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A security official told Yemen Times on Friday that the Abyan Islamic Army was behind the 5 explosions that rocked Aden City last week. He further indicated that security forces are interrogating 20 members of the Islamic group. Some of these captured men, according to the source, confessed that they were involved in some of the explosions, and provided information about the ones who planned and financed these actions. Moreover, the Yemeni police in Aden has intensified arrest campaigns against the Islamic Jihad members, said to be 40 members. It seems that the government is serious and vigorous this time with the Islamic Jihad members. Security sources in Aden told the Yemen Times that 6-8 suspects accused of bombing USS Cole will be tried within a few days.

Last Saturday a number of American, Yemeni investigators and security experts started field work by taking photos of the houses and buildings in Al-Tawahi, Khormakser, Al-Buraiah, and Al-Mansurah. They employed a number of Yemeni professional translators and interpreters who will be working during the trial period.

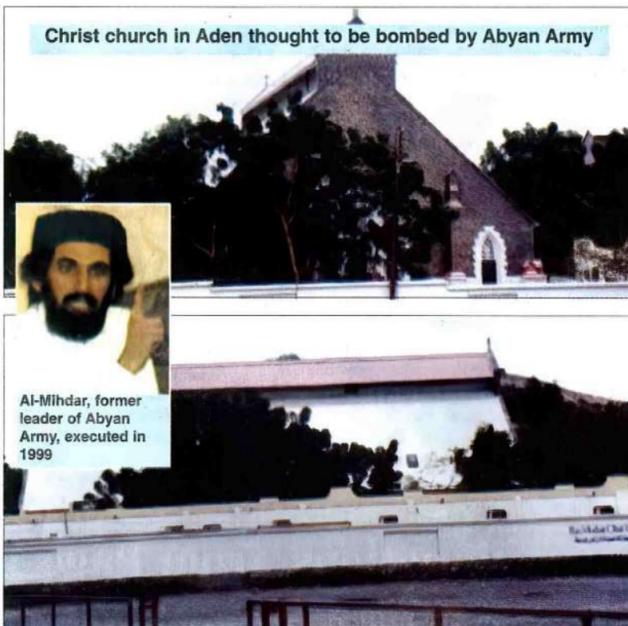
High protective and stiff security measures have been taken to ensure the safety of the 49 U.S. investigators and officials in Aden, particularly during the trial period to take place in Aden.

This comes after five explosions had occurred in Aden last week, just as the year 2001 had started. At around 5:30 in the dawn of January 1st, 2001, a powerful explosion rocked a building belonging to the Angelic Christ Church in Al-Tawwahi of Aden. This building was used as a non-profit clinic run by the body responsible of the church. The explosion caused considerable physical damage to some of the rooms, but there were no casualties.

The first explosion of the New Year's day, however, targeted the Yemen-Intercontinental Hotel in Khormaksar just after midnight. According to eye witnesses, the explosion was caused by an RBG missile thought to be fired from a distant location as the attackers had probably targeted the building, but the missile fell short to explode in the hotel's yard causing no substantial damage or casualties. *Continued on page 3*

INFO. ON USS COLE BOMBERS WANTED FOR UP TO \$5 MILLION

An announcement stating that a reward of \$5 million would be given to whoever reveals key information about the identity of the terrorists involved in the USS Cole incident. Yemen Times received a copy of the announcement, that revealed that millions of dollars have already been given to some individuals who provided data about one of the terrorists involved in the USS Cole incident, but indicated that it is willing to give more for the sake of the search for justice and for the ones behind the tragedy.



U.S. Offers Security Assistance to Protect Yemeni Ports

Yemen Times has learnt that the United States has recently offered the Yemeni government to provide security assistance in protecting Yemeni ports. The proposal offered by American diplomats and security people will work under a program called National Project for Fighting Smuggling. The USA and European Union will finance the project which is expected to kick off its activities in the first half of this year. The project will include training courses for the Yemeni staff by American experts and providing Yemen with boats with modern communication networks. The main focus of the project is ensuring safety for U.S. warships coming to Aden port for refueling since the Americans recognize the strategic importance of the port which is also less insecure.

Yemeni officials told Yemen Times that the American offer aims at fighting smuggling and putting limits to the accelerating piracy and not permitting fishing in the area. An independent Pentagon commission, investigated the bombing of the USS Cole in Aden on October 12, 2000 and found security lapses, will release its findings and security recommendations some time this week, CNN reported. The commission will recommend improved overseas protective measures for U.S. military ships, planes and personnel, Pentagon officials told CNN. *Continued on page 2*

In an Extraordinary Meeting Islah's PD Authorized to Take Decision Over Elections & Referendum

After a heated debate and controversy over participation in the local councils elections and referendum on constitutional amendments to be held in Feb. 20, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) held an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday to discuss whether to take part in the two activities or not. Islah has been demanding, since the 1997 parliamentary elections, the correction of the names of the voters as there are over 300,000 phantom names. The participants in the meeting have authorized the Political Department (PD) in the party to take the decision regarding participation. President Ali Abdullah Saleh also attended the meeting but before his arrival the attendants were arguing and debating the question of participation. Most of them were in favor of boycotting but this feeling was put down as soon as the president entered the hall of the meeting. He addressed the meeting confirming the strategic coalition relationship between his party, PGC and Islah and that they can never fall apart. He said: "We were altogether under the umbrella of the PGC before 1990." *Continued on page 2*

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Words of Wisdom
One of the strong points in the Yemeni political system is its ability to constantly change and re-adjust. This by itself is a positive element which allows the country to adjust easily with changing local and world values and needs. Yemen's political system is to be commended for its flexibility to change with times.
 Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951-1999)
 Founder of Yemen Times

Our Opinion
Is Our Democracy Going Backwards?

After the many events that happened within the last few years, I could not help wonder, "Are we going backwards in terms of democracy and freedom of press?" It is not only me asking this question. Many others concerned about our country's future ask the same thing. We all wonder why we are witnessing a somewhat deterioration in our democratic process. I may be wrong, in fact, I hope I am wrong, but let us take the facts and events of the last few years in their historic sequence and make a conclusion:

- 1) During the period from 1990 to 1994, there was tremendous feeling of power balance, there was equal shared high ranking positions between two parties, the PGC and the YSP. The balance was almost evident everywhere, and reflected in almost all aspects of life. You can see various newspapers at newsstands, each with a different point of view, speaking it truthfully and freely. We felt that we had some sort of competition for the good of the country between three strong parties.
 - 2) In the 1993 parliamentary elections, the results were reasonably equally distributed according to population of the affiliates and supporters of the different political parties. We felt that there is a great future ahead of us, full of democratic competition under the law. This competition was a fair one that was mainly for the sake of the serving the people. In other words, we felt there was no monopoly of power whatsoever.
 - 3) But then came the 1994 civil war, in which the attempt to divide the country was made by vice president by then, Ali Salem Al-Beidh. However, after the war ended with the defeat of the former YSP leader, Al-Beidh, things started to change, but to the worse.
 - 4) Within a few months, the equilibrium started to shake and fade away. The country is strongly united, that is without doubt, but there was no more balance of political power. There was no more competition with the ruling party. Many newspapers that were once among the best selling, vanished for many reasons, but mainly political affiliation to the YSP. There was no more strong opposition, and there seemed to be rising concern whether this would affect the democratic reforms in the country.
 - 5) The gap between the ruling party widened further after the 1997 elections. Just as we thought things would go back to normal and see some strong opposition presence, we were shocked to find that the YSP decided to boycott the elections. This must have been a dreadful mistake by the YSP. But whatever their excuse, this made the gap between the once two strongest parties become even wider. Consequently, YSP fell into third place after Islah, which gained relatively more votes in this election than the last. This seemed to be the beginning of the end for the YSP, once a glamorous and powerful party, but later a party that had no seats in the parliament, marking the beginning of the period of PGC domination.
 - 6) As time passed, the presidential elections came in 1999. The nominee of the YSP, Ali Saleh Obad (Moqbil) was rejected candidacy because he couldn't get the 10% parliament approval. Hence, the president, as expected, won the elections with an incredibly high percentage of 96%, leaving little hope for YSP's role in the future to compete for the position of head of state.
 - 7) Some concerns about prosecuting several independent and opposition newspapers started to rise in 1999. This consequently affected freedom of expression in Yemen. Campaigns against newspapers intensified in the last few years in a visible manner.
 - 8) In the year 2000, things seem to have gone into another level as the parliament approved the constitution amendments calling for adding 2 years to the president's period and 2 years to parliamentarians' period. This raised a lot of concern in terms of competition for independent candidates and others from less prominent parties, which will have to wait for more years so that to compete.
 - 9) The controversial NGO law, which is expected to be passed soon, will probably limit the capabilities and freedom of NGOs. According to the law, NGOs will need permission from the government before receiving any funds for their projects.
- As if all of these points were not enough, we are still waiting for the government to start implementing the Sanaa Declaration of the Emerging Democracies Forum held in 1999. We are still waiting for private media to emerge, freedom of press to be promoted, and competition of less prominent parties to be encouraged.
- In any case, I do understand from the historic sequence provided above that there is somewhat a concern about our democracy. For any democracy to flourish, there must be more effort to allow participation of others in decision making, and this cannot happen if we extend the period of parliamentarians and oppress the press. This also cannot happen if we do not have any competition between parties, and this obviously cannot happen if we continue to weaken the already weak opposition.
- Once again, I am not sure whether our democracy is weakening or going backwards, but my love to my country makes me concerned. I hope I am wrong, but if I am wrong, I do want to know where I went wrong in thinking that way!

YSP's Dhale' Office Bombed Following Its Decision to Participate in Elections

An explosion at the YSP's office in Shaab, Dhale' yesterday evening resulted in extensive damage to the office and the burning of valuable documents and books in the office's library. Even though there were no reported casualties, the YSP immediately issued a request to the authorities concerned to investigate the matter and bring those responsible to justice.

On another level, and following two days of discussions in the second round held by the YSP Central Committee (CC), the party declared Friday its taking part in local elections due February 20, 2001.

In a statement to YT Mr. Mohammed Ghaleb, YSP Political Office member, said, "The round witnessed a two-day heated and profound debates pertaining to local elections. The voting results came out supporting participation in the local elections."

He indicated that out of 190 participants 161 members, attending the meeting held Wednesday and was over last Friday, voted for participating in local elections including three members of the party Political Office who were Mohammed Haidarah Masdoos, Hassan Ba Awwam and Abdulwahed al-Muradi. However, 17 CC members from the southern and eastern governorates voted against participating in local elections. In this round, voting was conducted by calling members' names instead of casting ballots, a measure often used to settle any contention inside the YSP. This is the second time in which YSP CC adopted such a measure of voting, the first time was when voting to boycott legislative elections of 1997. The committee has also endorsed the electoral program and slogan of the party which was a picture of a nard on the blue colored flag of the party, which stands for the sea and a dove standing for peace.

War Erupts in Bani Muslim

Tribal fights have erupted in Bani Muslim, 20 kms away from Yarim district, Ibb governorate. The fight erupted between two families who once had revenge conflicts. The two families consist of two groups, one supporting Sheikh Mohammed al-Tuwaiti and the other supporting sheikh Abdullah al-Bahm.

The fight started after a dispute between two armed tribesmen, Fawzi Hussain al-Bahm and Zaid al-Majthoob, over pumping water from a well in al-Wadahi village, resulting in the killing of Zaid al-Majthoob and the serious injury of Fawzi Hussain al-Bahm. Reports have it that Ali Mohammed al-Majthoob opened fire at the two. Following this incident, each of the said sheikhs gathered his tribesmen and started waging war against each other.

Fighting started Saturday morning and is still going even after YT went to press.

It is reported that the security director at the district sent 6 military cars to the area Saturday night. However, they couldn't control the situation. Two military cars were sent Sunday afternoon to support the previously sent cars as things are escalating.

It is said that Nasser Musa had his hand injured and his daughter shot dead Saturday night. It was also mentioned that Mohammed Saleh Zaid al-Majthoob's daughter was also injured in her abdomen. Moreover, a number of houses have been destroyed.

Yahya Nashwan, Yarim

3 Corneal Surgeries Performed in Sana'a
 In his visit to Sana'a Dr. Ali Al-Kaff performed 3 successful corneal transplants at the Medical Center of TEC. Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim and signed agreements with two eye banks to provide corneal tissues to their center in Sana'a.

AFESD Grants Yemen 26 Million Kwaiti Dinar
 A loan agreement worth 26 Million Kwaiti Dinar was signed between the Republic of Yemen and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) yesterday. The loan was given as a participation in the construction and paving of a road between Syhoot and Nashtoon in Yemen.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Ahmed Sofan, Planning and Development Minister of Yemen, and Mr. Abdul Latif Yusuf Al Hamd General Manager of the Fund. There will be an annual interest of 3% due in a period of 25 years as well as an extra 6 years after that. Executing will be supervised by the Housing and Civic Planning Ministry.

Al Awadh Tribe Sits-in at Al-Baidha

A tribal group belonging to Radman Al Awadh from Al-Baidha governorate's Radman region attempted to take control of the governorate's office in Al-Baidha City last week. Their action comes in protest against not declaring Radman a separate province and for other issues concerning local administration elections, which will take place on the 20th of February 2001. The 300-man group which continued a several-day sit-in at the governor's building strongly requested the declaration of Radman as a province to "avoid possible tribal conflict."

Continuations from Page 1

Islah's PD Authorized to Take Decision Over Elections & Referendum

Since then, political pluralism was adopted as a system for the country according to the constitution and law. But this does not mean separation between PGC and other parties including Islah.

"We are all exercising this democratic experience with full sense of responsibility instead of violence," he added. The president also said that he received many complaints from Islah and other parties regarding voters' lists. He confirmed that the mistakes should be corrected and the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) has corrected around 130,000 repeated names of voters.

The President stated that the government was not ready to hold the local elections and the main concern was to conduct the referendum and local elections in the main cities of governorates. But when it was found that the referendum would cost YR 3 billion and 900 million, it was decided to hold the two events simultaneously, adding that it would be an experience for two years which would give SEC a chance to correct voters' names.

Shiekh Abdullah Bin Husein Al-Ahmer, president of Islah appreciated Saleh's presence as a sign of sponsoring democracy at the level of parties. He also pointed out that SEC is short of time otherwise it would have made good progress in correcting the voters' names adding that this first experience of local elections proved that many technical mistakes

in the voters' lists of names have to be reconsidered. Reliable sources in Islah told Yemen Times that by the end of the meeting, Mohammed Abdullah Al-Yadomi, Islah's General Secretary suggested that the attendants should vote on the party's participation in the elections and referendum. However, Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani, Chairman of Islah's Shoura Council, asserted that they should not boycott whether they win or not, adding that they authorize the Political Department to take the decision of participation. The suggestion of Zindani might indicate that negotiations between PGC and Islah are going on to ensure high participation percentage in the two events if we take into account that the low percentage of participation in the Presidential elections in September 1999 was referred to some of Islah members boycotting these elections.

Political observers view president's presence in Islah's meeting a hit to the conservative group which was exercising pressure inside the party to boycott elections and referendum, a western tradition that does not go along with Islamic shoura. However, the visit was a great support to the liberal and radical group inside Islah which tries to participate effectively in the political changes Yemen is going through since 1990 as a major political party in the country.

U.S. Offers Security....

The proposals would focus on places, such as the Arab Gulf, where threat of terrorism is high. The head of the commission, retired Navy Adm. Harold Gehman and retired Army Gen. William Crouch briefed Defense Secretary, William Cohen on the study last month. Cohen ordered Gehman and Crouch to hunt for problems in security and recommend how U.S. forces in transit around the world could be better protected. The commission's recommendations will focus on improving procedures to eliminate confusion over issues as who is responsible for providing security when U.S. warships stop in ports.

Pentagon officials told Reuters that there was a determination that overall security for U.S. forces in the Gulf could be tighter-including coordination between U.S. embassies and military leaders. The New York Times quoted a senior defense official saying that there was a breakdown between embassies and the military commanders of the U.S. Central Command, the Tampa, Florida-based military headquarters for the Gulf. He and other officials added that the military officials were not paying enough attention to the safety of the troops, despite steps to tighten security in the Gulf after the deadly truck bombing of a U.S. military barracks in Saudi Arabia in 1996. However, one week after the bombing, Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zini, regional U.S. commander for the Middle East who retired shortly before the attack defended vigorously his

decision of making U.S. warships refuel in Yemen. He said that Aden was selected in 1997 as the best option from a list of insecure places to fuel ships in one of the region's most strategic points. Zini said while there had been specific security threats at almost every other port in the region used by U.S. ships, that had not occurred with Aden, adding that United States had been helping Yemen fight terrorist groups.

"They stressed, however, that the report on the Cole does not point blame at any specific U.S. officials for the attack itself and that it is unlikely the bombing could have been avoided short of not refueling in Yemen. Crouch has said the commission's goal was to improve security for U.S. forces in the region, not assign blame," CNN reported.

Another Navy investigation on the Cole bombing concluded that the ship's captain and crew failed to follow the Cole's own security procedures in the morning of the attack. The Navy has not yet decided whether it will punish the Cole's captain Cindr Lippold, or any crew members.

CNN also said that the Navy officials have questioned whether U.S. intelligence could have provided any specific threat warning on Aden and allowed the Cole to go to a higher state of alert than "Threat Condition Brave"-the second-highest of four alert levels-as it entered the harbor.

The Yemeni and U.S. officials suspect that hundreds of pounds of explosives were used in the attack and its estimated that Cole's repair job will take one year and cost \$170 million.

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Priest Mathew to YT:

"We do not Know who is Behind the Explosion and the Church Properties Should be Given Back"

Church is associated with Christianity just like mosque with Islam. That is, it has its own religious reverence. In Yemen churches are rarely found except for the city of Aden. To spotlight the church existence in Yemen and impact of the recent explosion targeting Al-Tawahi church, Yemen Times met with Priest Mathew Uzunnalil, responsible for Saint Francis church in Aden and filed the following interview.



Q: Could you please tell us a bit about the church existence in Yemen?

A: I am an Indian catholic. The church in Yemen is deeply rooted in history. We teach poor people in local communities tolerance, peace, love, sympathy...etc. for all religions call for such human principles which breed good people. So many famous people learnt at the church like the Argentinean football player, Maradona. The church does not teach only these things. It also polishes skills of people in various fields of creation.

communist principles. Before 1967, the churches that were found in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE and Oman were even supervised by 7 priests from Aden.

Q: What about the current position of the church in Yemen?

A: Parson Mathew has been doing his best with the Yemeni political leadership since his visit to Yemen in 1991 to take back the properties of the church. The visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the Vatican and meeting the Parson John Paul in 1999



church?

A: There are only three churches and temples in Aden; one in Al-Tawahi, second in Crater and the third is in Al-Mualaa. The temple of Aden is no more there. I know about the explosion that caused heavy damage to the church buildings. However, I can not say who did that.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I would like to thank all people cooperating with us in Aden, the British Embassy and you, the Yemen Times for your concern. I wish Yemen and President Saleh all success and prosperity.

Q: What is the main problem you face as Christians in Yemen?

A: Actually, we do not have any problems except for getting the properties of the church back in accordance with the orders of the president and minister of foreign affairs to the local authority in Aden. We know that the land of the church has been sold. We are waiting for the right time to get also the schools of the churches back. These schools are used for teaching which we can also do. I hope the orders of the president and foreign minister see the light of day.

Continued from page 1

EYES ON ADEN

The third explosion on the other hand, took place on the road leading to the Buraika City few kilometers west north of Aden. The road is usually taken by official envoys carrying foreign guests heading to the VIP official guesthouse of the city located at "Kod Al-Namir" in the Buraika area.

The fourth explosion was carried out near Aden International Airport but resulted in not much damage and no casualties.

The fifth explosion occurred at noon on Tuesday January 2, and led to extensive damage to the fence of the Aden branch of the Official News Agency (Saba) also resulting in a minor injury to a passer by.

Reliable sources indicated that Aden Abyan Islamist Army carried out these explosions in an attempt to pressure the government to release a number - said to be more than 2- of their members currently in jail for being involved in terrorist action.

Yemeni observers consider the actions of Abyan Army as a message directed to the Yemeni government falsifying the continuous statements of the Ministry of Interior that this group is no longer active and that its entity as an Army is no longer valid as most of its members are either imprisoned or executed.

It is worth mentioning that the army also tried many times to request the government to stop arresting their members and affiliates and instead offer them positions in the Yemeni army. The army also requested many times that the search for more suspects involved in the kidnapping at the end of 1998 that led to a failed rescue attempt and the killing of 4 tourists. The army's leader, Abulhassan Al-Mihdar had been executed in 1999, and many of the suspects by then were acquitted for the insufficiency of evidence against them in the charges of being involved in terrorist actions.

Some sources indicated that the late explosions caused a bit of concern of the functionality of the security forces in Aden, especially after the USS Cole incident that caused the death of 17 American marines.



The church was found since 670 i.e. after the birth of prophet Mohammed. I have been told that the church reached Yemen after the death of Priest Partolomio and that there was a church in Sanaa but it was destroyed. In Aden, the church came with the British colonialization. We had churches in different places in Aden. With the advent of communists to power in Aden in 1967, the church's properties were confiscated as its principles did not come a long with their

as well as the visit of Mr. Abdulqader Bajamal, Minister of Foreign Affairs invited very good reaction. They both ordered that the properties of the church should be given back. I have heard that some Islamic groups oppose this but I believe the orders of the president and Bajamal should be implemented because Muslims have mosques in the European countries.

Q: Can we relate what you said with the explosion that happened to the

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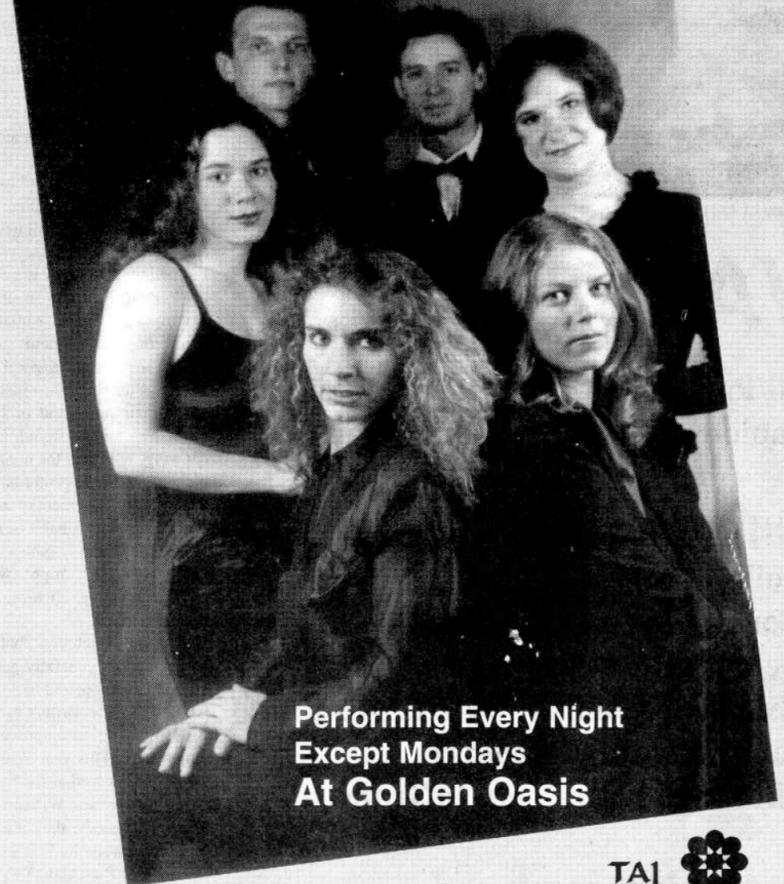
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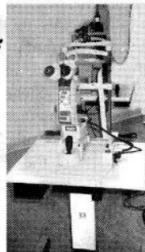


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Yemenis in Liverpool, UK: Ramadan's Spirit Never Lost



K. A. Assize
Liverpool
UK

There is a general consensus among the members of the Yemeni community of Liverpool, UK, that Ramadan nowadays is much more felt and enjoyed than it had been in the past.

It is narrated by some elders of the community in Liverpool that 30 years ago or so Ramadan and Eid used to come and go without some members of the community even realizing. However, the situation has improved dramatically, particularly since the establishment of the first Mosque of Liverpool by the late Ahmed Hezam in 1974, the central mosque has expanded since and now plays a major role in the life of a large number of members of the Yemeni community, particularly during the month of Ramadan. Prior to Ramadan, the mosque distributes timetable sheets to the community as well as announcing the approximate date of the start of the holly month. Confirmation of the start is made through open telephone lines. In this way the community gets to know when Ramadan would start and prepares for it.

Ramadan nowadays is even felt and enjoyed more due to the introduction of Arabic satellite TVs which practically every house has. Through these TVs they get to share the Ramadan atmosphere in the Arabic countries by watching various programs especially Al Taraweeh Prayers from the holly city of Mecca. This year is even more special with the introduction of the Yemeni satellite TV to the broadcasting zone of UK. All these factors have helped the Yemeni community feel Ramadan even better. However, there are still many complaints about the lack of Ramadan atmosphere in Liverpool when compared to Yemen. We all agree: that there is no comparison! Many long to spend this holly month in their homeland, Yemen.

Since working hours is not changed during Ramadan, the spirit of the month does not commence until Iftar time when people gather in the



At the Yemeni community



Front view of the Yemeni community



Iftar at Al-Rahman mosque

mosque in preparation of fast breaking. Iftar is done with date, tea, Yemeni coffee as well as other traditional Yemeni food especially 'Bent-alsahan' which some Yemeni families share with the other members of the Islamic community.

Following Iftar and Magreb prayer, they set off home to have the major feast which include all types of traditional Yemeni food including salta, aseed, rice, curry,

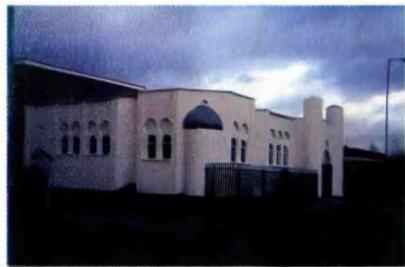
soup, sabaia.

This year Ramadan day lengths are the shortest since the 70s. Fasting begins at approximately 7 o'clock in the morning and lasts until 4 o'clock in the evening. For this reason, hunger and thirst are not felt at all and many young people are able to fast this year. Students at the university break their fast at Liverpool University Mosque with food and drink provided for them by the mosque management.

Isha and Taraweeh are attended by the majority of people, both male and female young and old. In many instances whole families attend the prayers while their children are cared for by the mosque nursery.

Following Taraweeh, a good number of Yemenis gather in the Yemeni Community Center situated at the heart of the Yemeni community. There, they spend a good few hours chatting, exchanging ideas, talking about their homeland or listening to reminders, while indulging in Qat chewing. This year the number of people coming to the center has increased due to the enlargement of the 'Diwan'. Since Qat is not a habit of the Yemeni ladies, they usually gather in a different house each night where they indulge in eating, chatting and watching Yemeni TV.

It can be concluded that Ramadan atmosphere is generally getting better both in Liverpool and nationally in the whole UK. The British establishment is also trying to improve Ramadan atmosphere. This year Prime Minister Tony Blair as well as the leaders of the opposition parties, William Hague and Charles Kennedy, they all wished the Muslim community best wishes on the occasion of Ramadan. The central television allocated an hour a week for the broadcasting Ramadan programs to the Muslim community, which is also a good sign. In short, even in Liverpool, UK, Ramadan spirit is never lost.



Side view of Al-Rahman mosque

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Tourism Industry On the Wane!



Tawfeek al-Shara'abi
Yemen Times

It is quite certain that tourism has become a key resource leading to countries' welfare. Many a country is highly aware of its importance and effectiveness in backing up its economy achieving the welfare of the societies concerned. It is more effective than oil as it has no negative consequences and outcomes left over. Some countries depend mainly on tourism as the main source of income. Through tourism the country as well as the people gains a lot. It can be safely generalized that all the individuals of a given society partake of their share of this wealth if it is utilized properly. It is a shame to say that a country like Yemen, distinguished for its great civilization deeply rooted in history, is not giving this issue its due attention.

I have had the chance to visit many cities and villages with tourists and friends, and every time I have felt a sense of pity. On all the occasions I have come to see great things admired and loved by tourists. However, all could not hide their sense of resentment of the kind of treatment they find while traveling at the checkpoints and later in the hands of soldiers who are engaged to escort them to the places they want to visit. Bad security measures are the crucial reason that makes many tourists "hate" coming to Yemen despite their

high esteem about the great civilization that Yemen once was. Some end their tour thanking God for being safe. Others say that they had "sweet but sour memories".

A rough, rigid face is the first thing they have to encounter as they stop at the checkpoint. "Janneb" meaning "pull over" is the very first sentence the soldier at the check-point articulates. Tourists, then, have to stay for hours waiting for an escort car that does nothing but intensifies their fears moving behind them or in front at a break-neck speed.

To add insult to injury, soon or all of a sudden this escort car disappears and tourists find themselves all alone. If this escort car is at all to accompany them, it reaches a specific place where it stops them and makes them wait for the other escort car that belongs to the next governorate. Thus, tourists sometimes have to wait for hours at places where there is almost nothing to see or no arrangements to protect them from the heat of the Sun. Can you believe that we spent eight hours driving from Sa'adah to Sana'a which would normally take three or at most four hours? The extra four hours were due to bad security measures as they forced us to wait for four hours waiting for the other escort car that belong to Amran governorate.

As a matter of fact, security men and measures working to protect tourists have proven utter failure. Those supposed to protect them and make them feel secure are the very ones who make them feel frightened. Hence, at the end of their tour, some tourists feel content to come out of this expe-

rience making up their minds not to come back again. I wonder if people in charge are at all aware of this!

Yemen is losing millions of dollars by this phenomenon and bad administration. Therefore, good administration and amicable treatment of tourists are a must to back up tourism industry in the country. Good treatment can never be achieved unless awareness promotion programs are launched to teach these "shrewd" and "brave" security men in checkpoints how to behave with tourists. The people have also to understand that tourism is good for them and that they get a lot out of it. Car drivers, antiquities sellers, restaurant owners, hotel owners etc. all are benefiting from tourists. An independent security made for the very purpose can be a good and effective alternative. Escort cars are to stop at places where public facilities are available and not in almost deserted places. The security authorities continuous' negligence to such important little things cost Yemen and its people a lot. Besides, security men at checkpoints take it as a precedent to carry on with their unprincipled manners. Escorts cars and soldiers asking for money every now and then is a low practice that should be stopped right away if we want to reflect a good picture of our beloved country.

This might all vaporize in thin air, unless the authorities concerned take serious note of it. It is our duty to expose such foibles and pin hopes on the high officials to take this on board to save a deteriorating tourism industry in our country. The point is "Is anybody listening to me?"

WNC Urges Parties to Select Female Nominees

The Women's National Committee started a program this week that aims to encourage women's participation in Local Administration Elections. It was noticed that among all parties and even among independent nominees the percentage of women was almost nil.

Mrs. Huria Mashoor, Deputy of WNC met with the Chairman of the Supreme Elections Committee, Mr. Alawi Al Attas earlier this week and discussed with him this issue. He said that there is nothing in the constitution that prevents females from participating in the elections as candidates, and it is the responsibility of the parties to ensure female participation. Hence, female representatives of the parties were invited to the WNC in an attempt to encourage participation.

Mr. Al-Attas confirmed his regret that there aren't any female nominees in the Local administrative elections. He said that the parties did not put forward any female representative except for the YSP in the Aden governorate. He added that the Supreme Elections Committee does not impose any restrictions on the gender of the participants and added that it is up to them to ensure their participation.

Dr. Amat Al-Razzaq Ali Ahmed head of the female Activity Center in GPC, said that one of her parties main ambitions is to increase women's participation in all fields and in politics in particular. But she stated that this is very difficult since it is well known that discrimination against women is still very much a part of Yemeni society. Nonetheless she said that their party would be willing to encourage qualified and interested female candidates if they could be found.

Mrs. Rana Ahmed Ghanim, member of the Capital Secretariat of the Unionist Nassrite Party, agreed with Dr. Amat Al-Razzaq, and added that women themselves can not accept their positions. "After all we are still a developing society, and we can not compare the kind of democracy we have with that of the advanced countries", she said. She also stated that the responsibility falls on the shoulders of the parties policy, because first off the party aims to gain the highest number of seats. No party is willing to sacrifice an opportunity for its advancement for the sake of the women's fight against discrimination.

Mrs. Ilham Najib said the Islah party, agreed strongly with the aforementioned. She also said, "Our party is still unsure about partic-

ipation in the election, whether with male or female candidates. Yet, if we do participate, it really is important to take well studied steps in this process. Having a woman as a candidate is surely means losing a seat in most of the governorates of Yemen." "Though there is more at work here than voting, it's more about agreements and settlements, but still there is a big question mark when it comes to women participation in elections, all parties are doing their best to get women's votes, especially since more than 50% of the population is female. Isn't it only logical that a woman would give her vote to another woman." Mrs. Huria Mashoor wondered. Having more women in decision-making positions is what we aim for, regardless of the party or the organization. We are willing to do the necessary campaigning in order to encourage any women who are interested in campaigning in these local council elections.

In order to find out the other side of the coin we had a small talk with **Miss. Suad Al-Qadasi**, General Director of Woman's Forum for research and Training, here are her comments.

"Firstly, I would like to comment on what Mr. Al-Attas said. If we are talking about a developed society then this could be applicable, but since we are in Yemen we have to enforce women's participation by law. We need not amend the constitution for the sake of women's participation in the local council's elections. However, we must impose certain rules that force the parties to ensure participation of females in their party. What we could do is force each party to put forth one female participant in each province to work on the campaign exactly as if she were a man." Concerning women's reticence to participate, she said: "It's true that the attitude of women during the last 10 years proves that there are obvious drawbacks to female participation. The rate of women who participate in all fields of life has gone down dramatically. That is why we find this stigma against female nominees, even among women who are considered politically active, and aware." Also we can't neglect the effect of the return of Yemeni immigrants who used to live in the Gulf. The effect is not only economically but also culturally symbolized in these regressive attitude. There is so much discrimination in our society against women. It is not enough that the law only protects her rights, we need to safeguard their mentality as well. What is the use of a law, which is not implemented?"

The WNC has yet to meet with the General Secretary of the different parties. The Yemen Times will follow this issue. It is still to be seen whether there will be a place for women in the local councils by the time our next issue hits the streets.

Vice President at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Training Workshop for Local Elections:

"It is not easy to spread awareness on Elections among an armed and tribal population"

On Saturday, January 6, Vice President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi inaugurated the training workshop for the committees to organize local elections, that would start on 20 February.

In his speech, the vice president expressed his appreciation to the Supreme Elections Committee for its hard work in organizing the event in such a short period of time, as it was not clear until recently whether the elections would even be held. He stated that the local elections would not run without any hitches. There is little awareness in the public of the benefits and stages of the process. He also openly stated that it would be a difficult job to ensure an election without any problems because of the challenge of spreading awareness in a population that is mostly armed and of tribal backgrounds.

During his speech, he emphasized the importance of national unity and not involving partisanship, or tribal or ethnic differences in the election process.

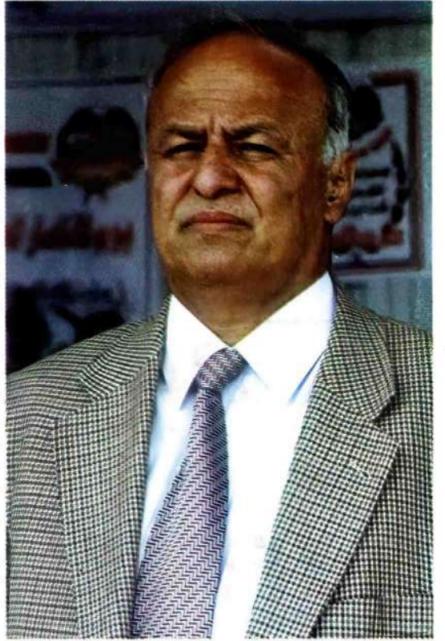
In his concluding statement, he confirmed the importance of making the process a success by taking an unbiased stand during all the phases of the election, and taking advantage of the great democratic values in such a process.

Mr. Alawi Al-Attas, the Chairman of the Supreme Elections Committee also gave a statement at the beginning of the session, in which he explained the various steps taken by the committee to ensure a fair election process. He stressed the importance of not taking any biased action whatsoever. He made clear that he would be exerting a lot of effort into making the process run smoothly, fairly and without any major difficulties.

Al-Attas ended his speech apologizing for dropping the Shabwa governorate from the official newspaper published by the committee -'Elections' Newspaper- by saying, "It is true that we have mistakenly dropped Shabwa governorate from our lists in the newspaper, but it has never and will never be dropped from our hearts." after

which he received a lot of applause.

Interestingly, during the session, a lady from the second row of attendees handed a paper to the vice president during the ceremony, in which she complained that women should not have been assigned the back seats, and at least one lady should have sat in the front row. She stated that this contradicts what was read from the Quran at the opening of the ceremony, and it also contradicts the governments calls for equal rights between men and women. However, there was no response whatsoever to that particular complaint.



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Yemeni-Emirati Investment Company: Distinguished Partnership

Mahyoob al-Kamali

Yemeni-Emirati agreement to establish an investment company is a turning point in the Yemeni-Emirati amicable and good relations. The agreement to this effect was signed by the Yemeni Economic Establishment (YEE) on the Yemeni side and by Bin Shaiban Establishment on the Emirate side.

Many businessmen emphasize the importance of this partnership agreed upon recently in Sana'a. The company will invest in major fields, especially in tourism. Statistics reveal that Yemen is in need of establishing many tourist villages, hotels and trade centers the cost of which exceed YR 5 billion. This will create about 20,000 job opportunities. According to the agreement, the Yemeni-Emirati Investment Company Ltd. will start work in the tourist field in a tourist city associated with YEE

located in Sheraton, Sana'a. In order to boost the tourism industry in the country, the company is going to set up a modern trade center fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and services on 13 thousand m2 costing \$ 4 million. The center will be an important tourist site as it will be the first of its kind in the country. It will consist of three floors housing commercial shops, sports halls, restaurants and cafeteria.

Signing the agreement between Bani Shaiban Establishment and Yemeni Economic Establishment is a good proof of the Gulf investors' interest and trust to come and invest in Yemen. It is also a direct result of the developing bilateral relations between Yemen and UAE. Yemeni businessmen expect that there will be an increase in the flow of capitals from UAE to establish

partnerships and invest in the Free Zone of Aden.

Yemeni merchants see the possibilities of establishing trade relations between Aden Port and that of Dubai and the free zone in each port so as to increase trade exchange and to facilitate the flow of products and services to the markets of the two countries.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Shaiban, Bin Shaiban Establishment Board chairman, said "Signing the contract for establishing the Yemeni-Emirati Investment Company Ltd. is the beginning of a new era of cooperation to make use of the support provided by the leaderships of the two countries to invest in Yemen."

He asserted that there are other plans to invest in Yemen in the near future as Yemen is a promising land full of potentials to be utilized.

During the past four years there have been serious measures taken by the Yemeni government to provide more services and facilities in the Investment Law. It has also been working to improve work in the General Investment Authority (GIA) to provide more facilities for investors, a step taken to attract more investors to the country. Therefore, Yemen is in need of a strong tourist infrastructure which is able to meet the needs of about half a million tourists coming to the country by the 2004 with an annual 5% developing rate.

Thus, the Yemeni-Emirati Investment Company is poised to invest in the tourist field to create and develop tourist infrastructure in Yemen, a step to achieve a real tourism industry in the country.

ECONOMY NEWS

Saudi "Al-Mabani" Company To Demarcate Yemeni-Saudi Border

The Saudi "Al-Mabani" Company won the bid to demarcate the Yemeni-Saudi border in an agreement between the company and German Company "HANSA", which is the main contractor for the project. The cost of the demarcation process is estimated to be more than 1 billion Saudi Rials, and would demarcate the border of more than 1,500 km in length.

780 Investment Projects in Aden Free Zone

The total number of requests submitted to launch investment projects in the Aden Free Zone reached 780 by last week, of which 456 would start within the coming few months with a total cost approaching \$41 million. These projects would be built in an area of more than 1000 square kms and would provide more than 1,200 job opportunities to Yemenis in different fields of specialization.

47 Developmental Investment Projects in Aden

The Aden branch of the General Committee for Investment announced that the approved investment projects for Aden reached 47 with a total cost of 4 billion and 192 million rials. The committee added that once completed, the projects would provide more than 1,193 positions for employees and skilled workers in the fields of industry, education, and tourism. Among the projects, there are 11 tourism projects and 15 industrial projects.

Exported Fruits and Vegetables Worth \$100 Million

The total value of the exported fruits and vegetables from Yemen reached last year more than \$100 million, which is a clear indication of self-sufficiency of locally produced fruits and vegetables in the make of importing fruits and vegetables worth more than \$400 million. It is worth mentioning that this productivity level has been achieved with the help of the World Food Organization and the government's strategies to secure food resources and increase crop productivity.

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Fifth Businessmen Conference in Aden Next Week

Under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be organizing the 5th Conference for Businessmen in Aden during 15-16 January 2001.

The conference will focus on the future challenges facing investment and development of manpower in the Republic of Yemen.

Hundreds of prominent businessmen from Yemen and abroad will be attending the conference which is expected to serve as a stepping stone to create a new vision for the Yemeni economy in the 21st century.

On its part, Yemen Times is delighted to announce that it will be issuing in cooperation with the Aden Chamber for Commerce and Industry a special publication on this occasion covering



several topics on investment and economic challenges and prospects in Yemen. The supplement, which will be distributed to all participants as part of the

conference documents and handouts, will also include interviews with Yemeni businessmen and representatives of influential companies in Yemen in which they would express their ideas, proposals, and recommendations.

It is worth mentioning that the 4th Businessmen Conference also held in Aden last year was quite successful, and also had a similar supplement issued by Yemen Times.

On another level, under the motto "The 21st Century and the Challenges Facing Investment", a special gathering of businessmen and investors will be held in Aden on 14 January, 2001. It would be a preparatory stage before the 5th Conference for Businessmen, to be held in Aden the following day (15 January), in which several key topics regarding investment and business in Yemen would be discussed.

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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

A Last Ditch Effort

Perhaps one of the apparent traits of President William Clinton is that if he sets his mind on something, he will consider it a personal setback if he does not see it through. After eight years of seemingly endless unfruitful meetings, informal and non-formal chats, shuttle diplomacy and diplomatic get-togethers, it would seem that there is just no way that the quest for a final Middle East peace settlement can get out of the agendas of things to do for the Clinton Administration before packing its bags for the end of a successful Presidency, with many successful triumphs and accomplishments to garnish the "Clinton Legacy". But anyone not used to feeling the itch of failure is bound to try to seek some way out of leaving the Middle East Peace process on hold for the next Administration to have to really start from scratch. That is probably what the Israelis were hopeful for anyway, believing at earlier stages that the Gore Lieberman Team would be just the right administration for such a termination of the most frustrating peace effort ever attempted.

But, perhaps Mr. Clinton's perseverance, despite the stalling instigated by the Sharon visit to the Al-Haram Al-Sharif, subsequently leading to the latest Intifada, or civil protest by the Palestinians, is a sincere effort to insure that at least all the past years' strides, if they may be called that, should not be thrown out the window, or to help facilitate the task somewhat for the incoming Bush Administration by at least setting a foundation stone from which the "final talks" could proceed accordingly. Thus, Mr. Clinton insisted on a last "pressure cooker" diplomatic effort to set the basis for the final settlement, based on some proposals worked out by the Clinton Administration, the terms of which are still publicly unclear, especially amidst the contradictory statements on these proposals coming out of both the Palestinian and the Israeli camps, none

of which shed light on the full details of the proposals and what gains or concessions are to be perceived for both sides. In light of the short time span left for the Clinton Presidency and in view of the complexity of the issues involved, it would be difficult that any finale could be seen in the near horizon, especially as the statements coming from both sides have not shown any consistency of thought or feelings by many of the spokesmen who have aired their views about them.

As stated earlier, the Israelis are facing some very hard choices and maybe they are also confronted by some fundamental political developments that do not necessarily imply that the Israeli-American love affair has terminated, by any means, but surely is facing some serious groundwork for strategic planners on both the Arab and Israeli side. Of course, Israelis will be the quicker to realize this than their Arab counterparts. This entails the need for coping with new situations that may not be so favorable to the Israelis in the long run. This becomes evident, especially more so, when considering that the "Sharon visit" was based on the assumption that a Democratic Administration was to occupy the Executive Branch of the US Government, possibly with Joseph Lieberman well in line to be the next President of the United States, and thus providing greater support for any Israeli positions for at least the next eight years.

While no one expects a complete turnaround in the middle East policy of the United States in the Middle East by the Bush Administration, it is worth noting that the Bush Administration is under less pressure to accommodate the very strong Zionist lobby in the United States, especially as that lobby could not have been of any use to the Bush campaign, in the very edgy fight for the Presidential Office and may in fact have been very instrumental in coaxing the Al Gore Campaign to drag out the tough legal fight for the State of Florida Electors to the last minute deci-

sive ruling of the US Supreme Court. Whatever the case may be, it is not hard to discern that the Bush Administration will carry on the Middle East policy with some variation to the theme, with Israel having to look for greater balancing support among the other institutions of American government through its faithful American Zionist lobby. But even that will be facing some difficulty, especially as the "Intifada" continues to tarnish the polished public media image, which the Israelis have long enjoyed in the Western Press, especially in the United States, where American public opinion has access now to wider channels of communications and coverage of the Middle East "crisis" and Israeli atrocities and arrogance have become standard news items, almost on a daily basis, most of which contradicts the heretofore David and Goliath myth and the image of the champion of human rights amidst hostile barbarians, by which the Arabs have been respectively characterized. Therefore the Israelis are looking for some kind of a way out of the existing situation, which they created based on different arithmetic; i.e., the Intifada, but not really for a final settlement as Mr. Clinton might hope to reach. The Israelis want the Intifada to stop, by any means, but a final settlement is still far in the back of their minds, because they have yet to reach their final quest for the "Promised Land" of Eretz Israel, which they perceive to extend from the Nile to the Euphrates, if not beyond. That is why they have all those settlements dotted all over the West Bank and surely have no intention of abandoning, notwithstanding what might be jeopardized accordingly, unless they are literally compelled to do so by the United States - the only force that decisively can influence Israeli political or strategic decisions, as was the case in Sinai, during the Camp David accords and the 1956 Arab - Israeli (& British and French). For the Palestinians, a final settlement is, rightfully, a long sought quest, but

how much more can a people give up, after having already lost so much and bore so much loss of life, agony, pride and whatever dignity was left after being victims of so many wars and occupations by so many different powers over the ages, none of which have reached the menacing ferocity and indiscriminate disregard for human rights, moral values and human dignity, as witnessed throughout the last century in the latest invasion by the Israelis, fostered and cradled by the very modern powers that claim to be the champions of human rights and civil liberties, namely Great Britain, as the initiator, and the United States, as the tireless sustainer and backer? Yet, given the present situation and the present global arena, and the poor policy and strategic thinking of the other Arab states and the lack of meaningful coordinated support of the latter, the Palestinians are also willing to assist the American Administrations, whether lame duck or just settling in office, as much as possible to realize their diplomatic successes, but how much can be compromised when you have to make decisions that are tied to emotional attachments, not just of Palestinians, but neighboring Arab States, and an entire World Moslem population, that has gone on record by declaring that sovereignty over Jerusalem is a decision that must be made, not just by the Palestine Liberation Organization, Chairman Yasser Arafat or even the Palestinians, but by a billion other Moslem and probably another billion Christian inhabitants of other parts of the Earth, who may not be keen on having the Holy City of Jerusalem under the sovereignty of a notorious vandalistic regime as the Zionist regime has proven to be so far. Yet, the Israelis are expected to try to hold on to whatever concessions they have squeezed out of the Palestinians to date and want these to be the starting point of the next efforts to reach a final peace settlement, rather than to start all over again, under a Bush Administration, which has gone on

Mr. President, Give Me the Tools

The uniqueness of our beautiful Island of Socotra is fascinating in all aspects of nature and culture. Its tourism potential is remarkable but there is much work to be done to bring it to the standard of other cities in the country. The fruit of unification has spared no pains in giving all attention and care by building a new airport, roads, communication facilities, sports club and medical clinics. But as indicated earlier there are a lot more important tasks to be carried out on priority basis. As far as I know, the UNDP has undertaken an environmental conservation project, presumably on marine eco-system and has provided medical facilities including ambulances. The issue, which I wish to emphasize here, relates to the lack of protection of rare plants and trees.

It is a known fact that traditionally as a practice to meet domestic daily needs, the villagers including those who live in the city of Socotra use fire wood heavily as their dependable source of energy instead of butane gas. Yet it is only available in the city and too expensive for the common man. Consequently, a large number of trees are cut on a daily basis.

This unfortunate phenomenon indeed constitutes a threat to the existence of rare birds and would lead eventually to an extinction of wild animals and precious plants. The beauty of nature once destroyed, will remain destroyed forever. I simply cannot imagine the depth of the wound. We cannot simply let a slow-death situation go unprevented in this magnificent Island of Socotra.

In view of the above mentioned cir-



Ali Yousef Al-sharif
Sana'a Yemen

cumstances, I am of the opinion that the government should ensure that bottled butane gas are made available at the subsidized price in every corner of the Island as a part of a measure to embark on discouraging citizens from cutting trees to fulfill fuel requirements.

If at all this does not reflect in the policy of the state, the concerned authorities may approach UNDP and seek technical assistance in training people of the area to use BioGas. This amazing method of obtaining energy through animal's waste is being used in the Republic of Kenya, Pakistan and other developing countries and especially in rural areas. The nature of this project demands people to raise livestock in their environment or homes. Our brothers in Socotra perfectly meet these criteria. I am certain, this sustainable project once introduced villagers will embrace it, the nature of this project aims at minimizing the economic and social problems as well as negative environmental consequences. I believe women would not need trees to obtain fire for home use nor require so much time to fetch firewood in the forest, but rather spend more time at home. Evidently, the project will improve villagers' living condition.

I must pen off now! I am running out of time but before quitting, would like to tell Mr. President that, if given the tools, I shall be able to implement the whole process of the environment program.

record and stated during the political campaign for the Presidency that it will work for a just and final peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem, was a lot less than the what the platform of their competitors vied for - continued and unquestioned support for the Zionist state, with the absence of the words, just, peaceful and final settlement in any of their speeches. Chances are that the tireless Mr.

Clinton will have to do with the poor luck he had on the Middle East issue, but it is hoped that the American people will clearly realize now that, in the end, it was their spoiled friend that let them down, as usual, and not the Palestinian people who really have nothing else left to give up except their moral fiber and human dignity. The Israelis have already taken quite a lot of the latter.

Letters to the Editor

The Water Crisis in Yemen

I am a Master degree holder in water use management, from the Republic of India, and a Bachelor Degree in Irrigation and Drainage Engineering from the Peoples Republic of China with a lot of knowledge in the area of water and aquifers. It is not a secret that water is a major and serious problem in Yemen. All the officials know that, but many are not taking the issue seriously, and the government institutions are not up to the notch and strong enough to enforce the laws and the regulations regarding the development of the new wells and the economical spacing between them in almost all the Governorates of Yemen. Beside the development of wells issue, there is the issue of Qat and Diesel price relationship which should be addressed carefully and strictly.

The Government of Yemen is held responsible to come up with proposal(s) to ensure the maximization of this vital resource now! The Yemeni Government is also supposed to work-out a long term program with alternatives for the people cultivating/selling Qat. There is no time to lose and a real disaster eventually will happen. Yemenis will curse and will hate their life and the history will not pardon those who are keeping silent now for whatever reason.

As a matter of fact, a big and difficult task is to be tackled in which the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning, the Higher Water Council, Legislature System, Donors, United Nations and the law enforcement institutions in Yemen combined should take the matter seriously and come up with a solution that would minimize the use of water in the whole country. Yemenis do not want anyone to remind them that Qat is their most disastrous plant that kills them silently. They know this fact for a long time now. They know that Qat is keeping

the children population growing. The plant, the forbidden pesticides and the scarcity of water, are the Awful Trio, but first we must resolve the water issue. It is the vital element for life, and must be considered as soon as possible. Try to make a change, learn from our brothers in Jordan, Egypt, and the others, even Israel.

Eng. Nasr A. Alghoairy
Toronto, Canada
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Response to "Eid: Festival of Discipline"

I have been reading Yemen Times since 1997, and have always appreciated the objectivity of your reporting. I was shocked and saddened therefore to read the first paragraph of Ismael Al-Ghabiri's article on Eid (25 December 2001).

I have traveled around the world, lived and worked in three continents yet have never encountered the "vulgar and obscene orgies" that according to Mr. Al-Ghabiri characterize festivals in other societies. Certainly in Europe, our festivals are largely based on the religious calendar. Christmas, for all its commercialism, is a family celebration and a time of reflection on the past year. We try to make amends for any sins we have committed and strengthen our resolve to live a better life in the coming year. At Easter we celebrate new life and thank God for all the wonders of creation. The only excesses I have witnessed on these occasions are people eating and drinking too much and falling asleep in front of the television. Maybe Mr. Al-Ghabiri needs to buy himself a better dictionary.

Such sweeping and inaccurate statements only serve to increase tension between Muslim and non-Muslim and surely during the Holy Month we should be reaching out to each other in increased tolerance and understand-

ing, rather than fuelling rumor and racial hatred.

Tanya Al-Ameer

Dear Tanya,

We are sorry if you found the article offending. Please be ensured that we will get a response from Al-Ghabiri and publish it next week. Thanks for continuing reading Yemen Times.

—Editor

Terrorism and Religions in the Middle East

I am a full-time college student, a family man, and work full time. Since my days in high school, I have always been intrigued about the Middle East culture and the total terror that seems to exist.

Obviously it is quite apparent that terrorism is usually the result of religious differences. How come despite so many different denominations of the Christian culture there has to be so much violence? It is quite apparent that most religions go back to the same thing; there is one creator, people should live together in peace and harmony, and people need to take care of the mother earth. You know it never made sense to me that everyone is born without a sense of hate and are basically trained to hate one another because someone just doesn't like the way the person across the street practices their religion. Look at the United States, we were formed because of the oppression against certain religions. The English king could not accept that there were different denominations and people were killed believing in the same creator. Now in our country you can practice any religion and it doesn't matter. Can there ever become an end to this nonsense? Isn't one of the ten commandments, "thou shall not kill"? Look at all the nonsense over there. I think the Middle East region should be named one country and allow the different religions go as desired.

Ray DeLorenzo
USA

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Highlights from the Year 2000

Imad Al-Saqqaf
Farooq Al-Kamali
Taiz Burea, Yemen Times

To start with, it is obvious that there has been relatively no development in the economic, political, and social sectors during the year 2000.

Corruption continued to devastate Yemen's economy even further as the average low income man in the street struggles to make ends meet with an annual income of \$260. Poverty and unemployment levels continued to increase reflecting itself on the growing number of beggars and street children. Even though this may seem a pessimist way to look at the first year of the 21st century, yet it is the unfortunate truth. While most of the university graduates could not find jobs last year, many key positions, especially in government offices were given to unqualified people in exchange for political, economic, and tribal interests. The year 2000 witnessed the highest level of employment of unqualified individuals in many government posts. However, what was quite disappointing in the year 2000 is the noticeable level of security instability, and the explosion of the USS Cole Military ship in Aden is the best example.

Here we will be briefly highlighting the main local events of the year 2000, which we believe have made the year 2000 such a unique year in our country's history.

1) Sanaa University's Breeds a Serial Killer

The case of Sanaa University's Faculty of Medicine teaching assistant, Mohammad Adam who admitted to slaughtering and mutilating two female students shocked the general public and the world. Even though he was sentenced to death in November, this did not erase the ugly memories of the horrible crimes he committed and con-

fessed to in the year 2000.

The whole issue started in mid May when Mohammad Adam Omar (Sudanese national) was accused of slaughtering 16 female students in the morgue of Sanaa University's Faculty of Medicine.

The issue raised a lot of anger among the Yemeni public and sparked the first huge protest in Sanaa on May 17 demanding the resignation of the dean of the Faculty of Medicine and the University's Rector. They also called to reveal the ones who were behind Adam, as it was believed that he was not alone when he committed his atrocities. The state media and press tried intensively to not give this case much importance in an attempt to take away the focus on this case, but all their efforts were in vain, especially that independent and opposition newspapers ignited the issue, and turned it into the everyday topic. Eventually, during the late stages of investigation, Mohammad Adam confessed of killing two female students, namely, Hosn Atiyya and Zeyneb Aziz.

In November 20, the Bin Al-Harith Primary Court passed verdict and sentenced Adam to death in the arena of the Faculty of Medicine in front of the public. It also ordered the university to compensate the families of the victims 5 million rials each.

The case of Adam and its developments have marked one of the most outrageous events of not only the year 2000 but the whole decade. It has shown how irresponsible and ignorant the university's administration, and how loose the security in the country was.

3) Yemen-Saudi Border Agreement Breakthrough

If there is anything that could be considered the most positive achievement in the year 2000, then without doubt, it would be the signing of the Yemeni-Saudi Land and Border Agreement.

In Jeddah, on July 22, and in the presence of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, and H.E. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the

Yemeni-Saudi border agreement was signed, ending more than 50 years of political dispute. The agreement was seen as the beginning of a new chapter in the relationship between the two neighbors.

Economists predicted a breakthrough in the economic cooperation between the two countries, resulting in more Saudi investment in Yemen, stronger cooperation in all fields, and decreased smuggling effects.

Practical steps to demarcate the borders started by authorizing the German company HANSA luftbit, which is the same company that demarcated the Yemeni-Omani and Saudi-Omani borders, to demarcate the Yemeni-Saudi borders.

There were some objections however, from some tribes that lived on the borderline between the two countries fearing that their land would be divided. The most aggressive tribe was Wa'ila, whose sheikh, Bin Shaji, has more than once challenged the company and threatened retaliation in case his land would be divided.

This however, didn't alter the efforts of the two governments to meet and talk of possible future cooperation. As a matter of fact, during 11-12 December, the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council met in Madina, and came out with the Saudi decision to provide Yemeni with academic and health grants plus financial assistance to be used in projects to enhance our country's economic infrastructure.

3) Constitutional Amendments

In August 23, the People's General Congress (PGC) and Islah parties' parliamentary blocks agreed on passing a resolution that would extend the period of office for members of parliament from 4 to 6 years, and of the president from 5 to 7 years. The amendments were formally approved by the parliament on November 14 in their format. The government had stated that the cause behind the resolution would be to enhance the political stability in the country and enabling wider participation of the public in the democratic

process.

On the other hand, the opposition parties had expressed dissatisfaction with the resolution and see this move as a maneuver from the government to limit the role of the parliament and weaken the public participation in decision making.

Legal experts see that the amendments reflect a sense of political and legal instability and an attempt to get rid of what is left of democracy in the country.

4) Rift Valley Fever Devastation

After the spread of the fatal Rift Valley Fever disease -transmitted from animals carrying the disease- in the south of Saudi Arabia, it was announced on August 18 that the disease had started spreading in Tihama. It took a while for the Yemeni government to realize the great threat of the disease and hence action was taken a little bit late after more than 50 people -unofficial number was much higher- were officially reported to have died from the disease, while hundreds were reported with possible infection. It was the first time ever that such a disease was reported to enter the Republic of Yemen. Despite the government's actions to limit the effects of the disease throughout the Tihama region by spraying certain pesticides and chemicals on infected swamps, its actions fell short from getting rid of the disease. After tremendous preventive steps of forbidding the transport of animals from or to the infected region, and after spreading awareness of buying infected meat, the threat was over, and no more infections were reported.

5) USS Cole Destroyer Blast

On 12 October, the USS Cold Destroyer, which was about to anchor at one of the slots of the Aden Free Zone, was blasted resulting in the killing of 17 US marines and injuring 39.

This development caused strong reaction from the US government, who sent tens of FBI investigators and caused a lot of concern about US citizens in Yemen. The Yemeni government on its behalf launched an aggressive campaign of arrests in Aden. Most of the arrested were thought to belong to Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Yemeni governmental sources had provided conflicting reports, some stating that the blast was an accident, later ones claiming that it was planned -but not carried out- by a Yemeni, Mohammad Omar Al-Harazi, who fled to Afghanistan after the blast, while the latest report suggest the involvement of certain individuals from other neighboring countries.

In 29 October, the destroyer was carried to the US by a Norwegian ship carrier.

6) Explosion in the Embassy of the UK

On Friday October 13, just one day after the USS Cole incident an explosion rocked the British embassy in Sanaa causing substantial damage inside the embassy building and shattering windowpanes adjacent school building.

An official source stated that the blast was due to explosion of electricity generator, but yet, just like in the case of the USS Cole incident, the report was premature, as it was found later that the bomb was a planned terrorist attack. Even though there were no casualties because of the attack, it is still unknown who planned and carried out the attack. This incident had caused some dismay by the British government, which was said to have been planning to lift the travel ban to Yemen.

Other outrageous incidents in 2000

- A Russian wife was murdered in May by her husband in a Sanaa courtroom in front of the judge and all the attendees.

- On August 29, an armed confrontation took place inside Sanaa International Airport between a tribal sheikh and policemen resulting in a delay of the certain flight.

- In April, 4 people died of hunger - some reports say suffocation- in a private jail of one of Sharq City's powerful sheikhs in the province of Dhahar. The sheikh had put them into his small totally isolated and closed container (used as his private jail) for many days with no food and water. This has caused

an outrage throughout the country reminding us of the continuous human right violations sometimes never reported and never heard of.

Celebrations in 2000

One of the greatest celebrations of all time took place in the morning of May 22 marking the first decade of a unified Yemen. A cleaning and construction campaign costing billions of Yemeni rials made Sanaa City appear to be a clean city for the first time in years. The Seventy-arena in Sanaa witnessed one of its most spectacular celebration displays ever in front of 50 delegations and several Arab heads of states including Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, President Botafliqah of Algeria, President Bashir of Sudan.

The interesting point about the celebration is that it proved that if there is a political will, everything is possible, as not many people expected preparations -that started late- to be complete in such a short period of time.

Kidnapping Incidents in 2000

The year 2000, like 1998 and 1999, was not free from kidnapping incidents. As a matter of fact, here is a briefing of the main kidnapping incidents of the year:

- Yemen started the year with the interesting and professionally carried out kidnapping incident of Kenneth White, a US expert who worked with Halliburton, a contracting company with Yemen Hunt Oil Co. The incident took place in the early morning of Wednesday January 27, but the hostage was not released until the 10th of February, spending almost two weeks in the hideouts of the kidnapers.

- Just two months later, on March 1st, the bizarre kidnapping of the Polish ambassador to Yemen took place inside the capital city. The kidnapers, tribesmen from Al-Yamanytain in Khawlan demanded the government's release of their Sheikh Army Colonel Khalid Mohammed Al-Giyari who had been arrested by political security men at the Sana'a airport. The ambassador was 5 days later released, and had interesting story of his experience as a hostage (see issue 10/2000).

- June 10 marked one of the ugliest kidnapping incidents in the history of Yemen as it marked the killing of Norwegian Gudbrand Stuve, 44, the former second secretary of the Norwegian Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia as he was in Yemen as part of a tourist tour along with his wife and son. Gudbrand was with his son when he was kidnapped by tribesmen from Mareb and was accidentally killed in crossfire between the chasing police and kidnapers.

- Also in June, an Italian archaeologist along with four Yemenis were kidnapped by a tribe from Mareb. They were released within days.

- Al-Zayidi tribe of Mareb kidnapped the Swedish Engineer Anders Salenius, 69 on November 14, and after a restless chase by military forces was released on November 30.

2000: a tough year for the free press

A special report by the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate indicated that there were around 20 cases of oppression against the freedom of the press in 2000:

- There was a noticeable increase in the number of lawsuits against independent and opposition newspapers including Al-Thawri, Al-Wahdawi, Al-Haq, Al-Umma, Al-Ayyam, and Al-Shoura which was closed down on September 19, but was released again in August.

- Al-Thaqafiah magazine's chief editor was prosecuted as he was seen guilty of publishing an old article by the late writer Mohammad Abdulwai entitled "Sanaa: an Open City", which was seen as conflicting with Islamic morals.

However, the Ministry of Information bravely stood by the editor and followed up his case until he was released.

NGOs in 2000

The Non Governmental Organization (NGO) movement intensified in the year 2000 resulting in an increasing number of activities carried out by hard working NGOs such as the Taiz-based Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) and the Sanaa-based 'Activists'. Several NGOs and welfare associations competed to provide free services to the public, especially during the month of Ramadan. However, most NGOs

expressed their disappointment at the currently debated NGO law, which is expected to create obstacles for the NGOs and would require the prior authorization of the government before any loan or assistance is given to them by donors.

Archaeological Discoveries in 2000

After 12 years of continuous work on removing sand and cleaning the site of the Kingdom of Sheba in Mareb, the site was formally opened on the 18th of November as part of a great celebration on this occasion. The most spectacular section of the site is the place called "Temple of the God Moon", which is considered to be among the wonders of the world and a great tourist destination attracting thousands of tourists every year.

On another level, several archaeological discoveries were made in various parts of the country including Hugarriyah, Lahj, Shabwa, Ibb, and Hadramout. All of the discoveries were made by archaeological groups from Europe and the USA.

Local/International Football Tournaments in 2000

Ahli Sanaa was able to win the Supreme League tournament cup for the year 99/2000. Taliyah of Taiz surprised all by achieving the second position in the tournament.

On the Arab and international level, the year was a total disappointment as all our teams were defeated in almost all of our matches. Ahli Sanaa was defeated by Ahli of Bahrain 5/1 in both the first and second leg matches. Ahli Sanaa was also defeated by Al-Hilal of Sudan 3/0 in the Arab Championship Tournament. Wahda of Sanaa was defeated by Hitteen of Syria 3/0 in the first leg and 5/1 in the Arab Cup Championships tournament.

The only win that any of our teams had during last year was that of the Yemeni youth football team that defeated Kyrgyzstan team 4/1 while being defeated by the Saudi, UAE, and Uzbekistan youth football teams.

Yemen and the World in 2000

- Yemen tried several times to convince Arab states of the need to have an Arab Summit to discuss the Middle East Crisis and to enhance relationships between Arab states, however the proposal was turned down indirectly most of the time.

- Thousands of Yemenis poured to the streets on October 2 protesting the atrocities against Palestinians by Israeli forces and supporting the second Palestinian Intifada that started on the 28th of September. Donations by businessmen and Yemeni citizens were made to support Palestinians in their struggle.

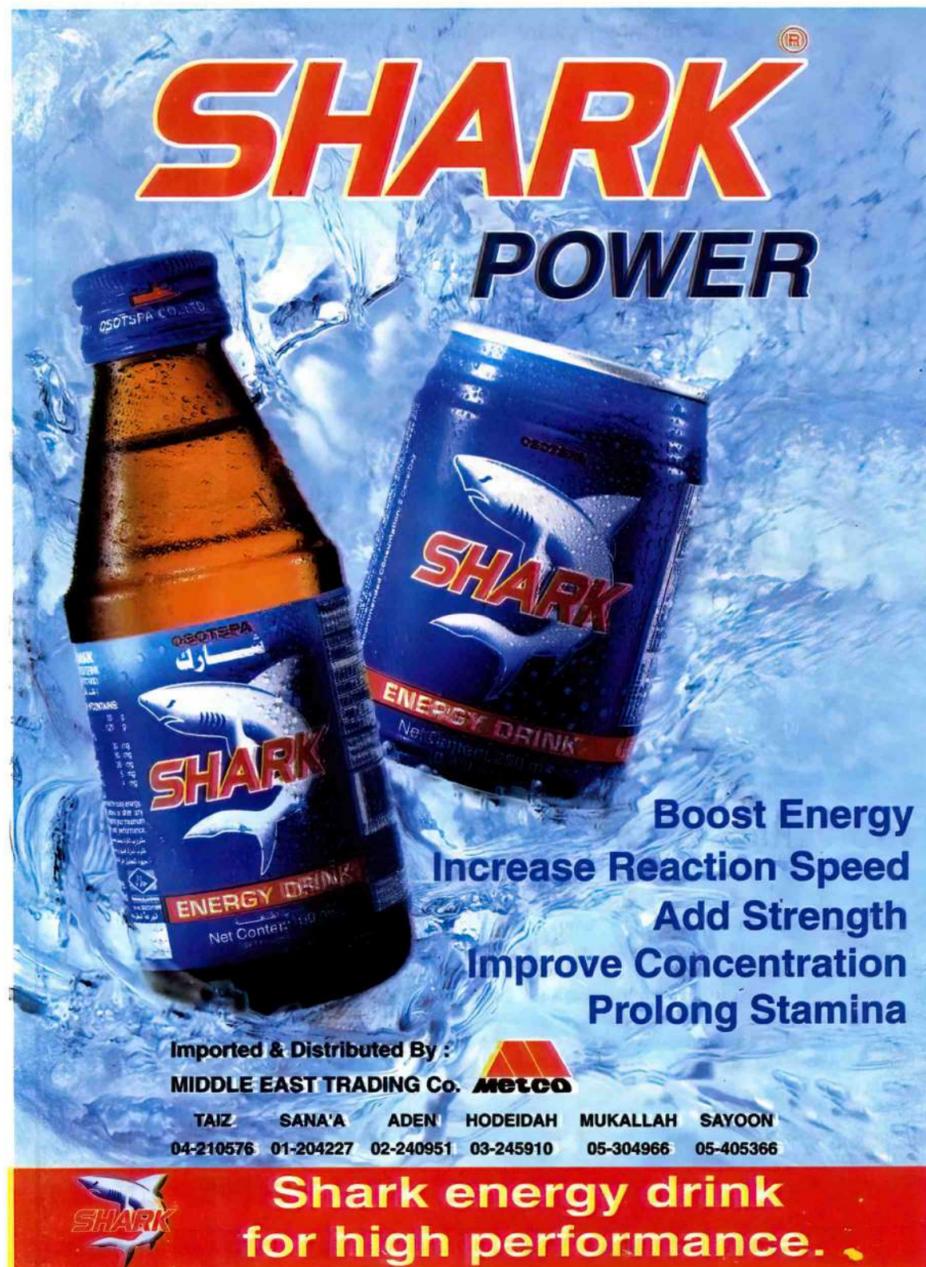
- There have been calls by the Islah party to boycott the products of the USA for its supportive role to Israel.

- In a courageous move, Yemen broke the sanctions against Iraq by sending a plane full of food and medicine to Baghdad in an unprecedented move. Yemen was the second country to send goods to Iraq after Jordan.

- The Yemeni President played a significant role in ending the internal conflict between the Somali political groups. Yemen strongly supported the elected Somali President Abdi Qasim Salad Hassan. President Saleh agreed to train 500 Somali Soldiers from the basis of a formal Somali Army.

- President Saleh started a historic visit at the end of March to Canada, the USA, Italy, France, and Germany in an effort to enhance bilateral relation with them and attract investment. President Saleh also paid a historic visit to Iran in which he met with President Khatemi of Iran on the 27th of April.

In conclusion, the year 2000 was full of negative events as well as positive achievements. Even though the country's economic standing has not improved, Yemen has succeeded in making significant strong political achievements in the international arena in the form of stronger relationships with its neighbors and the world. It is expected, however, that the leadership will concentrate its efforts from this year onwards in enhancing the Yemeni economy in the hope of raising the standard of living of the Yemenis who have entered the year 2001 carrying with them the same economic burdens of the year 2000.



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Aden Slums, Outright Authorities Negligence



Radhwan al-Saqqaf
Aden Bureau Chief

Poverty is becoming a headache plaguing many countries of the world, of which Yemen is part of. It is a major issue holding a world-wide concern, especially as there is an ever increasing gap between the haves and the have-nots. In Yemen, particularly in poor neighborhoods of main cities such as the governorates of Sanaa and Aden, there are many unimaginable poverty levels resembled in extremely poor families that were never given the chance to create conditions for a decent living.

Here, in this article, I present the case of Aden slums that exist in one of the most devastated neighborhoods in the country. In many governmental newspapers and media organs, the negative side of the facts are never shown. It is sad to see that they have failed to deliver the truth of what is happening around us.

This is when our role is clear: To seek the truth and display it as clear as possible to the world. This is what we did when we visited Aden slums and saw an unbelievable reality.

It was difficult for me to believe that such an unbelievably poor neighborhood could exist in the governorate of our economic capital. Before going into the shocking details, let us take a brief journey into the facts about poverty in the global sense, i.e., poverty in the world, and then come back to Aden.

Poverty was and continues to be one of the outstanding issues dealt with in many international conferences. The World Summit for Social Development held in Geneva was one of these conferences in which poverty was given a specific focus and significant attention. During this conference, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan reviewed a complete report about poverty published by the UN in cooperation with the World Bank and some other international organizations. He said "We believe that we can have a better world and put the new international market in the hands of the poor. We believe that globalization can be a positive force in the lives of all the people."

The report defined the poorest people by indicating that they were those who maintain their living at an income less than one dollar per day. The report



revealed that 1.3 billion of the world's people, equal to 24% of the world's people, survive on less than \$ 1 per day. What is also amazing is that there are 3 billion people in the world today - half of the world's population - struggling to survive on \$2 per day. These statistics are hazardous omens of the visible deterioration of this epidemic in the poor countries which constitute 85% of the countries on this planet.

To be more precise, 29% of the world's population live in South Asian countries, which are the home of about 43% of the world's poorest population. Statistics become more horrifying when coming to the incredibly high unemployment levels in third world countries, which continues to rise by the year. The estimated number of unemployed qualified people exceeds 150 million in the world.

Coming back to Yemen, let us take the whole country in general, and then come to the particular case of Aden slums. It goes without saying that Yemen is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Official statistics of the annual report of the national family survey for 1998 issued by the Central Statistics Authority revealed the increasing number of the poor in Yemen. Undoubtedly, this leads to many negative social and economic phenomena that would be difficult to avoid. The report indicated that the per capita income per day in the country was YR 28,2, which is incredibly low.

As a matter of fact, it has become almost impossible for many families with such low incomes to bear the ever-increasing waves of price hikes in the basic foods supplies, let alone other essential products. It's only wise that the authorities concerned would make use of the statistics they release every year, and instead of putting them in books and forgetting about them, study their causes and concern themselves in identifying the reasons and setting up an agenda for action to alleviate further decline in the standard of living according to a chronological framework.

Poverty is found everywhere in the Republic, especially in cities and towns. Aden is a governorate in which the miserable condition of many poor families has come to a sheer misery. There has been an increasing number of poor families living in Daar Sa'ad, a poor town in the governorate of Aden known for its incredibly low standard of living. As you get into the town you are to pass by these cottages accumulated in the area. The pictures above perfectly show the extent of their misery. A close look at the picture could explain what words cannot.

Yemen Times made an effort in trying to take a closer look at the conditions of the people living in Daar Sa'ad. We went to one area called al-Ushosh and started talking to the residents. We headed towards one of those houses where we found some children wearing down-at-heal clothes. Mr. Ali Muhsen, the owner of a small wood cottage,

spoke of their calamities and said "I've lived here since 1991 when I came back from Saudi Arabia and could not find any job. I searched everywhere, however, all to no avail. Then, I bought a wheel carriage and bought some toys and chocolates with the money I saved during my exile, and went selling in the streets to make ends meet. I earn YR 250 as a daily income. However, that could hardly cover my family's most basic needs. I am supporting a family of four children and a wife. In this area almost all the families have similar stories and suffering the same way as me and my family."

Then, we made a short chat with another person named Ahmad bin Ahmad Thabet. He did not allow us to take a picture of him and said "We do not beg any help from whoever. All I can say to whoever is interested in helping us should come to the area and see our situation which is similar to that of the African refugees. Oh no, even worse. At least the conditions of refugees may be better than us in terms of receiving some international aid. I have been living here since 1993 under the mercy of

the suns heat and winter's cold nights. I cannot build a house or buy a plot of land. Hence, this is where I turned to live in. Recently, I was able to find a job in a mechanics workshop for YR 4500 per month. I have a family of two children and a wife. My brother's situation is not at all better than mine. He is a porter. He sometimes works and spends weeks without a job. But we never beg, we continue to live with our dignity."

We asked if they receive any kind of assistance or aid, and he replied, "Sometimes we receive some aid in terms of 'Zakat' during Ramadan from some merchants, but that is all."

When asked whether they receive any assistance from the government, he laughed desperately and said "How can they help us when they are in fact trying hard to drive us out of these lands under the pretext that these houses were built randomly!!"

After a few hours of wandering in the area and chatting with residents and listening to heart-breaking stories, we decided to leave the place, as we realized that we were slowly attracting hundreds of desperate residents, who crowded around us complaining about the government continuous ignorance and neglect. We were told that there were some families with no one to support them, living in absolute poverty eating the leftovers and fearing death from hunger or disease. We were totally shocked and could not talk more.

Later, we headed towards an area called al-Basatin located in the entrance of Aden. The area is surrounded by high and lofty hotels and buildings along the road to Sheikh Othman. Behind these fancy hotels and fine buildings, there was an unpaved road less than 1 km long, leading to al-Basatin, another area full of stories of misery and injustice. The area is inhabited by thousands of Somali Refugees. Near to them there are many Yemeni poor families living in distressed houses and undergoing another challenge of the struggle to survive in the harshest conditions imaginable.

We went to one of these houses and we could only find a woman sitting with some children on the side of the lane. We approached her and informed her of

the purpose of our visit and asked about their conditions. She said, "My husband, my 5 children and I have been living here for ten years in total poverty. My husband is working as a driver for a company with YR 6500 salary per month. I tried to help him by making some ice-cream, which my children would sell to the near-by living Somali refugees, who are in better conditions than ours."

Then we went to a strange cottage that attracted our attention. It was about 2 meters in diameter and we wondered who would live in there. A passing-by boy told us that a lonely old woman was living in that cottage. After a few moments, she came out to tell us that the people of the area cooperated to build this cottage for her. She has nobody to depend upon and nowhere to go, and she had no where to stay until the cottage was built. She survives on what is given to her from the neighboring houses who are suffering from similar conditions, but are still kind enough to offer her some bread and leftovers.

The misery of these people could not be described in words. They are suffering a lot and could hardly survive in such deplorable economic conditions and continuous price increases. It was striking to know that most of those families came back from Gulf countries after the Gulf crisis. They came to their country with no goal but to live peacefully in their homeland, with dignity and pride. However, almost all of them regretted coming back to Yemen from exile.

It is truly saddening to see how these people are living their lives. Aren't they human beings, with rights which are ensured by the constitution and the international conventions of human rights, which Yemen signed and approved not long ago? Their simplest right which is to live and survive is not ensured.

I hope that through this article, we were able to send a clear message to concerned authorities and international humanitarian organizations working in the field of human rights and humanitarian services in Yemen. We hope that they could pay a visit such areas and try to find solid solutions for these people, who continue to suffer every day.

Abdullah Hamoud Al-Izzy

"Zaidiah never respects any movements that slander Islam like Wahabiah."

The Zaidiah movement prevailed throughout most part of the Yemeni history with all its negative and positive sides. It remained on the top of the authority structure but slowly declined after the authority's coalition with the Muslim Brothers Party late in the 70s, and continued to decline sharply after the unification of North and South Yemen in 1990. This coalition with the Muslim Brothers Party late in the 70s limited the Zaidiah supporters' activity. The most important center of Zaidiah is Sa'adah City in the north of Yemen. Hassan Al-Za'edi of Yemen Times interviewed Abdullah Hamoud Al-Izzy who is a distinguished and leading figure of Zaidiah movement. Mr. Al-Izzy, who wrote many books about Zaidiah, is the head of the Justice and Guidance Center for Researches and Studies belonging to this movement in Sa'adah.

Q: Could you give a brief account about the Shiitic Zaidiah movement in Yemen?

A: Lexically, Shiites mean followers or supporters. This meaning of Shiites was mentioned in the Holy Quran. The jargon meaning of Shiites is: followers and supporters of kinfolk of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace and prayers be upon him). The Prophet recommended Muslims to love his kinfolk and follow their example. This recommendation was expressed in many Hadiths. The two most eminent sects of Shiism are the Zaidiah movement and the Imamate. Zaidiah is the most ideal form of Shiism for there is neither exaggeration nor negligence in it. However, Shiism is defamed from inside and outside. This makes people misjudge all sects of Shiism though they are quite different. The truth is that Shiism is well represented by the Zaidiah movement named after Zaid Bin Ali Bin Abi Taleb. Zaid Bin Ali is the founder and pioneering figure of this movement. Affiliation to Zaidiah came as a result of Zaid Bin Ali's preference of the most correct creed of kinfolk of the Prophet in justice, monotheism, punishment, ruling and

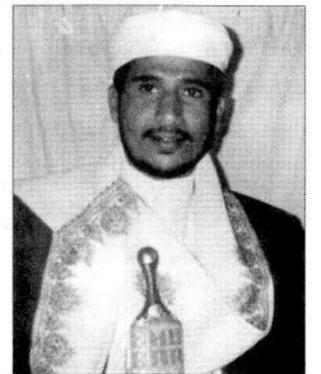
fighting corruption by supporting what is right and forbidding what is wrong. Zaidiah supporters' affiliation to Zaidiah is not like Shafiah supporters' affiliation to Shafiah or the Malekiah supporters' to Malekiah. The latter two movements remained stagnant and did not develop or open to the other sects of Shiism. Affiliation to Zaidiah must be open-minded to other sects and make efforts to understand and interpret the doctrinal writings. Therefore, there are many schools in Zaidiah so that assiduous religious people affiliating to it have an opportunity to state their thoughts and views freely. Shafiah and Malekiah supporters completely abide by the doctrinal writings of Shafii and Maleki without attempting to make efforts to understand or interpret those writings.

Q: Could you give a brief account of Zaidiah in Sa'adah?

A: Sa'adah is the main center of Zaidiah for many reasons. First, many Imams, propagandists and religious men belonging to this sect graduated from Sa'adah. Second, Sa'adah used to be the capital city of the Hadawi State in the 3rd century of Hejira. The New Zaidiah in Sa'adah causes no harm to anybody. Zaidiah supporters in Sa'adah have about 20 Hawzas (corners) in mosques and no less than 90 centers operating in the summer. Besides, in Sa'adah, there are many Zaidiah scholars, researchers such as Magd-Addin Al-Mu'ayadi and Badr-Addin Al-Hoothi who are considered as references for Zaidiah supporters.

Q: Does this mean that the popularity of Zaidiah made the Salafiah supporters rally to establish their own center in Dammaj of Sa'adah? What kind of relationship is there between Zaidiah and Salafiah movements that share the same city as their main center?

A: The activity of Salafiah supporters in Sa'adah is very much limited, specially among the people of the governorate. Most of those who work in their centers are from other governorates or from outside Yemen. However, differences and disputed



have occurred among them and now they are accusing one another of atheism. Mukbel Al-Wadi'i, Salafiah leader, has slandered the thought of Islam and its religious people. There is no relationship between Zaidiah and Salafiah for we never build up any kind of relationship with sects that accuse people of atheism and of originating heresies. Such sects contradict with Islam and its leniency.

Q: What relationship is there between Zaidiah and the other modern Islamic movements in Yemen?

A: It is good with Adli Shafiah and all those movements that give advice, guidance, fight corruption and oppression and believe that man has the right to benefit from the resources of land. However, Zaidiah never respects any movements that slander Islam like Wahabiah. Not only that, but it also counteracts with them.

Q: How does Zaidiah view governing a country?

A: In Zaidiah, ruling a country of state is considered a supreme authority that must be headed by the most qualified, most knowledgeable, and pious people who are politically keen. Moreover, it must be based on shourah and the teachings of Islam that are mentioned in the Holy Quran and Hadiths of the Prophet (SAS). The ruler must administer justice, keep promises, pacts and treaties, fight corruption, seek the interest of people and the country.

Q: How does Zaidiah view democracy?

A: It supports, propagates the kind of democracy that is derived from Islamic principles and concepts and that ensures the people's rights. However, Zaidiah totally rejects biased and hollow democracy of the west.

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Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet

I. What to Say

Posting a letter

Nagi: Oh dear.
Salman: What happened?
Nagi: What else? I forgot to post the letter. And tomorrow is a Friday. It's a postal holiday.
Salman: Is it an urgent letter?
Nagi: Yes. I'm writing to Manchester University, in the U.K for sending me the details and a copy of the application form. I want to seek admission into the MBA course there.
Salman: When is the last date for receipt of completed application by them?
Nagi: It's the first week of February.
Salman: Are you sending the letter by ordinary post or getting it registered?
Nagi: No I shall send it by registered post with Acknowledgment due.
Salman: That's safe, although it would be expensive.
Nagi: Well, I don't mind the expenses considering the urgency of the letter.
Salman: Then I guess, you can send it by a good courier. It may be more expensive still; but it would reach the destination fastest. You can save some time. Moreover, some couriers work on Friday mornings.
Nagi: That's a brilliant idea. Will you be free in the morning to accompany me?
Salman: Yes. We'll go together. One of my friends works in one of the most efficient courier companies here. I'll phone him right away to find out the details.
Nagi: That would, indeed, be excellent.

II. How to say it correctly?

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

- Supposing if he misses the bus, will he come back?
- Both Raydan and Walid are not in Sana'a
- He is equally honest as his brother
- You are neither happy with your friends nor you are happy with yours relatives.
- All is not right that is expedient.

Answers to last week's questions:

- Everybody likes him **because** he is intelligent.
- I was reading the newspaper **when** Najib came to me.
- Both Zia **and** Ridhwan are beautiful.
or
Zia **as well as** Ridhwan is beautiful.

- Two weeks have passed **since** I saw him.
- I took the medicine **so that/ in order that** I might get well.

III. How to express it in one word.

- Region having not enough rainfall to support vegetation.
- Government by persons of the highest social rank.
- Science of numbers
- Branch of an army that uses big guns
- Skilled workman in industry or trade.

Answers to last week's questions:

- Study of ancient monuments: **archaeology**
- Language which has lost currency of its use: **archaic**
- A group of small islands: **archipelago**
- Person who draws plans for buildings: **architect**
- Place for keeping old historical records: **archives**

IV. Complete these sentences. Each time use one of the following words with a preposition.

rely listen look live laughing
glanced paid happened

- She's very old and can't live alone. She needs some one to — her.
- I haven't seen Mujahed for ages. I wonder what's — him.
- You must — this song. You'll love it.
- I — the newspaper to see if there was anything interesting in it.
- When you went to the theater with Abdul, who — the tickets?
- It's not a very good bus service. You can't — it.
- What are you — ? I don't understand what's funny.

Answers to last week's questions.

- Look into** (to investigate) The police are looking into the case.
- Look for** (to search for) I am looking for my glasses.
- Look at** (see, observe) Look at the beautiful scenery.
- Look + adjective:** You look handsome in this dress.
- Look like:** He looks like an army officer in his uniform.
- Look forward to** (eagerly wait for) I look forward to seeing you soon.

V. Words of Wisdom

"We should look to the mind,
and not to the outward appearance"

The Challenge of Globalization and Yemeni Universities



Dr. Murari Prasad
Faculty of Education
Sa'adah

A university, like other institutions of a society, is a meaningful social arrangement. It does not exist in a vacuum. Diverse pressures exert upon it to make it relevant to the needs of the society to which it owes its existence, to influence its operative standards and determine its agenda. Predictably enough, universities in order to remain as living institutions have to accommodate shifts of emphasis signified by the wider society. Thus the demand of accommodation is not invariant; it is context-specific. For example, it will be invidious to compare the range of concerns and scale of functions of a Yemeni university with those of a university in America or Britain; however the degree of social commitment in each case should certainly be seen in relative terms with reference to their unique constitutive factors, their respective human and material resources, norms and values. Now, with the rapid pace of globalization the universities of the Third World have had to cope with the increasing homogenizing trend and at the same time remain native to the soil. What scenario does globalization unfold for Yemeni universities? What trends and possibilities does it portend? In other words, how will Yemeni universities, like others of their ilk, re-define their pattern of growth? Admittedly, current university system developed as a Western enterprise. The organized centers of learning that existed in India, Egypt or China suffered prolonged disruptions with the passage of time and could not be revived with viable form and function in sync with modern times. In contrast, the medieval universities of Europe did not die out or close lock, stock and barrel; they made required transitions to their latter-day models, e.g., the University of Paris, Oxford and Cambridge. In most of the Third World countries we have the 19th century model of European universities while in some the American variant evolved in the 20th century has been preferred. But in spite of the variations of the model, the third world universities are by and large placed altogether differently from their Western counterparts in respect of funding and facilities, form and function as well as in their goals and objectives. The circumstances surrounding them go a long way towards influencing their choice of academic and research programs. It does not mean, however, that they should cut loose from larger forces at work. In fact, the extraordinary momentum of globalization spawned by information revolution has enabled the third world universities, too, to access new veins of knowledge with a fresh crop

of possibilities. But a majority of them do not have the wherewithal — at least as yet — to go global. Unlike state-of-the-art institutions of the West or well-funded colleges and universities of Japan, South Korea, or the Gulf, most of our universities including those in Yemen have to depend on state funding which always falls short of the basic fiscal obligations stretched by rising enrollment, wider catchment area and infrastructural shortages. Further, they are hamstrung on and off by financial cuts and have to husband scarce resources. It is odds-on that both expansion of education and schemes for innovation are under great strain.

Nevertheless, the question of ensuring equity of access to higher education without diluting the commitment to excellence and innovation needs to be addressed. How can it be sensibly done? Surely, Yemeni universities need to be hooked up to global alliances for assured enrichment of intellectual capital. To see that the concern for certification and institutional focus marry up they have to use their resources with care and imagination. Expansion of access, particularly when large swathes of disadvantaged sections including women are to be covered, entails liberal financial support. Usually, government-financed universities, where education is already heavily subsidized, remain too cash-strapped to spare substantial resources by way of some kind of affirmative action to increase intake of students from poor background. Private universities in Yemen can take some independent initiative to open bursaries for means-tested students. Of course, they are not wealthy establishments like the cash-rich institutions in the Gulf, but they are relatively better-off on the strength of reliable income generation by running various programs and extending their patronage. Government-run universities are doing the job to the extent they can but they need to be supplemented by other agencies.

A re-arrangement of some kind whereby social equity may be promoted through education is called for. Also, it will eventually pave the way for research output without which Yemeni universities will lack institutional focus. It is true that these universities are still an extension of high school system, but it is also true that they can't leapfrog over social realities to join the league of their developed counterparts. Given the situation as it is, these universities will have to wait for some time for industrial linkages, research parks, patents and intellectual property rights bureaus, and other accompaniments of globalization. It is not merely the case of Yemeni universities alone; only a handful of universities in the entire Third World can claim to have attracted industry and research-based companies, and globalized their operations. It requires a supportive synergy including the pattern of investment,

industrial base and state of the economy. As of now, the foremost task is to organize self-reliant faculty and infrastructure for dissemination of higher education. Faculty represents wealth and knowledge which can be exploited to benefit both faculty and university financially. These universities have to depend still on a large number of expatriate teaching staff. On the scale of priorities, indigenous faculty should be trained to reduce dependence on migrant expertise. Of course, a selective recourse to such recruitments is desirable in the frontiers of some disciplines. But by and large, the indigenous base must be strong enough to sustain the educational needs.

Since new technology and knowledge is sprouting up all over, these universities have to do useful finetuning in their system. They have to re-orient themselves to assimilate new changes at least by slow degrees. Professional and job-oriented courses need to get priority otherwise the mismatch between demand and supply will widen.

Since different faculties or colleges in Yemeni universities are the centers of academic life and enjoy some measure of small scale academic autonomy corporate identity, facilities around them need to be updated to raise the skill and ambition of students. Yemeni students are motivated, keen and eager to learn, but the edge of their curiosity is apt to be dulled if study aids are in short supply. I imagine all the faculties are equipped with the computer but this device is yet to become an information appliance with a breed of net-surfers and cybersquatters on the campuses.

To enable the drop-outs, stragglers and low-performers a program of continuing education may come in handy and in the long run scale up the educational profile. Academic links can be forged with relatively developed universities to train manpower by roping in entrepreneurs to run distance education programs. How to manage the change is undoubtedly a daunting challenge, but no system can turn the corner if it is allowed to muddle through on its own.

As Mark Twain, the well-known American writer, described cauliflower somewhere, it is "nothing but cabbage with a college education." Considering the confidence created and changes in attitudes and perceptions introduced by college education the remark is quite cogent. Good college education does help us to shed our cabbageness as well as to construct a new social identity. Yemeni students have a lot of promise and potential. With the universities evolving into vibrant institutions in tune with their aspirations, there is no reason why they should not flower into fullness. So far Yemeni universities have done well. They are capable of delivering the goods in the future, too, provided they meet the challenge head-on.

YOUTH FORUM

Let's Get Ourselves Writing

Writing is a silent way of communication. It translates people's ideas and thoughts into understandable words. It also is an art and a wonderful skill which many people admire and are fond of. Writing has three distinguished features; it is done alone; it makes no noise; and it can be done anywhere. These features make writing even more effective as well as attractive. This skill should be done and done before it is completely learnt. It should start from the simple to the

complex in chronological order. We all should give ourselves a specific time a day for writing. An hour every night may be enough. We should write about anything and every thing. We write about ourselves, our countries, our friends and dreams. Sometimes there is nothing to write about. That is not an excuse. OK, start like this: "Today there is nothing in my mind to write about and keep going until you are completely persuaded with what you have written. Write about everything in your life,

about a view you have seen, every dream you have dreamt. Write about your experiences and feelings. Plough your thoughts and ideas and turn them upside down. Write from as deep inside yourself as you can reach. Try to find the truth inside yourself and write about it. Don't be like some people who ask silly questions such as: "I want to be a writer, but how?" I have only a-one word answer to this question: "You write!" is the answer. **Foad Abdul Karim al-Sabri Taiz**



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English Usage: RSVP

Sivadasan,
Department of English,
Ibb University

You get a wedding invitation. Should you send a reply to it? No. If you intend to participate, no need of sending a reply. But, if the person to be married is a close friend of yours, it is desirable to ring up and congratulate him. In case your friend is far away, writing a letter to congratulate him/her is also common if telephone facility is not available. Expressing your gratitude for the invitation or a message of personal greetings can be the content of your letter or phone call. If you cannot participate in the wedding, it is quite advisable to send a reply to the invitation. Ready-made cards with different designs and epigrams are available these days and you can choose one from the stationers. Invitations may be on different occasions like birthday, formal meetings,

welcome/farewell party, etc. Informal invitations are exempted here as they largely depend on the personal relations between the sender and the receiver. Formal invitations in English tend to have R.S.V.P. inscribed at the bottom. It is the short form of a French expression, 'repondez sil vous plait' which means 'Please reply'. This helps the organizers to know the exact number of participants in the party, especially when it is conducted in a hotel or auditorium. The reply of the invitees in response to R.S.V.P. will help the organizers to arrange the accommodation, food, etc for the participants. In the western countries R.S.V.P. and its reply are very strictly followed. In very formal occasions, where VIP's participate, seats are arranged with the cards in which names of the participants are written and you can sit only where your name is written. For such parties, the invitations must have R.S.V.P. and the participants must send the reply to it. Very rarely, on some occasions, they

use 'Regrets only' instead of R.S.V.P. at the bottom of the invitation, and in this case the organizers expect the reply only from a recipient who is unable to participate. The present day high-tech culture, owing to the fast global communication network, makes you understand and follow the convenient and economic manners in your language as well. At a time when the communication gap between the people become zero while using English, the widely accepted language of communication, you cannot afford to be ignorant of this common mannerism in our daily life. A general example of accepting a formal invitation can be: 'Mr. and Mrs. Ahmed accept with pleasure the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Hameed for Friday evening' and declining a formal invitation can be: 'Mr. and Mrs. Ahmed deeply regret that a previous engagement makes them unable to accept the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Hameed for Friday evening'.

Barat - A Yemeni Region Where Mountains Walk

Irena Knehtl

... Traveling across earth wadies and deserts, here I am dusty, unkempt... (from Lyrics from Arabia)

I have been visiting the Barat region at the outskirts of Al-Rub Al-Khali (Empty Quarter) for a span of five years. This is not such a long time when one thinks in terms of relationships to places and people. But we seem to get along. In the past Barat used to be the brown and dusty, Barat without rain. But last time after substantial rains, it glared in the sun and looked happy... That day when we were travelling on the road to Barat, the wind carried around Sanaa the fresh scent of Apricots. As we advanced even the stars were without their usual whisper, and familiarity... Geography is often destiny. Southern Arabia with its volcanic mountains seems fortified from the rest of the Arabian Peninsula. The north eastern region from Sanaa is half desert, covered with low bushes, and barren mountains. Farming is possible only

in narrow valleys. On the way, larger markets and graveyards are protected by mud walls. Zebur is the name of the building style all along the eastern region. Jawf virtually surrounds mans most unfriendly desert, the Rub Al-Khali.

On the way, pieces of pottery and the remains of a forgotten city lies forever buried in the sand. What happened in between? A long sleep, an endless eastern pause. One does not talk of humans, they are here the most inconsequential beings. Even time here has two faces, the length in the rhythm of the sun, and the depth in the rhythm of passion.

Perhaps, I can explain how one gets there. First drive to the town of Houth in the north, and then straight east across the fertile Wadi Soufian. One first reaches Marashi then moves up to the mountains of Barat. Somewhere along the way everything changes, vegetation, houses, faces of people. It takes a good 10 hours drive to Barat. This then is the place of man's unavoidable meetings with destiny of nature: houses, mosques, towers, simply grow off the ground. Thus its inhabitants have created one of the most unusual cultures on the Arab

Peninsula.

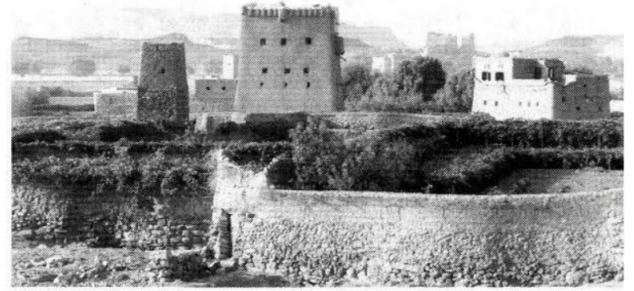
Houses are the most striking features of this region. They are in all shapes, and colors: square, round, towers: four to six stories high skyscrapers. Colors are the most decorative device: red or blue, with accompanying white straps surround windows, and doors. Houses are decorated also from inside, steps, and rooms. Flat roofs decorate gray and white triangular motives. Most houses have small vegetable gardens. The building of houses in Barat is an art. They are exist in anyone's childhood dream. However, Barati dreams still sleep under the same roof: how to keep their future in their own hands. Markets in Suq al-Enan and Rajua offer wheat and barely, dry fruits, animal fat, sweet dates, grapes, raisins, almonds, tea with the taste of mint, sugar, coffee, fresh vegetables, etc.. Here flavors are too strong, they smell to intense, and the contrasts are much too extreme.

Barat is home to the two oldest Arab tribes: Dhu Mohammed and Dhu Hussein. From these mountains came soldiers who during the founding of the Islamic State conquered vast territories for Islam and settled in such far away places as Syria, Morocco,

Andalusia, and Malta. They also played an important role during the events of the Yemeni 26th September revolution. In the modern Republic of Yemen they are an important source of armed strength.

The tribesman of Dhu Mohammed are farmers who rely on rainfall for their cultivation of wheat and vegetables. When rains became scarce they migrate to the Southern, greener places such as Ibb. Migration is inevitable. Some Baratis, though have established themselves as successful merchants in the Emirates, Qatar, and in Saudi Arabia where they are valued for their capabilities. Barat is above all an old place where people have settled for a long time. They live here because this is the land of their forefathers and their fathers before them.

Modern times are different. The building of essential infrastructure and provision of services, how to play a role and contribute to local, national and in turn to regional economy are now issues of vital importance. The challenge here is to make modern times an instrument of opportunity and inclusion, not fear and insecurity. Rural areas such as Barat need first to think about quality and quantity of food



supply, roads for commerce, clothes to wear, power to light their houses, and the irrigation of their lands in order to make life more comfortable. They will need capital for factories to produce soaps, and yarn, and packaging plants for their dates. Pride after all comes from living work.

Witnessing the awakening of the east is an intensive moment of excitement, enthusiasm and doubt. Here are unfinished revolutions, dreams, hopes, disappointments, loves, sorrows, sadness and so many things one would want to have different.

Unusual glamorous sunsets turning over to the darkness interwoven with

light, golden, brown sun lines on their skies send, Baratis after saying their evening prayers, into the night dreaming. Curious children and blue mountains mirror from behind. I viewed it from a place where the wind carried small rare white blossoms. As in a dream everything used to be simple and clear. We breath their air, their scent, their strength. It was a rare moment, and I did not want to interrupt it as long as it was untouched in order to receive it untouched back once again.

"Farewell" they said.
"Farewell" we whispered.

THE BRITISH IN ADEN: Oral history projects records memories of colonial times

Karen Dabrowska

An oral history project recording the memories of Yemenis and British people who lived in Aden during colonial times will ensure that both colonizers and colonized are given the opportunity to tell their side of the story and provide a balanced account for posterity.



The queen in Aden

The British occupation of Aden, which lasted from 1839 - 1967 left a mixed legacy. Although the period of colonial rule ended in violence, the British bequeathed an impressive bureaucratic infrastructure which the local people continue to admire. Many Yemenis speak affectionately about the British and the British who served in Aden look back fondly on those years.

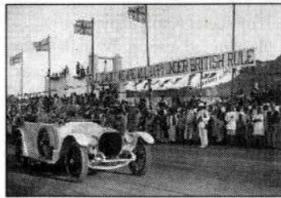
The London-based Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) proposed the oral history project after a British parliamentary delegation visited Yemen in 1996. Support was forthcoming from both the British ambassador in Yemen and the Yemeni ambassador in Britain. Maria Holt, CAABU's Special Projects Officer and Chris Morton CAABU's Administrative Officer who served with the British Army in Aden during the 60s, have already interviewed 30 British people - diplomats, employees of BP and the Aden Port Authority, medical personnel, teachers and British wives - about their experiences in Aden. One former British soldier admitted that if he were a Yemeni he would be throwing bombs at the colonizers.

'We have an interview with the last British official to step on the plane in 1967', Morton told The Yemen Times emphasizing that the British interviewees still have an underlying passion for Aden. 'There are feelings of great affection for Aden. I remember saying I wanted to returned when I got back

to England'.

The next step is to conduct roughly the same number of interviews with Yemenis in Aden.

Holt is determined to present all sides of the story. 'We hope to correct distortions. The British have strong memories and I am sure the Yemenis will have strong memories and their perspective is bound to be very interesting. We are recording their views. It is a non-judgmental exercise and we will not be reaching any conclusions about who is right and who is wrong. We want to find out what life was like on a day to day basis during the colonial period'.



"Tell daddy that you are happy under British rule" is what is on the sign

CAABU is co-operating with the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol which is conducting an oral history project for the entire British Empire. A final report will be produced and the BBC may make a program based on the interviews.

Maria Holt was CAABU's information officer between 1990 - 96 and is currently completing a Phd on Islam Women & Violence at York University. She has published a book on Women in Palestine and has written extensively about women in the Arab world, especially Lebanon and Yemen.

Chris Morton served as an officer in the Royal Oman Navy between 1980 - 86. During the 1990s he worked as a development officer for the South African Rugby Union, developing rugby in the black townships.

CAABU was formed after the 1967 Middle East war, when a questionnaire revealed that 98 per cent of the British public had no knowledge of the Arab world. There was a clear need to present the Arab perspective and thus advance understanding between the Arab and British peoples. CAABU has sympathy for the aspirations, achievements and rights of the Arab peoples, especially the Arabs of Palestine. The council believes that a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict would open the way to rapid development and social progress for all countries of the Middle East.

Any Yemenis interested in taking part in the oral history project are very welcome to contact Maria Holt at: mariaholt@yahoo.com

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- قطع مثبته من المعدن الصلب بالكامل
- شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ
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- قطع مثبته من المعدن الصلب بالكامل
- شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ
- ملحقات قياسية
- (ناعم، متوسط، خشن وملحقة التكية)
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- ملحقات مطبوعة بطريقتين رطب، ونشأف
- شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ بعمر طويل
- قاعدة الوعاء قابلة للانفصال
- المحرك لا يحترق بفضل قاطع الدائرة

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جديد

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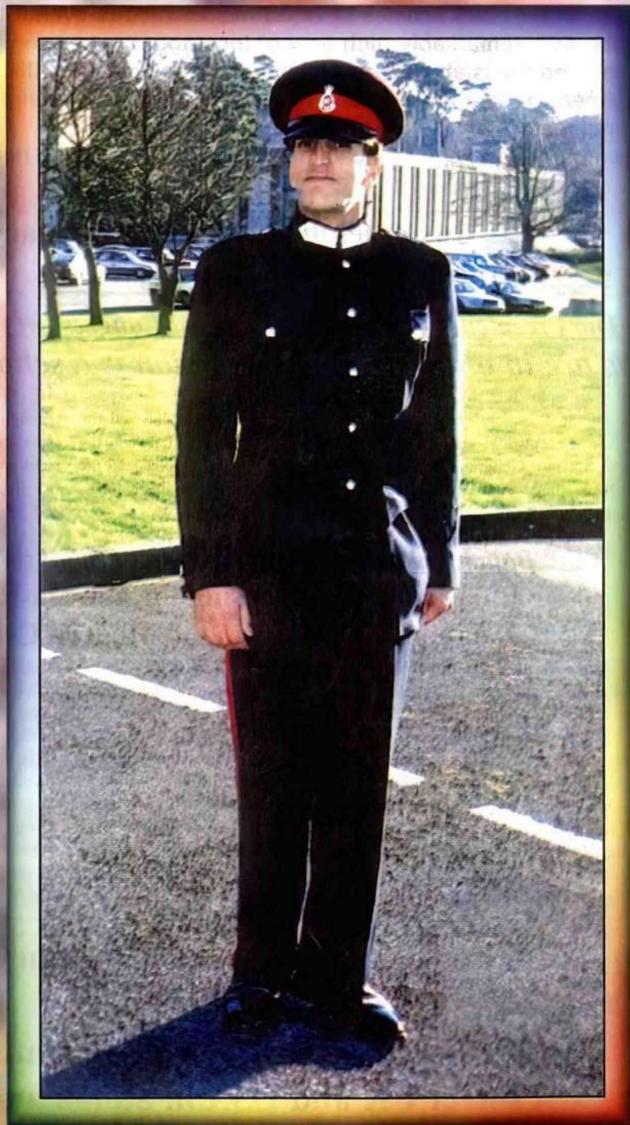
- صنع في اليابان
- وعاء من الزجاج النقي، ١٠٠٠ امل
- ٢ وظائف في جهاز واحد (عصارة، خلط ومفرمة)
- منزل من المعدن الصلب بالكامل
- شفرة قطع من الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ بعمر طويل
- قاعدة الوعاء قابلة للانفصال
- المحرك لا يحترق بفضل قاطع الدائرة



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Our warm congratulations to
captain
Am'ar Mohammed Abdullah Saleh
 on the occasion of his
 conspicuous graduation,
 holding his B.A in Military
 Sciences from
Royal Military Academy
at Sant Hurst - Britain
with excellent grade
 in "001" batch of officers
 graduation. We wish him more
 success and prosperity in his
 practical life.

Yours ever,

Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh
 Engineer. Mohammed Abdul Khalek al-Tuloo
 Engineer. Jalal Mohammed Raskhan
 Khalid Mohammed al-Khalidi
 Mohammed Bahjat
 Fathi al-Uthri
 Mohammed Zabarah
 Abdulaziz al-Ansi
 Hazem al-Shawhati

Brigadier General Mohammed Abdullah al-Qawsi
 Hisham Amin Hashem
 Yasser al-Eryani
 Dr. Has'san al-Eryani
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 Wadhah Ba-Sunduwah
 Sabri Hasan Yasin
 Khalid al-Dhab'i



Press Scanner

Most local newspapers were not published during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday, and hence it was noticeable that news resources were scarce during last week. However, as the eid ended, some newspapers resumed publication. Most newspapers concentrated on the explosions that took place in Aden City last week. The focal points of Aden-based newspapers were the explosions that affected the Saba news Agency building and the Angelic Church of Aden and the developments in the investigation of the USS Cole incident. Other news articles covered miscellaneous events that happened in Eid Al-Fitr such as a remarkably high flow of local tourism to Aden. Government newspapers covered the Islah General Meeting that took place on the third of January. Most newspapers gave a lot of space to world and international events such as Middle East crisis, etc.

Here we highlight the main headline stories in some of the newspapers of last week.



26 September, Thursday January 4, 2001
(Military forces weekly):

The President in the Second General Congress of the Islah Party:

"We are in one ship, and the nation is a school we learn at"

The newspaper had its headline story on the President's address at the first exceptional meeting of Islah's Second General Congress that took place last Wednesday January 3. The paper brought

excerpts from the speech of the president, in which he emphasized the "strategic" partnership between the PGC and Islah, and emphasized the importance of living with democracy as a way of life.

He was quoted saying, "Even though some may not accept democracy, and find it difficult to cope with, it has become an essential part of life, and it would be much worse not to have democracy at all."

Bajammal to Visit Moscow at the End of this Month

Bajammal: "Rephrasing the Yemeni-Russian Relationship According to Modern Criteria"

The second front-page article was about the Foreign Minister, Bajammal's upcoming visit at the end of this month to Russia, in which he is expected to discuss ways of enhancing the bilateral relationship between Yemen and Russia. The newspaper quoted Bajammal saying that his visit is going to prepare for the president's visit to Russia to discuss mutual cooperation

in all levels.

According to the newspaper, one of the suspects in the explosions that rocked Aden City last week was arrested. The arrested suspect, Nasser Hawadh Al-Shaiba is thought to be involved along with two others in plotting the bombs that exploded near the Angelic Church. The newspaper quoted Interior Minister, Hussein Arab, saying that investigations

are underway as there would be intensifying efforts to bring the ones who planned and carried out the attack to justice. He also mentioned that investigations in the USS Cole incident are still underway and that the investigating team that arrived to the scene after the incident would be coming back to perform further investigations in cooperation with the Yemeni police authorities.



Al-Ra'i Al-Aam, January 2, 2001
(Independent Weekly)

Special Security Arrangements to Protect UK and USA in Sanaa and Aden

The newspaper provided striking information about tight local security and extra measures around UK and USA interests in Yemen. According

to the paper, police vehicles and personnel are spread around the UK and USA embassies and their consulates in Sanaa and Aden. It also indicated

that heavy security forces are protecting the Gold Mohr Hotel in Aden, in which the US investigation units are staying.

Justice System Suffers from Shortage in Qualified Judges and Legal Personnel as Students Refrain from Studying Law

The paper stated that reliable sources from the General Attorney indicated a shortage in the number of qualified judges and legal personnel and consultants as students in universities

prefer not to study law at the university due to many reasons of which the financial aspect is the strongest. The source continued to assume that the limited budget of the General

Attorney and the Legal Sector of the government is the main reason behind the discouraged students who turn into more profitable and promising careers.

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Al-Ayyam, Wednesday January 3, 2001,
(Independent tri-weekly):

After 3 explosions rocking the city of Aden, Abdulkarim Shaif, the deputy assistant of Aden Governorate to Al-Ayyam:

"We are with the call of all heavenly religions to live together in peace as Islam encourages us to do that"

The newspaper's main headline focuses on the late 3 explosions that rocked the city of Aden on Monday and Tuesday January 1-2. In its main headline, it focuses on the statements of Abdulkarim Shaif, the Deputy Assistant of Aden Governorate, who mentioned that efforts to capture the ones behind the

incident are intensifying. He stressed that such an ugly act is not to be tolerated as he would not allow the bombing of any worshiping house of non-Muslims in Yemen just as much as Muslim would not accept mosques abroad to be bombed.

In another main article, Al-Ayyam

said, "Even though the explosion did not cause casualties, it resulted in a huge hole in the ground with a diameter of 4 meters." The article said that the explosions targeted Aden Continental Hotel, the Angelic Church, and the Saba News Agency building in a time the New Year celebrations had ended.



Al-Thawra, Friday January 5, 2001
(official daily)

"President Ali Abdullah Saleh among the most Prominent Arab Personalities in the year 2000"

The main headline story was about the nomination of President Ali Abdullah Saleh among the most prominent Arab Personalities by the survey results of the Saudi Okaz newspaper and the Regional Ahram Institute for Journalism. The president, according to the article, was elected among 1,500 other nominees representing the most influential and

prominent Arab figures in the year 2000.

The article also said that the survey results stated that the two most important events of the year were the Palestinian Intifada and the Yemeni-Saudi border agreement. The newspaper indicated that President was selected because he was to accomplish many achieve-

ments in the local arena in enhancing democracy, human rights and freedom of press in the country. It also indicated that the president was able to settle the border issue with Yemen's brotherly neighbor and strong stand in the support of the Palestinian cause towards building its own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Follow-up Arab Committee Decides: Holding on to the Right of the Return of Refugees and Authority over the Holy Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem

The paper gave importance in its front page to the resolutions that came out of the Arab Meeting of 9 Arab Foreign Ministers attended

by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat that took place last Thursday. The paper focused on the overall results of the summit that support-

ed the Palestinian position in regards to the right of the return of Palestinian refugees and the city of Jerusalem.

Total Lunar Eclipse Next Tuesday:

Eclipse Starts at Sunset and Ends at nine in the Evening

The paper stated on its first page that a total eclipse of the moon would be visible on the 9th of this month in Yemen, and could be observed from

sunset to 9:00 pm.

The eclipse's exact time and date were given by the Astronomy League of the Emirates Heritage

Club, which indicated that the moon would be covered totally at around 6:49 pm tomorrow (Tuesday October 9th.)



Al-Wahdah, January 3, 2001
(Official weekly)

Awadh Continue their Sit-in Requesting the Approval of Radman as a Separate Province

The newspaper's main headline was about the continuing sit-in of the 300 members of the Al Awadh tribe, representing sheikhs and citizens from the Radman region. The protesters demanded the reverting of the deci-

sion of not making Radman a separate province. The group sent a letter to the President and another letter to the Prime Minister demanding that their region be formally considered a province and see this as a legitimate

cause that should be fulfilled. The group continued their sit-in until the time of printing the issue and attracted attention from the government, but it is still unknown whether their demand would be met or not.

Violations in the Tihama Development Committee Unveiled

Al-Wahdah's second headline was about the violations that were discovered in the Tihama Development Committee, and that were noted by the memo issued by the Minister of Finance, Alawi Al-Salami. The

memo described the financial transactions to be full of corruption and clear violations.

The newspaper indicated that the Minister's stand in demanding a clarification of the violations in the

management and financial aspects of the project were raised after several visits to the project that seems to have been going from bad to worse over the last months.

البقاء لله

ببالغ الحزن تلقينا نبأ وفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى

حرم الشيخ محمد عمر بامشموس

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدهم الفقيده بواسع رحمته

وأن يلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

وليد عبد العزيز السقاف

رئيس تحرير صحيفة يمن تايمز

A Search For Justice.



On October 12, 2000, terrorists in a boat attacked the USS Cole in the harbor at Aden, Yemen. This attack killed 17 U.S. sailors and wounded over 30 others. To bring to justice those responsible for this attack, the U.S. Government is offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction of those persons who committed or aided in the attack on the USS Cole.

The U.S. Government has already paid millions of dollars to individuals who provided information that resulted in the arrest of someone who attempted or committed a terrorist act against U.S. persons or property. Some of the individuals who provided such information have had their identities

changed and been relocated with their families.

Individuals providing such information may be eligible for a reward of up to \$5 million, protection of identities, and relocation with their families. If you have information, contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, or write:

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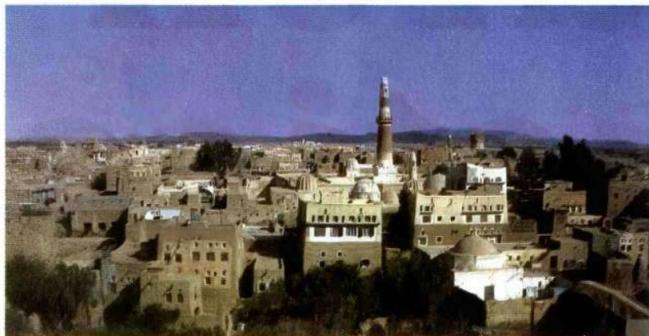
Vacant Space for Your Ad

Sa'adah, Outstanding Historical & Archeological Heritage - PART 1

The Governorate of Sa'adah lies in the north of the Republic of Yemen, bordering Saudi Arabia, 243 km from Sana'a. It has a variety of topography: high mountains to the north and west such as Khawlan, Baqim and Razeh mountain, 2800 km above sea level, which are linked to the Huma'ah range of mountains. In Razeh mountain range, Jabal Huram has the highest peak, with Jabal Al-Nadheer, Jabal Qal'a Sahar and Jabal al-Sama'a the next highest peaks (on Sama'a there is a castle built by Imam Ahmad which is located parallel to al-Sinarah Castle to the west). The Hamdan ben Zain mountains range between 2,000-2,800 meters high. The mountain ranges are intersected by a number of Wadis., the most important of which are wadi Saqain, Nushour, Badr, Dhamd and Alaf as well as Wadi Abdayayn at khaniq Strait, where there are remains of the Himyarite Khaniq Dam built in the 9th century AD and still in existence today.

Sa'adah flat land (Qa'a):

The flatlands of Sa'adah are amongst the most fertile in Yemen with farmers growing black grapes, pomegranate, peaches, apricots, figs and other fruits at high altitudes (1800 meters above sea level), one of the highest flatlands in Yemen. The area is enclosed by Juma'a and Ghamar mountains from the north and west and Sahar mountains from the



south, while from the east, there are the Hamdan mountains.

Eastern Sa'adah:

High mountains and desert characterize this part of the governorate, with a number of valley streams flowing through to the Empty Quarter Desert.

Climate:

The climate of Sa'adah is generally moderate in summer with the temperature ranging from 16-26 degrees C and cold during winter with temperatures ranging from 16-0 degrees C during the night and early morning.

Population activities:

Most of the inhabitants of Sa'adah are engaged in agriculture and raising livestock with a minority working as craftsmen and traders.

Handicrafts:

Sa'adah is famous for its good-quality iron, traces of which can be seen in various parts of the governorate. Some of its people still work in the mining of iron-ore from the mountains. They melt it in primitive furnaces to make tools, due to its high-quality, and despite the availability of imported iron in the markets. Dagger blades from Sa'adah were sought after. The iron is also used in the manufacture of ploughs and leather tanning tools. Other handicrafts include: leather goods and ornaments. Sa'adah is an important center for silver jewelry. Sa'adah is also famous for domestic utensils made from palm leaves and clay. The residents of Sa'adah are very skillful in the making of kitchen-ware from stone extracted from the Razeh quarries. Such stones are called Harradh and the utensils made from these stones

are very popular and called "al-Maqla al-Sa'di, al-Hardha al-Sa'diyya" meaning Sa'adah frying pan.

Markets:

There are a number of weekly markets held in different parts of the governorate on different days, the most important being al-Talh, 10 km to the north of Sa'adah, which is held every Saturday and is one of the biggest markets in Yemen.

Architectural style:

Sa'adah architecture is unique to the city and the surrounding area and is dominated by the adobe structures. Al-Hadi mosque, dates back to the 9th century, is one of the oldest and most beautiful mosques in Yemen. It contains tombs and domes, the most important of which is the tomb of al-Hadi Yahia Bin al-Hussain, founder of the al-Zaidi dynasty in the 9th century. Al-Hadi and other mosques in Sa'adah are used for theological studies, which give the city an academic aura comparable to that of Sana'a, Zabid, Tarim, Dhamar and Djibla. In the mosque there are several references talking about the history of the region and Islam. Sa'adah Muslim graveyard, located close to the city's gate, is unique in that the stones are engraved with the names of the deceased, the date of death, his virtues, prayers and verses from the holy Qura'an and sometimes some poetry.

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 Preferably Graduate with Commerce back ground and hands on experience of bookkeeping, banking, stores management and general correspondence are some of the pre-requisites. Familiarity with PC is a must. Although, age and sex are no bars, but preferred age shall be below 35 years. Possible location is Aden. Position requires two references.

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Successful Operation on an 8-day-old Baby in Aden

In the Jumhuria Hospital of Aden, Specialized Consultant Doctor, Abdulhameed Ali bin Ali Shukri successfully carried out a historic operation on an 8-day-old Yemeni baby boy. The operation's objective was to split and remove a huge tumor suspending through a hole in the skull and containing brain liquid and Encephalocle components. Little Hameed Taleb Mohamed suffered for eight days from the tumor, which was larger in size than the head, and which was attached to the skull of the baby since birth. Yemen Times was there in the operating room during the delicate process of removing the tumor from the skull, and witnessed the happy ending of the successful operation and the waking up of the baby happy and healthy afterwards. A few days after the day of operation, Yemen Times met Dr. Abdulhameed who said with a smile, "Thanks to God, we are delighted that the operation was successful. This type of operations has a success rate of 76% averaged throughout the world. The operation was carried out with the participation of Dr. Noshad Sraryu, and we are happy to tell you that the baby is steadily improving since the operation. I continue to monitor the case of the baby up close and make sure there are no complications or deviation in the nervous system after the operation. This medical operation is only second to a similar operation carried out by completely Yemeni medical team, which was able to perform the operation in Aden Hospital more than a year ago. On another level, Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Othman, a consultant doctor specialized in operating on the brain and nervous system added to the earlier remarks of Dr. Abdulhameed, "We thank God for the great success of the operation, which indicates that we indeed have qualified Yemeni doctors who can rise to the occasion and successfully operate such difficult cases. There are many Yemeni doctors with high skills and knowledge and have the potential to rank high in the world only if they were given a little more encouragement and support from the government. I do however thank Yemen Times for its noble role in following up our successful operation, hoping that it would continue to do so in the future, and would serve as an example for other newspapers to follow." Finally, the joyful father of the baby, Taleb Mohamed said, said "I thank all the doctors who participated in the operation, as they have done their utmost to ensure the safety of my son. I also believe that my son wouldn't have stayed alive if it was not for God's mercy first and the great efforts of the doctors second. I call upon the government to honor those doctors for their noble roles and distinguished efforts."

Yemen Times Aden

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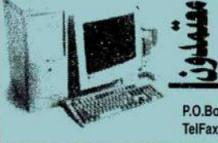
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