foundation For Culture and Arts
Abdulwali Al-Shamiri, Chairman

It is a private foundation I established in 1995 after meetings and consultations with many writers, poets and concerned people to activate culture in its general concept.

Although the foundation was not officially inaugurated, many writers and sophisticated people work in it diligently and from now and then their efforts yield some literary publications considered as a step in a long way and a contribution of the foundation to enhance the movement of culture and literature. The foundation has objectives we try to achieve according to available facilities. Among these objectives is reading, activating and presenting the cultural heritage by examining and printing manuscripts. In this respect, I would like to say that we deal with culture with great eclecticism for not all the heritage books must be printed. In this connection, the foundation has published two hereditary poetic editions considered to be souvenirs of our

Yemeni literary heritage: Anthology of Poet Al-Qasem Bin Ali Bin Hataimel and Anthology of Poet Abdul-Rahman Al-Anesi.

Among our objectives are spreading cultural awareness and creative cultural and literary works, encouraging unknown talents, interacting with the other cultural foundations inside or outside Yemen, reviving the Arabic Language and preserving it from estrangement.

The foundation welcomes all writers and poets who have the originality values of literature and culture. We hope to make this foundation a good place for all those who like and have interest in culture, literature and art.

The foundation has assigned a publishing committee specialized in selecting the published works according to restrictions such as the edition should be good and beautiful and has a serious content.

The foundation has published seven editions:

- Dorer Al-Tahawor Anthology of Ibn Hataimel a study and analysis by Dr. Abdulwali Al-Shamiri.
- Anaqid Fi Al-Adab Wa Al-Fan in two editions by Mr. Abdul-Rahman Ba'aker.
- Al-Onmothag Al-Faq Anthology by Poet Abdul-Rahman Al-Anesi
- Miraat Qalb Anthology by Ab Abdul-Qader Taib Al-Hadrami.
- Qabl Al-Raheel Anthology by Mr. Yousof Aledham.
- Khalagat Al-Qalb Anthology by Mr. Abdullah Al-Dhawawi.
- Osarat Al-Ayyam Anthology by Abdul-Rahman Al-Sharif.

The foundation has got many literary works to publish in the future most of which is an encyclopedia about the Yemeni distinguished personalities since early civilizations until today. It is a project of which the foundation has achieved about 7% so far and it is expected to be published hopefully soon.

We will also work on issuing a literary magazine specialized in publishing different literary works like creativity, criticism so to mobilize the cultural and literary movement.

Generally, I think the effective role that the foundations must play is to support the young talented people who have creative minds in literature and arts. Such support would enable them to devote more time and energy.

Ramadan in Yemeni Cities

TAIZ

Habits and traditions during Ramadan in Taiz are similar to those in other governorates of the Republic. But still are there some daily pictures that might distinguish it from the others.

Celebrating the Ramadan Hilal (Crescent)

People await the emergence of the Ramadan Hilal impatiently. When it appears, they start singing the glory of the holy month. Children, especially in the country side, sometimes go on singing and playing until morning.

Al-Mawaled (religious songs)

During the evenings people get together to sing mystical songs or listen to recorded ones. Songs are usually accompanied by a drum. In districts like Hujariah, Saber and Shara'ab poems of Sufi leaders are sung in groups. Mawaled sometimes includes lectures, sermons, etc.

Sahoor.

It is the last meal people have before they start fasting. Following this they do not eat or drink until sunset. In the countryside Al-Sahoor is usually announced

ADEN

The special rituals, traditions and habits practiced during Ramadan in Arab as well as Islamic countries add a special flavor to this holy month. People are more passionate and considerate. And they devote the greatest part of their time to worship Allah. In Yemen almost all governorates live

by some people either by calling for it or by beating drums owing to the absence of electricity and microphones.

Ramadan Canon

It is that by which people recognize the Iftar and Sahoor times. The canon is placed in a small village overlooking the Al-Qahirah historic fortress.

Common Habits

Most people go to bed after Al-Fajr (dawn) prayers. They sleep for a few hours and then go to work. In the afternoons they go shopping and to buy Qat.

Women

Women do not go out much during Ramadan except for urgent things. They are mostly busy doing the house-work. In the countryside they wear different clothes and avoid cosmetics to show their commitment to worshipping.

Group Iftar

Prior to the Iftar time people gather at mosques with their Iftar requirements to break fasting in groups. In cities, Iftar meals are sometimes provided by charitable societies as a help to students, workers and the poor.

the same daily pictures with a little difference. Life turns upside down with days turning nights and vice-versa. Markets are full of many kinds of food-stuffs. And people purchase more of those kinds. After the Iftar life begins again. People visit each other or set before the TV watching the special programs for Ramadan. In Aden many people get together to talk

Other Virtues

Relatives and friends intensify their visits and meetings during Ramadan nights. And neighbors often exchange meals with one another. Generally speaking, a sense of love and kindness prevails.

Kinds of meals

Iftar meal is often composed of a few dates, soup, samosa, coffee and water. For dinner they have 'shafout', porridge, Hulbah and soup. People usually have Rwani for Iftar which is a cake made of flour and eggs and is covered with honey.

Dressing

Men often wear tall white dishdashas, head scarves and jambias.

Nights

Many youths go to mosques to perform Ramadan special prayers (Taraweeh) after Iftar. Then they join religious sessions either at mosques or at the houses of some Islamic scholars. Others go for entertainment in clubs, streets, cafés or watch TV. For women they watch TV, listen to radio or visit one another.

about many issues on society, culture, literature, religion, etc. More than 25 forums exist here.

In a survey including 15 it was clear that people concentrate in this month on reading the Holy Quran and about prophet Mohammed, recalling events that took place during the same time in history, visiting relatives and friends, trade, exercising, etc.

ALWAHA
COCONUT COVERED WITH CHOCOLATE

شوكولاته

شوكولاته غنيه ...

محشوه بجوز الهند الطري

Yemen in the Indian Ocean Community

Irena Knehtl

Indian Ocean in History

Not all societies have taken the path to urbanization, nor has any society been immune to the temptation of trade. A little more than 2000 years ago Arab and Persian Seafarers discovered the secrets of the monsoon wind system across the Indian Ocean. This discovery opened the way for the great transoceanic voyages so important in later world history. The continued movement of people and trade goods has led to a complex process of interaction which has not left the Indian Ocean countries untouched. These countries are rich in human and natural resources, a fact recognized long before the recent importance of oil.

Even Arab geographers recognized an invisible sense of unity steaming from the trade network and sea based political alliances. The Indian Ocean is an important source of food and the sea bed is repository of minerals such as manganese, nickel, copper, cobalt, molybdenum, zinc, and lead. Nehru, the later Prime minister of India wrote about the importance of the sea for the Indian continent India's destiny, he

said, can be fulfilled in its entirety only when Indian becomes again a seafaring nation. We have developed this continental psychology which was that of aloofness, and narrowness of vision.

But it is when we open ourselves, our nation, to the seas on the three sides of this great land and play our part there and interact with people inhabiting this ocean and beyond that India can really fulfill its destiny....

Southern Arabia, especially Yemen is once again placed in the position of a go-between or bridge in the Indian Ocean community, now the fastest growing behind the Asia-Pacific rim. The Indian Ocean Rim Association for regional cooperation (IOR - ARC) was formed in 1997 by 14 countries bordering the Indian Ocean. The Republic of Yemen is a founding member of the Indian Ocean Rim Cooperation which now constitutes 19 members. It is an outward looking forum for economic dialogue and cooperation, in many ways similar to APEC. Australia, India, South Africa have emerged of major importance to Yemen. The presence of Singapore in the grouping has potential to provide significant bene-



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incense, spices and perfumes. Later, the port of Aden was one of the world top bunkering port and second largest bulk port.

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It is a natural logistical and transshipment hub 4 km from the east-west shipping route - 9 days steaming from Europe and 7 days from Singapore an ideal outlet for transshipment operations between European markets, east Asian economies, connecting busy free zones, of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, logistically serving Australia and South Africa, Europe's most important trading partners.

To the West is links with Malta, Europe's fifth busiest port, and Mediterranean foremost distribution, transshipment and logistical center, now rapidly becoming also Mediterranean off shore financial center. It offers one of the best packages of incentives in the region.

The Aden free zone incentive package includes:

- * 15 years tax exemptions,
- * free transfer of capital and profits,
- * 100 percent foreign ownership and income - tax exemptions for expatriates.

* Irena Knehtl is an economist, entrepreneur, and writer from Slovenia

An associate of the Indian Ocean Center at Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia, she promoted the Australian sponsored Indian Ocean dialogue in Yemen.

She is also member of the Indian ocean Business and Academic network.

Currently in Yemen she is setting up her undertaking Investment Contact Business network.

View also www.geocities.com/irena_knehtl/ under title Scent of Place and Time for smaller countries to take initiative.

fits in the areas of micro - project management, and infrastructure development, and strategies for attracting and retaining foreign investments, as well as development of selected service sector.

The Republic of Yemen is more openly in search of expanding opportunities for economic cooperation between Indian Ocean countries. Due to its location across the Horn of Africa, at the entrance to the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, occupies a strategic position. To the south is joins together with the Indian Ocean into the vast new commercial and strategic unity, i.e. the Indian ocean community and linking emerging opportunities and markets including investment - and trade.

Gateway to the emerging opportunities in the Indian ocean markets. The port of Aden is one of the world largest natural harbors. It is geographically and strategically located at the crossroads of the Red and Arabian seas with direct access to the Indian Ocean.

Sailors have used Aden for more than 2000 years, running cargoes of frank-

Mr. Eissa Abdul-Aziz to YT

"We wanted to enhance the national stance supporting the Palestinian issue and represent the official attitude represented by President Saleh."

Al-Hussain schools organized a festival supporting the national as well as Arab stand for the Palestinians and intifada. Akram al-Saqqaf of the Yemen Times seized this chance to meet with the principal of Al-Hussain schools, Mr. Eissa Abdulaziz to focus some light on this occasion and its objectives, conducting the following interview:

Q: What is the objective behind establishing this festival?

A: We wanted to enhance the national stance supporting the Palestinian issue and represent the official attitude represented by President Saleh.

Q: al-Hussain Schools were some of the most distinguished schools in Yemen. What does Arab solidarity mean to you?

A: It means pulling Arab efforts together among the people and governments. We have adopted the Arab map to show that Arabs can do a lot when solidarity is achieved.

Q: Supporting the Palestinian issue is a national obligation. Do al-Hussain Schools follow the Hashimate Jordanian Kingdom stand?

A: Yes. We are motivated by the commendable efforts and clear stand of the King Abdullah Bin al-Hussain who supported Intifada with all facilities, directing all the hospitals of the kingdom private as well as official, receive all the patients and sick Palestinians.



Q: How does al-Hussain Schools support the Palestinian issue?

A: al-Hussain Schools have formed a committee a month ago to collect donations for our brothers, the Palestinians. Besides, the morning gathering is dedicated to the Palestinian issue. We have also submitted a memo to the UN office here in Sana'a protesting the heinous crimes committed against the innocent defenseless people.

Q: Do you have plans to organize festivals supporting the Palestinian issue?

A: We are preparing for a demonstration by all the students of al-Hussain Schools, supporting Palestinian and children protesting the brutal attacks of Israeli occupation on Palestinians. The committee is still collecting donations for the Palestinians so as to enhance patriotic feelings and promote Arab solidarity among the students.

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ألية المشاركة: عند شراءك أي من منتجات ناشيونال بناسونيك بقيمة ١٥٠٠٠ ريال تحصل على بطاقة أمسح وأربح لتفوز بجائزة في الحال. أملأ كوبون المشاركة في السحب وضعه في الصناديق المخصصة لدى معارض الشركة والعملاء قريباً يحالفك الحظ لتفوز بأحدى جوائز السحب الكبير الثمينة.

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Location: Middle East
Capital: Amman
Language: Arabic, English, some French
Driving: International Driving Permit required. Visitor are not allowed to drive vehicles with Jordanian plates unless a Jordanian license is held. Rental cars have special plates.
Currency: Dinar "JOD"
Business Hours:
Banks: 0830-1230 (some 1530-1750) (Sun - Thu)
Offices: 0800-1800 Sat - Thu 0800-1500 Sat-Wed (government)
Shops: 0900 - 1300 & 1500-2030 Sat - Thu
Climate: About 90% of country is desert where summers are consistently hot and sunny, but occasionally can have cold winters with snow on high ground. Rainfall is in winter and spring. The northwestern area is hilly and is the wettest region with rainfall between Nov-Mar. To the west of this area is the River Jordan. Valley winters are mild and summers especially hot and there is little rainfall.
Clothing: Lightweight for summer with warmer wear for evenings and winter period. Rainwear needed in Nov-Apr.
Visa: Passports must be valid for 6 months. Yemeni nationals do not require entry visa for Jordan
How to go there: Yemenia and Royal Jordanian Airlines are offering excellent flight services to Amman.

Jordan



Shams Tabrez
 Director Marketing
 United Travels, Sana'a
 GSA of
 Continental Airlines

Indeed there is simply no other place like it within a kingdom about the size of Portugal. From a city carved out of multicolored sandstone the lowest point on earth, an otherworldly desert landscape where Lawrence of Arabia had his headquarters established during the Arab Revolt, a remarkably preserved Roman provincial outpost to spectacular coral reefs. All within hours of each other. Since time immemorial, Jordan has been the crossroad for migrating peoples and invading armies and today it is the repository for their relics. Jordan teems with mementoes of other races and other times - walled canaanite cities; Greek and Roman palaces, theatres and temples; Byzantine churches and monasteries; Crusader castles; Muslim shrines and magnificent mosques; the lost city of Petra, beewn from solid rock, which lay hidden from the rest of the world for hundreds of years behind its narrow gorge and the extraordinary lunar landscape of Wadi Rum with its strange rock formations and breathtaking colors. And that's just on land! The Dead sea, the

lowest point-on earth is so buoyant that you can simply lie back with your book or copy of Yemen Times and float away!

For shoppers, Jordan offers a whole range of bargains including Bedouin rugs and tapestries, brass and copper goods, ceramics and embroidery. Hebron hand-made glass made at Na'ur near Amman, is obtainable at various shops in the city, but a visit to the glasswork is well worth the while, both for the fascinating display of skill and low prices. Other good buys include gold, silver and amber jewelry rugs wooden boxes furniture inlaid with mother of pearl, leather items, olive wood items and copperware. During the holy month of Ramadan, shopping and business hours may differ from normal working hours as we have in Yemen too.

Amman - City of the Seven Hills

Amman, like Rome is built on seven hills and seems to have just about as many ancient monuments as its Italian counterpart. Located on the ancient trade routes between the fertile Jordan valley and the Arabian desert, present day Amman is a relatively new city which has grown rapidly over the past fifty years. The town centre is modern and spacious, whilst considerable planning regulations have ensured that local stone be used for the buildings spreading over the surrounding hills,

imparting an attractive honey-gold colouring as the material weathers.

Amman offers an exciting range of things to see and there are several excursions we particularly recommend. Take a trip to Pella, Umm Qais and Umm El Jimal, during which you will see one of the largest archaeological sites in the region, the Ottoman governor's house and mysterious ancient monuments. The king's Highway winding south from Amman, links many historic alterations, including the mosaics at Madaba, Mukawir, Mount Nebo (believed to be the tomb of Moses) and the 13th century crusader castles at Kerak and Shobak. The Desert Castles (Azraq) tour will take you to the east to see the castles of the desert, including the black basalt stronghold in the oasis town of Azraq, the well preserved Qasr Amra with its frescoed walls. Qasr Kharanah, Qasr El hallabat (originally a Roman fort, later converted into a palace) and the massive but unfurnished Qasr Mushatta.

The Amman City Tour will allow you to explore not just Amman itself, but also the Roman city of Jerash. Alternatively travel 400 meters below the sea level to the Dead Sea to float on the salty water.

Dead Sea

Of all Jordanian landmarks the Dead Sea has one of the richest spiritual

legacies. Once the site of the five biblical cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zebouin and Zoar, the Dead Sea is also well known for its healing waters. More than eight times more saline than oceans, the sea has rich amounts of magnesium, potassium, calcium chloride and other minerals. Dead Sea salts and mud are internationally recognized as therapeutic products.

Swimming on the Dead Sea is an incomparable experience. The concentration of minerals keeps you from sinking: afloat as you read your "Yemen Times" copy or drink a cup of coffee or tea.

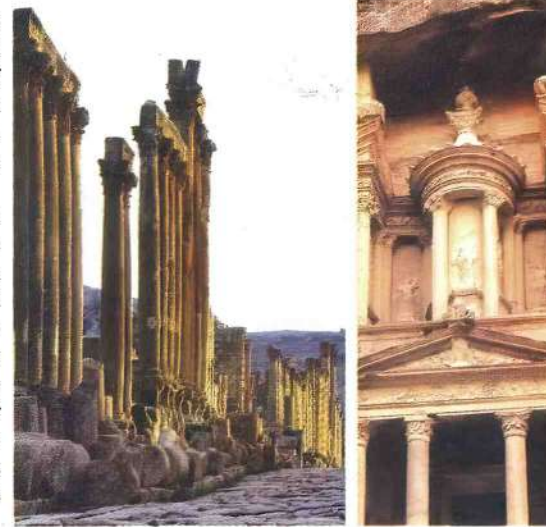
Petra

No amount of words can sufficiently describe the magnificence of this long lost ancient city. Hidden from the rest of the world for a thousand years, Petra was rediscovered only in 1812 but it was not until 1958 that some of the city's most extraordinary buildings were unearthed.

Petra was the stronghold of the Nabateans and from this hidden and powerfully defended metropolis they held potential conquerors at bay for centuries, succumbing to the Romans only when the

source of their water was discovered and the supply cut. Shifting trade patterns caused Petra's decline and by the 7th century even the memory of the city was lost, reached only through a narrow, two kilometers defile the Siq - snaking between 100-meter high cliffs, Petra greets you with immediate impact in the form of the Treasury, its elaborately columned and decorated facade hewn from pink sandstone. Further along the valley is a monastery, an 8,000 seat amphitheatre, the Temple of the Winged Lions and the Royal Tombs, all carved from the living rock.

If you wish to explore Jordan and the experience of Petra then we suggest you to approach your travel agents and ask for either Jordan Stop over to Royal Tours of Royal Jordanian Airlines or indeed Emirates Holidays by emirate Airlines.



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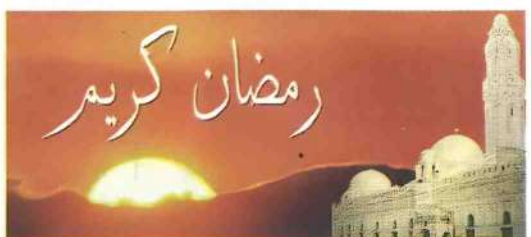
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Tuesday	0500	0715	Monday 2245
Thursday	0500	0715	Wednesday 2245

Aden-Amman		Amman-Aden	
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			0100

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Press Scanner

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

USS Cole destroyer incident and latest developments of investigations, the question of decayed foodstuffs imported or received as an aid from abroad, local councils elections and referendum on constitutional amendments and the coming meeting of the Yemeni-Saudi supreme coordination council, are major news stories capturing front pages of Yemeni newspapers this week. There are as well other internal and Arab developments front-paging the press.

Review of the main headlines front-paged in this week's newspapers.

- Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council Discusses 9 New Agreements
- Local Councils Elections, Referendum on Amendments On February 20
- Prosecution Begins Interrogation of Cole Suspects
- Fresh Shipment of American Decayed Flour Via Mukala
- Tribal Mediation Secured Release of Kidnapped Swedish
- Israelis Use Uranium in Attacks on Palestinians
- Popular Coordination Committee to Boycott America Economically
- Discovery of Effective Cure to RVF
- Oil Revenues YR 329 Billion
- Large-Scale Changes in Security, Military Commands
- American Journalists in Sana'a
- America Plans a Strike on Ben Lden Hideout
- Government Biased to Foreign Commodities, Goods

Excerpts from articles published in some of this week's newspapers.

ATTARIQ weekly
الطريق Dec. 5, 2000.

An article written by Mr Khalid Ali Tuaiman on constructive criticism says that it is unquestionable that objective criticism and sober-minded political opinion plus the press news dictated by a public issue or important event, represent the important bases and criteria embodying press role. Such elements also work for crystallizing contents and aims of journalism's enlightening message. They also motivate decision-makers to measure trends and approaches of local public opinion and make them acquainted with its concerns. Decision-makers can benefit from the great amount of information published by press in taking political decisions.

Undoubtedly, Yemen's non-governmental press work in the direction compatible with its real role through giving prominence to concerns of the citizen and exercising the constructive criticism aimed at disclosing negative aspects in addition to trying to put on table of discussion and dialogue many important national issues. The question is that some people in power tend to deal with press in irritability regarding all issues discussed in press. Such mentalities should realize the significance of positive interaction with press role. They have to adapt themselves to its objective criticism as long as the goal is to rectify deviant courses and uproot the negative aspects.

Ash-Shumou weekly
التشوق on Saturday Dec.

Ash-Shumou has devoted its editorial to handle the question of internal front. The editorial clarifies that it is evident for any observer to be aware of the great challenges our country is facing at this sensitive phase. These challenges are there because Yemen refuses concede at the expense of its dignity or to submit to dictations at the expense of its people and their deep-rooted civilization.

The homeland is in a state of alert for fighting multi-fronted battles at the same time. The people are getting ready for the first local councils elections and the referendum on the constitutional amendments. Both events would be coinciding and held next February. Besides there are the difficult economic conditions and increasing external plots and many other interrelated challenges posing threat to accomplishments and gains of the homeland. These necessitate following a successful practical policy reflecting wise vision in dealing with those challenges and defining the ways of their confronting them. As for the political parties situation, it is up to now still influenced by what is taking place, not influencing and having effect on them. The general view of the situation needs in the first place bringing together all political parties, organizations, political forces and civil society institutions to confront those challenges and work under a team work.

26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, Dec. 7, 2000.

This week the weekly's editorial is devoted to tackling matters concerning the Palestinian intifada. It says that continuity of the Palestinian intifada has become an inevitable necessity for achieving all the aspired goals till the Palestinian people realize all their legitimate rights. The editorial maintains that maintaining the intifada depends essentially on offering it political, material and moral support by the Arab brethren and all the honest people in the world. Such support must be conveyed through the Palestinian authority, the sole legitimate representative, recognized at all Arab, Islamic and international levels. Yemen would always remain adhering to its principles and stands in support of the Palestinian cause and all its legitimate options and ways. On our part we also renew the call to our Arab and Muslim brethren to offer their generous support and backing to struggle of the Palestinian people and their intifada inside the occupied territories. The international community is also urged to explore the facts about the outrageous suppressive, terrorist, and intimidating acts perpetrated by the Zionist entity troops inside the occupied territories. The United Nations should in this respect shoulder its responsibility and undertake its duties as an international organization.

RAY weekly, organ of Sons of Yemen League, Dec. 5, 2000.

An article by Said ba Amer on the Palestinian intifada discloses the author says that the most attitude arousing surprise is the Arab official stand towards the intifada against the Zionist occupation crimes. Not even part of the billion dollars support has reached Gaza and the Arab states have yet done nothing to convince the UN security council permanent members to send international forces to protect the Palestinians or formation of fact-finding committee to investigate into the Israeli crimes. The Arab states have not even initiated any step towards Europe to play its role in the face of the neo-Nazis in our Arab land.

Al-Aqsa intifada, led by Palestinian children and elderly people confirms every day incapability of the Arab countries of activating resolutions of Cairo summit particularly that of comprehensive boycott of Israel or waving with oil weapon. Even popular demonstrations have vanished from the Arab streets at a time it is necessary to support the intifada at least morally. As for the other aspect the intifada has disclosed it is represented by the UN and the United States. Despite all the atrocities perpetrated by the Israelis against the Palestinians the US has not been convinced even to

condemn Israel for that. As for the UN, the general assembly has held two meetings with voting on resolution condemning Israeli violations against Al-Quds and other Palestinian territories. The second meeting has shown a decline in the number of voting voices and an increase in number of those opposing the resolutions or abstaining from voting.



May 22 weekly published by People's General Congress, Dec. 6, 2000.

Mr. Omer ba Ma'sha has written an article on the coming local elections published this week in May 22 newspaper. The article says that in few weeks local councils will begin their nationwide elections and coinciding with them will be the referendum on the constitutional amendments. Both aim at enhancing democratic life and economic and social stability and

development. These events will inaugurate a new stage before all political forces and nationalist personalities. All will be put before a national responsibility in participating in elections with a sense of national responsibility away from rancor and spreading of division. In these elections each party would be able to know its real size and extent of its capability of competing with others in the political arena.

Al-Wahdawi weekly organ of Nasserite People's Unionist Organization, Dec. 5, 2000

On decayed food and medical foreign aids, an article by Abdulaziz Ismael published in this week's issue of Al-Wahdawi weekly has said that rotten and expired foodstuffs are the kind of assistance offered by the U.S and Europe to countries of the third world.

They are not fit for animal consumption, let alone for humans. It is naive for peoples and communities of the third world to believe that the rich of the north can offer free of charge food aid. To confirm this is what the developing countries, including Yemen, have received of decayed and expired food aid and for many times quantities of expired American flour and wheat. Accordingly, it has become clear that the war launched by America and its European allies against the third world countries are no longer confined to using their nuclear weapons and armies. America has developed its war strategy by using water and food, as the former U.S. president Carter once said that he who possesses the food and water could possess the world. It has become certain that for imposing its control and its political and cultural globalization, America would not hesitate in using all legal and illegal ways against third world nations.

Continued from page 4

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 21.

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22.

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23.

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24.

Continued from page 5

James Rawley to YT...

Q: You said that you are cooperating with the National Committee for Human Rights which is a governmental organization. Is the UNDP or UN working with NGOs that are working on human rights?

A: Yes, we are. Our approach on human rights is an approach of engagement. Of course, being an inter-governmental organization our client is government. Having said that, since human rights and human development require a broad coalition of actors, we work very openly with all segment of Yemeni society. In this respect, I must say that Government of Yemen has been very supportive in terms of encouraging the UN to work with a wide variety of actors from civil society, the media, NGOs etc. And we plan to continue to contribute to building coalitions among civil society, Yemeni government and international community in order to advance in terms of human rights.

Q: You mentioned that poverty is a major challenge facing Yemen. What is the role of UN to help alleviate poverty?

A: Our role is on several different fronts. One is related to measuring poverty which means setting up statis-

tical systems that would allow us to answer such fundamental questions such as "is poverty increasing, staying the same or decreasing?" In building upon this statistical system, to allow not only the government but also the international community and civil society to monitor progress, evaluate programs and to be engaged in planning the use of scarce resources in the most effective possible way in order to have the biggest possible impact on reducing poverty. A second level relates to helping the government with the participation of civil society to articulate development plans, strategies and programs that have as their key objective the reduction of poverty. Third, as I mentioned before, the UN System as a whole is now embracing poverty reduction as its primary objective, and a concrete example of this is the ongoing Country Common Assessment.

Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26.

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27.

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28.

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29.

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30.

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

before, all countries of the world - and I include all countries because there are some countries that have considerable resources where the gap between the reality and the form of human rights is still significant - need to make progress in this area. Entering the 21st century is an excellent opportunity to reflect on this gap and for all countries - in a very participatory open way - to articulate plans, programs and concrete measures to reduce this gap.

Q: Media is one of the most instrumental means to inform the people about human rights. Does the UNDP target this means in its programs?

A: I think you mentioned an extremely important point! The media has a crucial role in the development process in terms of advancing human development and human rights. Your newspaper, YT, has played a played an extremely important role in this pioneering area in the past and I am sure it will continue to do so in the future. We look forward to working very closely with the media in this area.

Q: Any last word?

A: I would like to finish by thanking you and YT for this opportunity and I look forward to having other chances to work with the media on such important subjects as human rights.

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Urgent Humanitarian Call for Help

Faniah Ali Mohammed Saeed, 17, is suffering from a pulmonary febris leading to her infection with mitral valve disease: thickened valve with severe mitral valve regurgitation, diseased tricuspid valve with significant TR and hugely enlarged left-atrium and left ventricle and severely congested IVC and liver veins. In conclusion she suffers from severe rheumatic mitral valve incompetence with severe CHF. She is in cry need of changing the mitral valve in a specialized center abroad and as soon as possible.

To contact, please phone
418687 Yemen German Hospital,
Dr. Abdulkader Abbas
Or Hassan al-Zubaidi Tel: 205201

Israelis and Palestinians Clash in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM—Israeli security forces and Palestinian demonstrators clashed in Jerusalem shortly after the second weekly Friday prayers in the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. A press release, issued by alestinians' Jerusalem Media and Communication Center (JMCC), said the Israeli forces fired tear gas against the Palestinian demonstrators near the Lion Gate of Jerusalem's Old City. The JMCC said the clashes occurred when Israeli security forces tried to

bar some of the Palestinians from attending the prayers in a disputed shrine, which is known to the Palestinians as Al-Haram Al-Sharif and to Israelis as the Temple Mount. It added that five Palestinians were injured in the clashes, including one in serious condition. The renewed clashes have caused worries that a new wave of violence may surge after the two sides have clashed for more than two months, during which over 300 people, most of them

Palestinians, have been killed and thousands more wounded. The violence erupted on September 28 when Israeli opposition Likud leader Ariel Sharon paid a provocative visit to Al-Haram Al-Sharif, Islam's third holiest site. The Israeli government on Thursday extended a ban on the Palestinians in the West Bank from entering Jerusalem to perform prayers on Friday at the holy site "due to security concerns." (Xinhua)

EU Leaders Approve Defense Plan

NICE, FRANCE—Leaders of the European Union (EU) on Friday approved the 15-nation bloc's defense plan including a rapid reaction force and "permanent political and military structures." The leaders at their Nice Summit, which is due from Thursday to Saturday, said their "decisions represent a crucial step" in achieving the objective of EU's common security and defense policy: to have the EU play its full role on the international stage, while fulfilling the two basic criteria: credibility and decision-making autonomy. According to a final document made by France, the current EU presidency holder, the approved defense package includes EU member states' capabilities commitments and the decision to establish the EU's own permanent Political and Security Committee, Military Committee and Military Staff.

The leaders reaffirmed their stand that effective decision-making machinery will make it possible for the EU to manage international crises "using the full range of the Union's external action resources."



"The European Union will have an autonomous capacity to take decisions and, where NATO as such is not engaged, to launch and conduct crisis management operations," they reiterated. The leaders described the EU's defense approach as "an open-ended one," saying that they cleared arrange-

ments with the non-EU European NATO allies and the EU candidate countries "in order for them to be consulted and involved" in EU operations. On EU-NATO ties, the leaders said they adopted proposals for arrangements between the two organizations, which mainly overlap in European part. The EU decided to develop "a close, trusting relationship with the Atlantic Alliance," the final document said.

The U.S.-led transatlantic alliance "continues to form the basis for its members' collective defense," the EU resolution made clear. "Consultations and cooperation between the two organizations will be developed on security, defense and crisis management issues of mutual interest, in order to allow for the most appropriate military response to a crisis and ensure effective crisis management," it said. (Xinhua)

Egypt, Iraq to Sign Accord on Free Trade Zone

CAIRO—Egypt will soon sign an agreement with sanctions-hit Iraq on setting up a free trade zone as part of the efforts to build an inter-Arab common market, Egypt's leading Al Ahram reported Saturday. Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Obeid was quoted as saying that Egypt is keen to boost Egyptian-Arab relations at the economic level and expects to sign the accord with Iraq in Cairo "shortly." He did not give details about the deal, but sources said that Egypt, Iraq and Libya intended to establish a tripartite free trade zone. Obeid said that Egypt will put forward a full-scale project

for removing tariffs in the field of service with Arab countries at the next Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Amman, Jordan, in March. The premier said that a new company, named "Al Shark Gas Company," will be formed soon to build a pipeline for exporting natural gas from Egypt to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. The Arab world, aiming to set up a region-wide free trade zone by 2007, has been warming ties with Iraq in recent months with moves to boost trade and resume flights despite a decade of United Nations sanctions. (Xinhua)

Ethiopian Legislators Endorse Peace Agreement With Eritrea

ADDIS ABABA—Ethiopian parliament has endorsed a peace agreement with neighboring Eritrea to end their two-year-long border conflict. The peace package, due to be signed next Tuesday in Algeria's capital Algiers, was ratified Friday following extensive deliberations on it by members from the House and the foreign affairs and legal standing committees. Drafted by the Organization of African Unity, the peace agreement was endorsed with an overwhelming majority vote, with only four votes against and seven abstentions, sources close to the parliament said.

The peace package calls for permanent termination of military hostilities, release and repatriation of all prisoners of war, as well as the establishment of an independent body investigating and determining the origins of the conflict. It also appeals for delimitation and demarcation of borders on the basis of pertinent colonial treaties and applicable international law.

Under the agreement, a neutral claims commission will also be set up with the mandate of deciding through binding arbitration on all claims for loss damage or injury by one government to the other.

The Ethiopian parliament said that all the provisions respect the country's interests and demands and do not in any way restrain the country from using military option in the event of any further aggression to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. A border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea broke out in May 1998. Hundreds of thousands of people were reportedly killed and wounded in battles while more people became homeless during the war period. (Xinhua)

WIPO Calls for Proper Protection of Performers Rights

GENEVA—The successful adoption of an international instrument will represent a milestone in creating a comprehensive system of copyright and related protection, said the head of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) here Thursday. Opening the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of Audiovisual Performances, WIPO Director General Dr Kamil Idris told some 500 delegates from about 100 countries and over 46 international organizations that the international agreement would be of foremost importance to performers as well as of major impact for the film, music and television industries. "The main beneficiaries would be performers, whose economic and moral

rights would be protected, including at the international level," Idris said. "They would be ensured protection against the exploitation of their skills and talents on the Internet and in digital media, such as was granted to authors and performers of sound recordings in 1996. This is a crucial point in a world where culture and entertainment enjoy an increasingly international audience." The diplomatic conference will convene till December 20. The WIPO said that the adoption of a new instrument will strengthen the position of performers in the audiovisual industry by providing a clearer legal basis for the international use of audiovisual works, both in traditional media and in digital networks. (Xinhua)

One Killed, 32 Injured in Kashmir Blasts

NEW DELHI—One person was killed and 32 were injured in two explosions triggered by militants in north and south Kashmir Friday, an official spokesman said. According to the Press Trust of India, a civilian was killed and his son seriously injured when an improvised explosive device went off at Gohlan in

Uri sector of Baramulla district in north Kashmir. In another major incident, 31 people were injured when a grenade lobbed by unidentified militants exploded near Jamia Masjid in Shopian area of Pulwama district in south Kashmir. (Xinhua)

OPEC to Cut Oil Output Next January

CARACAS—The president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Friday said the organization will decide on an oil production cut in a meeting on January 17, 2001. Ali Rodriguez Araque, also the next Secretary General of OPEC, pointed out that the action of the organization is due to the oil price drop resulting from over-supply and speculation factors during this week. OPEC has increased its oil output for four times in order to stabilize interna-

tional market oil prices this year, as the prices had even reached the highest level in 10 years. Rodriguez had insisted the price increase was not a result of the lack of supply but the lack of efficiency in refining, speculations and high taxes. The average OPEC oil price was 27.04 U.S. dollars per barrel and the Brent price was 28.97 dollars, down 3.77 and 3.70 dollars from last week's level, respectively, according to a report by the Venezuelan Ministry of Energy and Mining on Friday. (Xinhua)

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 JALILA JAHAF

A Glimpse of Utma District

Although there is no reference in history reference works or antiquities relating to the first settlement of the ancient Yemenis in Utma, yet it is certain that Utma occupied a place in the demographic, economic, political and military fabric of the ancient Yemeni states and kingdoms. This can be traced back to the ancient Maieri state and upto the Himyarite state, which was the foundation for the establishment of Arab-Islamic state in the early seventh century. We could say that the fertility of the soil, the high productivity of agricultural crops, the presence of grazing grounds, dense forests, the excellent rates of rainfall, the presence of many springs and rivulets, the climatic diversity from cold, moderate and equatorial, resulted in that diversity of crops suited to the life of many animals. This advantage induced man to settle there and consequently exploit these bounties to provide himself with the requirements of daily life.

This is underlined by the settlers' undertaking the construction of the first huge mountainous farming terraces and undertaking farming and animal and birds' husbandry. Early man also utilized his mental capabilities to build citadels and fortresses, dams and weirs for exploiting rain water for sustained agriculture and thus provide food, clothing and bedding, and export the surplus through barter with other regions and thus ensure the other multiple needs of human life.

Location
 Utma district lies within the natural extension of the As-Sarah range of mountains that begin in Aden and end at southern peripheries of the Fertile Crescent and the northern part of the Arabian Peninsula. These are mountainous plateaus in the internal central highlands. Utma district is made up of high mountains over which straddle the terraces and grazing grounds. It has forests, many internal valleys, flood courses and



is the crucible in which gathers the rain water coming down from the high slopes.

It constitutes a primary tributary of Wadi Rama' from the north, the north east and west and Wadi Zabeed from the west and south west.

The lowest point in Utma region is 820 m. above sea level. While the highest point is about 2,600 - 2,800m above seal level, especially Samah Citadel and the neighboring peaks, and Bani Asad fort in the western part of the district. Utma lies between the longitudes 44.50 degrees and 43.50 degrees and the latitudes 14.20 degrees and 14.35 degrees. Among them are many perennial trees with medical properties. This has produced an environmental and biological balance that is rarely found in the regions of the Republic. This makes it imperative that scientists prepare projects covering all plants of the district, for nothing except their economic importance.

We should not also forget the fact that the presence of a verdant and extensive cover has made the district's population bound to the raising of many types of animals and birds. This has also resulted in an environmental balance and the provision of new sources of income for the residents of the district.

Natural beauty

Utma is distinguished by its verdant plains and mountains and the diversity of its climate. It also differs from other Yemeni regions owing to the presence of perennial, medicinal and odoriferous trees which are listed below:

Civilization landmarks

We have presented a very brief glimpse of Utma districts history. We should also mention part of its distinctive landmarks, the most important of which are the numerous historic citadels and fortresses scattered throughout the district. Each landmark, of course, has its colorful history filled with successive events for centuries.

Here there is no scope to go into the details of such a history and we will have to be content with mentioning some of the more important landmarks, such as Harder fort, Mukhamm fort, Bani Suwaid fort, Al-haddadi fort, A-muqanza', Al-Dahimi fort...etc. The district is bounded from the east by Anes district and from the south by Rihab Al-qafir district and from the north by Anes area and Al-Salafyya district

and from the west by Kasma and Wassab Al-Ali districts.

District divisions

Utma district comprises five 'makhaleef' - a Himyarite nomenclature naturally - (centers) as follows:

- As-Sahl mikhlaif (center)
- Razk mikhlaif (center)
- Bani Bahr mikhlaif (center)
- Central Himyar mikhlaif (center)
- Samah mikhlaif (center)

These makhaleef (center) encompass 57 quasi-towns and 534 villages made up of 20,469 dwellings houses and 20,249 persons. The district's population represents 6% of the overall population of the Dhamar Governorate according to the 1994 population census.

Agricultural Crops

As mentioned earlier Utma district is distinguished for being a part of the mountainous plateaus giving it a climatic and environmental diversity and resulting in a multiplicity of agricultural crops, which vary between the colder and moderate regions and the equatorial and semi-equatorial ones.

Utma district is considered to be a principal producer of various cereals, especially fine sorghum of 12 types which is exported to many regions of the Republic, especially the central and eastern ones. Furthermore, the mountainous farming terraces and the district's wadis produce white and yellow maize, millet, wheat barley and various types of tubulars. The region is also unique in the production of all types of vegetables and fruit, such as orange, lemon, mango, papaya, mandarin, plums, guava, various types of tamarind and apricots. It also produces ordinary and circular coffee which is to be found in every one of the district's wadis. We should not forget to mention that Utma district possesses an extensive cover of grazing lands, shrubs and forests which store numerous types of plants.

Discovery of Abu al-Abbas as-Saffah's Dagger in Taiz

A dagger belonging to the founder of the Abbasid Dynasty, Caliph Abu al-Abbas as-Saffah, has been lately found in the city of Taiz. The Caliph's name is Al-Abbas Bin Ibrahim Bin Mohammed Bin Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Al-Abbas. When Abu al-Abbas assumed the caliphate in 749, and during his reign, he began a campaign of extermination against the Umayyads and other claimants to power. He named himself as-Saffah "the blood-shedder" because of his savage attacks. He established a firm legal and dynastic base for the Abbasids. He died in al-Anbar. His successor moved the caliphate to Baghdad. Director General of Taiz Antiquities Office Al-Izzi Musleh told Yemen Times that the dagger was found by chance when a citizen was trying to sell it. The citizen said that he inherited it from his grandfather. Mr. Musleh added that the dagger might have been brought from Iraq to Yemen as a piece of booty during past wars.



fish, triangles, patterns and other writing that is not deciphered yet. It may indicate to maker of the dagger. He added that this finding was a significant old Islamic antiquity.

Dr. Mutahar Al-Iryani said the dagger belonged to King Al-Afdhal Al-Rasouli Abbas, son of King Al-Mujahed Bin Ali Bin Al-Mua'yad Daud, son of King Al-Mudhaffar Yousof, a Rasouli king and a scholar who had many books on History and agriculture. He added that Caliph Al-Abbas's name is Abi Al-Abbas, The "blood-shedder" and the dagger belonged to the Rasouli King Al-Abbas.

Mr. Al-Izzi Musleh thinks that the dagger belonged to the Caliph Abbas because what was written on it is "God's Hand Supports the Caliph" and there were no caliphs except the Abbasids.

In his description of the dagger, he said that it was made of yellowish copper and down the hilt of the dagger written a phrase is wither reading "God's Hand helps Caliph Abul-Abbas." There was also the phrase "In The Name Of God" that was written in the shape of a gazelle head. Such inscriptions appeared in the Mesopotamia. There are also Arabesque decorations in circles and a branch on sheath. Written on the hilt is "Oh, God the Al-Mighty" on sheath "Oh God, the Opener of the gates of profit" and "The Most Exalted." On sheath are drawn: river

Recipes for Ramadhan

Prepared by Faydah AbdulRahman Shaif

Yemeni Sayadiya

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 kilo any kind of fish, cut into pieces.
- 1 medium onion, sliced and fried.
- 1/2 cup of vegetable oil.
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper if desired.
- 1/2 table spoon red chili powder.
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin.
- 1 clove of garlic finely chopped
- 4 tablespoons tomato sauce
- 3 cups of cooked rice
- 3 pieces of cooked potatoes and fried.
- 1/2 teaspoon salt.

Method

- 1) Heat oil in 12-inch skillet over medium fire. cook fish in oil about 10 minutes or until brown on all sides, remove fish from skillet
- 2) Cook potatoes until they are brown on all sides then remove from skillet.
- 3) Cook onion and garlic in oil in skillet



- 4) Add salt, green pepper, chili powder, ground cumin and tomato sauce into onion mixture in skillet. Return the fish and the potatoes to skillet. heat until boiling by adding one cup of water, on low fire, cover and leave to simmer for 10 minutes.
- 5) Add the rice to the fish mixture in skillet, leave on low fire for 10 minutes then pour in a plate and keeping the fish and potatoes on top of the rice.

Caramel Crisp

INGREDIENTS:

- Crust:** (About 9" round pan in dia)
 2 cups cookies, crushed
 1/3 cup stick margarine or butter, melted
- Caramel Filling:**
 2 cups milk
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
 1 cup cream caramel powder

- Frosting:**
 1&1/2 cup whipping cream
 caramel syrup.

Method

- 1) Mix the crushed cookies and the method butter and press evenly in bottom of round pan. Refrigerate.
- 2) Meanwhile, beat powdered cream caramel, sugar, vanilla and milk and cool over medium heat stirring constantly, until mixture thickens and boils.
- 3) Boil and stir 2 minutes, pour on the crust we made before
- 4) Put the pan in the refrigerator for one hour and then pour the whipping cream on top and decorate with caramel syrup oil desired.



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E-mail: info@packford.com
website: www.packford.com

COMPUTER TEACHING
GITEX
for Computer Services Macintosh & PC Maintenance
Hadda St. Telefax: 218502

STATIONERIES
MAKTABATI Stationery, Office Equipment Engineering, Sana'a, Hadda St. telefax: 240419. PO Box: 19613, Sanaa.

Watches
Rolex Watches - Al-Ekheil
Sana'a - Ali Abdulmu-gheece St. Tel: 272326.

مجموعة وصاليات اليمبرية
متخصصون في استيراد معدات (مطابخ - مطاعم وفنادق خمسة نجوم).
Specialists in importing appliances for (Kitchens, Restaurants for five-star Hotel)
ش. حدة - ت: 240023 فاكس: 412622-265096

التسوق في عدن Aden Shopping
عالم متميز في تقديم الوجبات
دنيا لذيذة للضيافة
الرئيسان

Al-Mansoob Commercial Group
Gulf of Aden Shipping Company
P. O. Box: 1439
Tel: 967-2-202175
Fax: 967-2-202559

فندق الشامي
(البحر الأحمر) عدن
فندق متميز في خدماته
واحد فروع اجنحة التاجي
الفندق: عدن - جور مكسر جوار فندق عدن
تلفون: 279488
الاجنحة الحديثة - شارع 26 سبتمبر
ت: 278817

Isn't it a long time that you spent the time, at the beach?
COME
Enjoy the lovely weather.
Blue waters, Private & clean Beach and a lot more....
At
Elephant Bay Beach Resort
Tel: 02-202055 Fax: 02-2010821082

الزيم للخيطة الرجالية
أحدث الخيطة الرجالية...
عربي - الفرنسي
عدن - كريتر - شارع الامامون بجانب
عدن خالد شاييف الرجالية
الرائد
للخيطة الرجالية الحديثة
(عربي-الفرنسي) لاكثر انواع الملابس واجود
انواع الاقمشة واسعارها مناسبة جدا.
الرائد... اسم على عسكى
الاول في عالم الخيطة... زيمونا تجودوا ما يبركم.
عدن - كريتر - شارع الامامون بجانب مسجد
المهدلي، ت: 252243

التجارة العامة
Al-Thobhani for General Trading, importing & Selling Industrial Equipment and workshop tools
لوقت اليوم خلال شهر رمضان في فترة البسار من 11 صباحاً - 4 مساءً - 2.2 بعد منتصف الليل. هذا في المركز الرئيسي فقط أما بقية الفروع من 8.2 - 2.2 - 4.2 - 8.30 BM - 2.30 AM
Business HRS During in Ramadan: 11 AM - 4:00 BM, 8:30 BM - 2:30 AM

التجارة العامة
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إعلانات شخصية مجانية بمونة

DAIHATSU advertisement for TERIOS SUV, highlighting its features and price.

Shawqi Trading Est. advertisement for various electronic products like National and Panasonic.

Safilo advertisement for optical services and eyeglasses, featuring the slogan 'The Best and Famous Optical Frames in the World.'

SEGA AGENCY advertisement for video games, offering a 50% discount on games.

Al-Khatteeb Broost Restaurant advertisement, featuring a chef and the slogan 'Prod to know you.'

Computer & Information Center advertisement, offering computer training and services.

Al-Faisal Decoration & Furniture advertisement, specializing in interior decoration and furniture.

بيروت للدكتور advertisement for medical services, listing various specialties.

أعلانات تمر advertisement for dates, listing various brands and prices.

مركز الفيسل للديكور والمفروشات advertisement for Al-Faisal Decoration & Furniture.

وظائف شاعرة advertisement for job opportunities, listing various roles and companies.

أعلانات تمر (continued) advertisement for dates, listing various brands and prices.

بيع عقارات advertisement for real estate, listing various properties for sale.

أعلانات تمر (continued) advertisement for dates, listing various brands and prices.

أعلانات تمر (continued) advertisement for dates, listing various brands and prices.

أعلانات تمر (continued) advertisement for dates, listing various brands and prices.

أعلانات تمر (continued) advertisement for dates, listing various brands and prices.

Folder Computer Technology advertisement for computer accessories and services.

Y.M. Trading advertisement for dental supplies and services.

MAUDA ORTHODONTIC CENTER advertisement for dental services.

