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Public opposes US presence

By YT Staff
Yemen's public rejects any presence of American troops, according to an informal Yemen Times internet survey. CNN reported last week a deployment to Yemen is imminent, in the form of not more than 100 special security force personnel. "A small number of US special forces, perhaps fewer than 100, could be dispatched to Yemen relatively soon to train their Yemeni counterparts to find terrorists, a U.S. military official said" the news organization reported. The news was followed by warnings from several Yemeni spokesmen, who condemned any idea of having US troops deployed here under any circumstances and pretexts. Yemen had been under continuous pressure by the US to help it hunt down al-Qaeda suspects named by the FBI. Among the suspects being chased here are al-Ahdal and al-

Harethi, who are still at large despite an intensive search by Yemeni security officials. Yemen has been trying to clean up its image as a haven for Islamic militants after speculations it could be part of a second phase of the U.S. war on terrorism. Sana'a launched a manhunt in December for suspected al Qaeda backers, in the first military operation against the group outside Afghanistan, where a U.S.-led military campaign is being conducted to flush out bin Laden and his followers.



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Poor cry out!

By YT Staff
Statistics recently given by the central government about Yemen's rate of poverty that our country continues to move into economic hardship. The figures offer a sobering picture of Yemen's economic situation. There is a rising number of people living below the poverty line. They were estimated at 38% of population in 1999. The number of jobless people soared to 40% while the economic growth rate deteriorated dramatically. The GDP rate fell from 8.1% in 1997 to 4.9% in 1998. The number of people who cannot obtain the basic needs of living is estimated at nine million, of which 3.5 million hardly can they keep their soul and body together, depending mainly on alms. Yemeni economists expect this number to rise to 4.5 million in the year 2010, and eight million in 2025, as long as the economic growth rate remains the same, with the recent level of population growth rate at 3.5%.

Monthly average income per capita fell to 84%. The growth rate of agriculture has decreased now to 00.88% in comparison with 13.7% in 1998. The industrial growth rate went down to less than one percent (0.68%) compared to 3.8% in 1998. A number of local factories and companies closed down as a result of the recent stagnation of local industry, which has been damaged by the unorganized and smuggled flow of foreign products into Yemeni markets. Economists believe corruption and the absence of accountability and integrity in the centers of power, except for a select few, is the major factor behind these problems. The economic reform package was initiated in 1995 to revitalize the Yemeni economy and safeguard it from collapse. However, because of the corruption, our efforts of reform failed to make an impact. It is believed that Yemen's economy can still be revitalized resources are made use of appropriately, and revenues are channeled to the public treasury. This could make a difference to improve our economy instead of asking Saudi Arabia and other countries to handle our development process.

YT's Grand Million Contest

Incredible participation, glamorous finish

By YT Staff
With the presence of more than one hundred observers, the draw of the Yemen Times' "Grand Millions Competition" took place at the newspaper's headquarters in Sana'a at 21:00 last Monday. As can be seen from the above photo, the number of readers who participated in the competition, which started October last year, was tremendously high. "We believe we have received tens of thousands of coupons, but who has the time to count?" asked Editor-in-Chief Walid Al-Saaqaf. The draw took place openly and transparently in front of participants who traveled from across the country. The names of the 61 winners published on page 2 includes the 10 top winners who took total prizes of YR 2.5 million. The top prize was one million rials in cash. More than YR 1.5 million was in the form of prizes including electronic equipment, air tickets, and vacation packages. No doubt, the other group of winners are the sponsoring companies. They



gained a lot of publicity from the event. "We have been receiving tens of calls a day asking of our products and services" commented Isam Al-Haiqi of Artex, one of the contest's leading sponsors. "The Yemen Times has shown how a widely-read and reputable newspaper can gain the trust and confidence of readers and sponsors alike," added another sponsor. Contest organizers said prizes will be distributed following Eid. "The top 10 cash prizes totaling YR 2.5 million will be distributed to the winners during our 11th anniversary celebrations scheduled for March 4, 2002" said the head of the committee, Nasri Abu Bakr. "Once again, we have proven that we promise, and we deliver" he added.

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25,000 Yemeni pilgrims in Mecca

More than 25,000 pilgrims are currently in Mecca, Saudi Arabia for performing the fifth pillar of Islam.

Officials at the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance said that the number of Yemeni pilgrims has doubled this year compared to 2001.

Saudi Arabia is expecting a record number of pilgrims, exceeding 2 million, with the peak being February 21st.

On the other hand, Yemenia Airways successfully completed transporting

pilgrims to Mecca, as it operated a special flight between Sana'a and Jeddah along with the already scheduled flights.

"17,555 pilgrims were flown by Yemenia this year from Taiz, Sana'a, Aden airports to the holy land," Nabeel al-Faqeh, Marketing Director of Yemenia said.

He also pointed out that Yemenia sent a working team to Saudi Arabia to facilitate their return to Yemen after completing the Haj duties.

New media conference kicks off in Jordan

AMMAN — The "New Media and Change in the World Arab World" conference will kick off in Amman, Jordan on Feb. 27 and will continue for three days.

Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi, senior editor at the Yemen Times will take part in the event.

He will present a research paper on the "constraints of Media Drive in Yemen".

He said the paper will discuss three main constraints, the Yemeni media is going through; freedom, legal, and professional.

The event which is supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation aims at opening up a regional debate on the state of new media in the Arab World.

It will focus on the distribution of satellite television and internet in the Arab World and analyze their effects on society through research reports and broad discussions.

The event is designed to produce tangible results in terms of setting up a non-profile and independent organizations in the Arab World. The Yemen Times is the only participant from Yemen.

Sheikh al-Ahmar calls Muslims to support the Palestinians

Sheikh Abdulah bin Hussein al-Ahmar, Parliament Speaker, called on Arab and Islamic leaders to take practical steps to support the Palestinian people on their struggle in the Holy Land.

Sheikh Abdulah bin Hussein al-Ahmar said, at the opening day of al-Quds Trustees Council's meeting in Beirut, that "defending al-Quds is the duty of all Muslims and the Intifada should be supported."

The Parliament Speaker stressed the importance of Arabic and Islamic media in supporting the Palestinian issue and disclosing the atrocities perpetrated against the defenseless Palestinians.

"Countering the false propaganda spread by the Israel-sponsored international media should be one of the priorities of the Arabic and Islamic media," he added.

Hodeidah fishers go on strike
HODEIDAH — Fishers here went on strike last week due to the hike of fees imposed under the pretext of exporting, which is estimated at USD 15 thousands.

Fishing boat owners say the taxing will result in dire consequences such as unemployment and the loss of fishing capital investment.

This fee comes after a republican decree stipulated two percent of fish exports are to be taxed.

Livestock sacrifices at excessive prices

During the Greater Bairam, Yemeni livestock markets saw a huge flood of livestock from the neighboring countries. Despite the flooded market, there were a great consumer demand, and prices rose accordingly.

Minister of Interior meets US Ambassador

Minister of Interior, Dr. Rashid al-Aleemi, received US Ambassador to Yemen Edmund Hull at the Police Officers Club in Sana'a, recently.

Issues of bilateral cooperation and means to enhance them were discussed during the meeting.

The minister had continuously been working on implementing major reforms in the education sector, including eliminating corruption and increasing the quality of education throughout the country, especially in rural areas.

US donates 8 trucks and other demining equipment to Yemen

ADEN — The US government donated eight trucks and other demining equipment to the National Mine Action Committee to be used for demining operations in Aden.

US Ambassador to Yemen Edmund J. Hull said that cooperation between Yemen and the US in this humanitarian program will continue.

He pointed out that the US government will again support Yemen's demining program with a substantial donation.

"These funds will assist Yemen's government in standing up the seventh de-mining campaign and adding an additional 80 personnel to the program," he added.

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أسماء الفائزين في مسابقة الملايين الكبرى

Winners of the YT "Grand Millions Competition"

المرتبة	اسم الفائز	الجائزة	مبلغ
الأولى	عبدان غالب علي احمد السعدي	مليون ريال	١٠٠٠٠٠٠
الثانية	أمير احمد ثابت نعمان العريفي	نصف مليون ريال	٥٠٠٠٠٠
الثالثة	حياة يحيى صلاح القحبي	ربع مليون ريال	٢٥٠٠٠٠
الرابعة	وضاح عقيل عبد الله عبد العزيز	مائة ألف ريال	١٠٠٠٠
الخامسة	نبيل محمد علي يا حبيب	مائة ألف ريال	١٠٠٠٠
السادسة	جنيت زينال جويال	مائة ألف ريال	١٠٠٠٠
السابعة	فطوم عوض محمد غربي	مائة ألف ريال	١٠٠٠٠
الثامنة	نادية ابوبكر المقطري	مائة ألف ريال	١٠٠٠٠
التاسعة	سلیمان عبد الله عبد الشيباني	مائة ألف ريال	١٠٠٠٠
العاشر	محمد علي حمود السريحي	مائة ألف ريال	١٠٠٠٠
الحادي عشر	حسين قاسم حسين القحبي	تذكرة سفر مفتوحة من صنعاء	١٠٠٠٠
الثاني عشر	صلاح احمد سالم محمد	تذكرة سفر مفتوحة من صنعاء	١٠٠٠٠
الثالث عشر	ليالي حمود ناجي الأشول	تذكرة سفر مفتوحة من صنعاء	١٠٠٠٠
الرابع عشر	مخمس علي سالم العجاري	تذكرة سفر مفتوحة من صنعاء	١٠٠٠٠
الخامس عشر	محمد عبد الملك عازن	فضة ١٠٠٠٠	١٠٠٠٠
السادس عشر	رائد توفيق عبد الحافظ العامري	فضة ١٠٠٠٠	١٠٠٠٠
السابع عشر	فانر يسلم صالح العنبري	فضة ١٠٠٠٠	١٠٠٠٠
الثامن عشر	Tadesse Teferedegn	فضة ١٠٠٠٠	١٠٠٠٠
التاسع عشر	ياسر حمود عبد الاموي	تلفزيون ملون ٢١ بوصة من فيديو كون	١٧٠٠٠
العاشر عشر	هبة عبد العزيز محمود محفوظ	تلفزيون ملون ٢١ بوصة من فيديو كون	١٨٠٠٠
الحادي عشر	سميرة ياسين غالب	تلفزيون ملون ٢١ بوصة من فيديو كون	١٩٠٠٠
الثاني عشر	ذكري احمد محمد طالب	تلفزيون ملون ٢١ بوصة من فيديو كون	٢٠٠٠٠
الثالث عشر	جميل ناجي احمد ناجي	استريو ٧٥ وات من فيديو كون	٢١٠٠٠
الرابع عشر	نجيب محمد يحيى القدسي	استريو ٧٥ وات من فيديو كون	٢٢٠٠٠
الخامس عشر	مروان محمد غالب مرشد	كثيف هواء	٢٣٠٠٠
السادس عشر	حفظ الله على محمد عبد الله القرين	منقى هواء	٢٤٠٠٠
السابع عشر	احمد عمر مبارك بن اسحاق	غسالة صغيرة	٢٥٠٠٠
الثامن عشر	ربيع محمد علي محمد القهري	غسالة صغيرة	٢٦٠٠٠
التاسع عشر	احمد عبده محمد سيف الشهباني	غسالة صغيرة	٢٧٠٠٠
العاشر عشر	احمد محمد محسن التوبيرة	غسالة صغيرة	٢٨٠٠٠
الحادي عشر	مروان عمر محمد العمودي	غسالة صغيرة	٢٩٠٠٠
الثاني عشر	احمد جابر حسين الوهابي	غسالة صغيرة	٣٠٠٠٠
الثالث عشر	شاذل عوض كرامة من وير	غسالة صغيرة	٣١٠٠٠
الرابع عشر	طلال عبد الله عبد الوهاب القحبي	غسالة صغيرة	٣٢٠٠٠
الخامس عشر	فطوم عوض محمد غروي	غسالة صغيرة	٣٣٠٠٠
السادس عشر	جميل ناجي احمد ناجي	غسالة صغيرة	٣٤٠٠٠
السابع عشر	صلاح محمد احمد الصباحي	غسالة صغيرة	٣٥٠٠٠
الثامن عشر	زينب محمد سالم علي	غسالة صغيرة	٣٦٠٠٠
التاسع عشر	محمد حسن قاسم الشميري	غسالة صغيرة	٣٧٠٠٠
العاشر عشر	احمد عبد الله جابر الانسي	غسالة صغيرة	٣٨٠٠٠
الحادي عشر	يسمى عبد الطيف يعقوب ابراهيم حداد	غسالة صغيرة	٣٩٠٠٠
الثاني عشر	حنان داود محمد	غسالة صغيرة	٤٠٠٠٠
الثالث عشر	رياض عبد المولى مكيال نعمان القباطي	غسالة صغيرة	٤١٠٠٠
الرابع عشر	محمد عبد الله محمد حسان	غسالة صغيرة	٤٢٠٠٠
الخامس عشر	يحيى احمد عثمان القدسي	غسالة صغيرة	٤٣٠٠٠
السادس عشر	يحيى احمد صالح محمد	غسالة صغيرة	٤٤٠٠٠
السابع عشر	محمد ناجي صالح	غسالة صغيرة	٤٥٠٠٠
الثامن عشر	فاكر عبد القادر محمد منصور المعلي	غسالة صغيرة	٤٦٠٠٠
التاسع عشر	نسيم محمد حمود الصريحي	غسالة صغيرة	٤٧٠٠٠
العاشر عشر	يسام حزام محمد علي الاقبري	غسالة صغيرة	٤٨٠٠٠
الحادي عشر	عبد علي حسن القحبي	غسالة صغيرة	٤٩٠٠٠
الثاني عشر	الحارث محمد سالم علي	غسالة صغيرة	٥٠٠٠٠
الثالث عشر	ايها محمد علي الدويجي	غسالة صغيرة	٥١٠٠٠
الرابع عشر	توفيق مجاهد سالم	غسالة صغيرة	٥٢٠٠٠
الخامس عشر	فريد احمد يسام بن فتح	غسالة صغيرة	٥٣٠٠٠
السادس عشر	مختار منصور علي محمد الجابري	غسالة صغيرة	٥٤٠٠٠
السابع عشر	عبدان عبده محمد مرشد العنبري	غسالة صغيرة	٥٥٠٠٠
الثامن عشر	محمد عبد الله علي غلاب	غسالة صغيرة	٥٦٠٠٠
التاسع عشر	ذكري احمد حسن	غسالة صغيرة	٥٧٠٠٠
العاشر عشر	فكري محمد قائد جازم	غسالة صغيرة	٥٨٠٠٠

Investment strategy: always reduce risk



There are many money-exchange shops in Sana'a and other main cities in Yemen. Yet, exchange-rates fixed at these markets are set by exchangers themselves. Some abide by the Central Bank of Yemen's rates. Others do not.

Exchangers say avoiding the risks of investment is not an easy job. That's because the majority of start-up investors do not use accurate and scientific criteria that enable them to have successful enterprises.

Further, money exchangers stress that financial investment in Yemen lacks well-defined plans, as individual financial abilities still play a major role in regard to the size of the businesses.

Investment experts, however, believe that channeling individual capitals to investment funds that match the objectives and capabilities of businesses will help new investors avoid risk of losing their savings.

From this point, it is necessary for investors in money exchanges to avoid the following risks:

- Market risks: Investors usually worry about stock market exchange instability because it keeps fluctuating. Yet there is no such risk in Yemen, owing to the absence of that market.

- Inflation risks: Some people tend to put their savings in deposit accounts to avoid the risks of unstable markets, although such a move could be hazardous for their savings in the long-run. Risks here are represented by purchasing power or inflation risks, which reflect the decline of the real power of savings with regard to the rise of living costs.

- Liquidity risks: Some investors like to liquidate their cash for investments within a short or a long period of time, with the view of having fast gains. Others prefer to put their capitals in some bank-related investments to avoid risks. However, such investments originate little profits, or abruptly stop.

Experts conclude that investments will only succeed when investors understand the risks businesses may encounter. Taking precautionary measures by relying on diversification and a wide-range of investments, such as treasury bills, stocks and investment funds, then, is the answer. This is what will undoubtedly reduce money investments risks.

Urgent need for a viable marketing policy

By YT Staff

Investors are warning that with backward marketing mechanisms and no stock market in Yemen, agricultural investment in the country is in danger.

The present system, or lack of, means there are no guarantees of profits and the lack of stock market means there are no ways to build reserves for investment.

The financial standing of commercial and trade banks has exceeded YR 202.57 billion. Banks have made a remarkable increase in their holdings.

However, so far these banks and private trade houses have not established a stock market.

The Yemeni Central Bank has also announced that bank reserves have exceeded US \$3 billion for this year.

However, the commercial and trade banks' inability to create a stock market with the Yemeni Central Bank has led to a fragile marketing field, which is considered to be one of the main activities of banks.

These banks have also had a weak role in providing services for customers, and raising their awareness to interact within a productive environment.

Reform overdue

In 1995, the government of Yemen, in cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, embarked upon a economic reform program to encourage local and foreign private sectors' investment.

The objective was to increase the industrial and agricultural production and develop foreign trade through non-oil local exports.

Measures taken by the Yemeni government, however, have faced many obstacles impeding the investment and trade process of banks and capitals, mainly because there is a lacking policy for the marketing process.

Mahfood Shamakh, a well-known Yemeni businessman, said "The current situation of the marketing policy in Yemen is not favorable for the agricultural or industrial investment. It is so because this requires, in the first place, defining specifications for local products, ensuring encasing, wrapping, transporting and storage to compete with foreign products in foreign markets."

He added, "To enhance the marketing process on local and foreign levels the government has to support the establishment of specialized marketing companies. It also has to provide them with facilities including tax exemptions, support to establish encasing and wrapping stations and cooling stores. Means of transportation also need to be available to help distribute products to all local markets and ports."

The government marketing policy

Despite the weak marketing infrastructure, the Yemeni government has taken some measures within its economic reforms.

It has set up a Marketing Information Department in General Administration Marketing Agricultural, though it is weakly supported. Data on prices, fruits and vegetables consumed, and manufactured products in Sana'a and Taiz is collected. And it has established an information network department for agricultural marketing, including five information-collecting units in Aden, Taiz, Ibb, Hodeidah, Mokala, and Sana'a.

Sources in the General Administration of Agricultural

Marketing note also that the administration has published three books with information and analyses on prices, goods and quantities during 1997-1999.

However, the agricultural sector has suffered from the non-availability of marketing information. Consequently this has put the marketing of agricultural products to both local and foreign markets in danger.

Services falling short

Though the government has liberated foreign trade, marketing services of local products still fall short of what is expected, due to the private sector's restraint in investing in distribution, storage and transportation of goods.

The private sector justifies this due to the lack of legislation regulating and organizing the whole process. The non-availability of resources necessary to provide these services is also another hindrance, investors assert.

Mr. Abdulmalek al-Arashi, Agriculture Ministry deputy assistant, said, "Absence of marketing services increases the level of losses and run-outs products, especially that of fruits and vegetables. Investment in the field of fruits and vegetables is still low though the Fund for Agricultural and Fish Production provides assistance to encourage projects working in the marketing and exportation.

The fund also shoulders 20% of expenses of establishing cooperation wholesale markets and exports centers in governorates.

Among the outstanding projects supported by the fund is the establishment of wholesale markets in Mareb, costing YR 33 million.

The fund has also helped in the establishment of agricultural exporting cen-

Field	Projects	Inv. cost	Emp. level
Industrial projects	1738	178,387,279	48912
Agricultural projects	218	18,094,547	6165
Fish projects	69	11,476,790	4081
Services projects	829	221,928,241	32760
Tourist projects	413	92,586,461	15284
Total	3267	522,473,318	107202

ters in Hodeidah with a cost of YR 63 million, the Cooperation Al-Arish Center in Aden with YR 72 million and potatoes marketing and storage center in Amran with YR 51 million.

The government of Yemen supports exports through the fund of Agricultural and Fish Production. The objective is to advertise for national products. The fund provided YR 30 million in this context to cover expenses of filling, wrapping and carrying local freights to foreign markets.

Weak marketing impedes exports development

No'man al-Malsi, the Supreme Technical Body of exports Department secretary general, said "The policy of economic reforms has borne fruits in the past three years in terms of increasing national agricultural exports of fruits and vegetables from 6,000 tones in 1996, to 54,000 tones in 1999 to 100,000 tones in 2000. The weak marketing mechanisms made most of the Yemeni exports go toward the Saudi markets which possess better exporting resources."

Mr. al-Malsi attributed the weak marketing policy to the absence of data and information on prices, markets and exporting outlets. It was also attributed to high transportation and case fares, and the limited qualified cadre in techniques and agricultural exports measures.

Other opportunities

Due to weak infrastructure and marketing services, the Investment General Authority (IGA) complains that investors are not investing in agricultural fields because there are faster profits to be made elsewhere.

Statistics issued by the IGA show the authority made licenses for 3,267 projects with a cost exceeding YR 522 billion during 1992-2000. The following table highlights more fields of investment.

For their part, investors attribute their reservation to put their money into agriculture and fish to the non-existence of guarantees and credits, in case of trade and non-trade dangers relating to marketing exportation.

Exchange companies are also a factor. The companies do not affect marketing policy, but they can do a great deal of damage to reserves of the Yemeni Central Bank and import merchants.

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Loan repayment: a burden on the Yemeni economy

By YT Staff

The Yemeni general budget for 2002 has allocated YR 21.932 billion to pay back its foreign debts. The Yemeni government has done so in order to gain the confidence of donor countries. This step has come after canceling 67 % of foreign trade debts, totaling USD \$38 million out of overall developmental debts which have been treated according to Napoli conditions.

Year	D. loans	F. debts
1990	27.7%	5.8%
1991	13.8%	0.01%
1992	40.1%	2.2%
1993	44.7%	2.0%
1994	50.8%	1.7%
1995	22.2%	3.1%
1996	0.23%	6.9%
1997	2.5%	4.0%
1998	18.8%	7.4%
1999	5.2%	10.0%
2000	19.9%	0.0%

will lead to unproductive economic burdens. Similarly, lenders will demand of paying back their loans with hard currencies at the expanse of national income, while our national wealth has been deteriorating considerably. According to economic statistics, the existing balance of donor countries. This step has come after canceling 67 % of foreign trade debts, totaling USD \$38 million out of overall developmental debts which have been treated according to Napoli conditions.

Yemen could regain its debt schedule in accordance with Paris Club meetings, which has been decreased from US \$10 billion to US \$4 billion. Yemen has plans to loan YR 15.772 billion to finance crippled investment projects.

The treasury bills have become a source for domestic loans to finance pivotal projects. The table shown illustrates that the government has depended on domestic loans rather than foreign debts. As a result of this, foreign debt policies will greatly affect some of the developmental projects. Among these is bearing additional amounts of money as that of loan interest. If loans have been utilized for the benefit of the purchasing unprofitable materials such as, weapons, this

ance of the foreign debts have reached USD 4943.5 at the rate of 66% out of the overall domestic production for the year 2000. Accordingly, the government has restored loans by way of weekly treasury bills. This has created inflationary spirals and incapacitates in economic relations and helped a lot in deteriorating the national currency. It is noteworthy that the government has adopted loan policies as the first step to support the budget deficit. Statistics have shown that the overall public debts, both domestic and foreign, in 1999 has reached YR 987.03 billion, at the rate of 78.4 % of the overall domestic production. A part of this sum, YR 153.69 billion, refers to domestic public debts and YR 833.07 to foreign debts.

To sum up, foreign and domestic loan policies have hurt economic growth. Our country has been left to pay back debts at the expense of other important commitments and future projects.

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Capturing history

BY: Thomas B. Stevenson
The World & I magazine

In the restful atmosphere of meeting rooms in private houses, hardworking Yemeni men gather during the afternoon break to chew qat and recount vivid local and family histories.

The stories are as much a matter of presentation as they are recitations of absolute truth. The presenter uses verbal techniques to add authenticity to his account, slants the circumstances to make a point, or invests events with renewed significance. I knew this intuitively, but did not recognize the power of narrative performance until engaged in anthropological field research in the city of Amran.

Until the early 1970s virtually all houses, government offices, and mosques were inside the medina, the high-walled, gated city. Just outside the walls was a smaller enclosed village and its market. The 1962 revolution and ensuing eight-year civil war that brought an end to North Yemen's theocratic rule ushered in many changes. This was obvious in the brisk pace with which homes, shops, and mosques were being built to accommodate new settlers and those relocating outside the old city. By 1978, when I began a nineteen-month stay there, the town's prerevolution population had doubled to about six thousand. The socioeconomic and political impacts of these changes were the focus of my research project.

Traditional agriculture, modern commerce, and expatriate labor in the oil-rich Gulf states were the primary engines of the local economy. The workday was long and hard, but, as throughout the country, the grind of daily life was relieved by an afternoon break during which men gathered to chew qat. When chewed, the



Hajj Abdullah, the storyteller

fresh, young, tender leaves of the qat shrub stimulate and depress, leaving the user with a sense of euphoria and a tendency toward introspection. Men spend three to four hours sitting, chewing, and chatting. The setting is ideal for recounting tales that contain, as do some styles of Yemeni poetry, commentaries on life. Rooms are often crowded with chewers, so it is easy for someone to take the stage and regale the assembly with stories intended to instruct as well as entertain. It was during these gatherings that I heard and reheard many stories.

A distinguished storyteller

The father of my closest friend in Amran was a talented storyteller. Hajj Abdallah had a distinguished history. As was common before the revolution, to ensure the loyalty of tribes, Yemen's ruler, the imam, had taken him as a hostage. Hostages were held for years in a distant city, where their treatment depended on their families' support of the imam. For those on favorable terms, the housing was acceptable, and, in contrast to most Yemeni men, they received secular and religious education. After their release, many became agents of the

monarch.

As one of the imam's representatives in Amran, Hajj Abdallah accumulated large landholdings and was once seen as an important member of his huge, powerful kinship group. But time was not on his side. He was unsuccessful in a bid to head the tribe, and his investments lost value as interest in agriculture waned.

When I met him in 1978, he was in his late sixties. He was short and lean with a wizened face but with an impish grin, sparkling eyes, a quick wit, and rapier tongue. Despite his former prominence, he dressed like everyone else, in a white, flowing calf-length shirt, sport coat, head scarf, and dagger. The erect posture evident in old photographs had given way to a slight stoop, but he carried a walking stick as much for show as for support.

We would often stroll through Amran's market together, he to make purchases and chat with friends, me to use the opportunity to observe and learn from him. On these excursions, he was often irascible, trading accusations and insults with merchants and shoppers. Yemeni men catch up on local gossip, chew qat and tell stories. Occasionally he revealed elements of people's lives I'm sure they'd rather have been left unsaid. In the heat of verbal combat, my guide frequently wagged his stick, feigning swats at those, including me, who were gaining ascendancy or not playing by his rules. Occasionally he landed a surprising hit, which, I can attest, stung as much as from failing to meet expectations as from pain.

I also chewed qat in the mafraj, or reception room, in Hajj Abdallah's house. The long, rectangular room was on the top floor. Windows on two sides provided a commanding view of his tree-filled garden and the surrounding area and kept the room bright until late afternoon. The prime seats faced the windows, and it was

here that Hajj Abdallah and his favored guests sat. I sat with one of his sons facing him, my back to the windows.

As guests arrived, they left their shoes at the door. Some would hang their sport coats and daggers from pegs in the wall. Each would choose a place on the thick cushions distributed against the room's long sides. Chewers sat side by side, their left feet curled beneath them, their left arms resting on boxy cushions. In the room's center section would be water pipes and the debris of chewing, mostly sticks, twigs, and undesirable leaves. Tobacco smoke was vented through narrow windows near the high ceiling. But when there was a crowd, the room would soon get stuffy.

It was on this stage that Hajj Abdallah demonstrated his ability to make history his personal tool.

With a son always available to do his or a guest's bidding, Hajj Abdallah would sit in his corner of the room surrounded by props. On the adjacent window sill he had a number of volumes, some theological discourses, others histories. Regardless of age or how recently cleaned, they had a patina of dust that when blown or whisked away added authority and solemnity to their words. In cloth bags hanging from overhead pegs were his several pairs of glasses. While his lap held his small bundle of leaves, the crook of an arm or that of his neighbor cradled the hose of the water pipe. These props might be brought into play, depending on the tale being told or the need to add weight to a statement. For example, he would consult his books to make a point or draw on the pipe, giving the audience time to reflect on what he'd said and anticipate what was to come.

By far his most compelling features were his age and life experience,

which he used to place himself in, or connect himself to, events. Even when he was not much older than some others in the room, he acted as if he had a monopoly on history, a power to which his audience acceded. In this way he could shape accounts into commentaries on life.

Here is an example. After about an hour of chewing, when the qat had begun to quiet the crowd, Hajj Abdallah would get everyone's attention, usually by loudly asking a comrade if he recalled an event or by asking if I'd heard about an incident. Having signaled the audience, he would begin.

Himyarite giants

It was in the time of my grandfather. The town leaders climbed down the well next to where the Himyarite castle used to be in the walled city. There were steps along the side of the well made from stone. At the bottom they found two bodies. They were men about ten feet tall. They stretched from here to there," he said, pointing to the door.

"Their hands were huge but well proportioned. The nose was as long as from your wrist to your fingertip. The head was from your fingertip to your elbow."

He used his hands and arms to illustrate the dimensions. "The legs were as long as a donkey's. They were just like us, only bigger. They were our ancestors: the Himyarites."

He paused briefly then declared: "See! Our ancestors were really men. Not like we are."

After drawing on the water pipe and adding a few qat leaves to those in his cheek, he resumed. "Under these bodies our men found a door to a storeroom. Inside were casks made of animal skins. These were full. When they were opened a red liquid, like blood, spilled out. Everyone was covered with it. Then it drained away. Later we learned it flowed through an underground canal under the wall of the old city. We found it came out near a well about three kilometers away." He pointed off toward a nearby village.

These statements artfully incorpo-

rated references significant to his audience. The Himyarites were a political dynasty that ruled Yemen from the second century BC to the fifth century AD. Though not actually Muslim, they are still regarded with some awe. They are credited with great technical expertise, including constructing elaborate buried irrigation systems. The imams are known to mix red ochre pigment with water and use it to underline official documents, to represent their supposed connection to these early Yemenis.

"See what kind of men our ancestors were!" Hajj Abdallah marveled. "There was never anything like them!"

"Our men found gold statues of all the animals and of people too. They were just like real animals, only smaller. There were dogs, camels, rabbits, donkeys, giraffes, lions, birds, snakes, and many others. They were exact."

"When the imam heard about this discovery, he wanted everything sent to him in Sana'a. This we did except for one statue that Yahya, the butcher, stole, believing the imam would not miss it. When he saw the artifacts, the imam said that the dead men were our ancestors. He also noticed that a statue was missing and started an investigation. Yahya was afraid. He sold the statue to a Jew who melted it and tried to sell the gold in Aden. But the imam's agents caught him, and both men were sent to jail."

Hajj Abdallah used his account to make several points. The imam is regarded both as the seat of knowledge and as all-powerful. People sometimes claim that under an imam, a true Islamic leader, crime would be impossible. The Himyarites, though not actually Muslim, are to be regarded as larger than life. This was in keeping with the prevailing view of the superiority of the past, a view reflected in the self-deprecating comment that 'Amranis often expressed: "We were better in the past. Then we were true Muslims. Then we were really men."

Continued on page 9

NIVEA Celebrates Re-Entry into Yemen

Beiersdorf AG, Hamburg, appoints METCO as new country partner

Beiersdorf AG - the company behind the globally renowned NIVEA brand - has announced its re-entry into Yemen, marking this milestone by appointing a new distribution partner - METCO (Middle East Trading Company) to cater to the skin and personal care needs of consumers in Yemen.



From right: Mr. Marwan El-Garem, General Manager, Beiersdorf Middle East, Mr. H. Weitelmann, Director Business Development cosmed (Middle East/West Asia), Beiersdorf AG, Mr. Abdullah Fakira, General Manager, METCO, Mr. Wael Abdo Saeed DGM, METCO

The entire NIVEA range will be imported directly from Hamburg, Germany.

"Due to reasons beyond our control, Beiersdorf experienced some difficult times in Yemen in the recent past," said Mr. H. Wietelmann, Director, Business Development, cosmed (Middle East / West Asia), Beiersdorf AG. "Now we are moving ahead, forging new relationships to serve the consumers of Yemen better."

"Care, trust and quality are the core attributes of every NIVEA product, and it is the sheer strength of these brand values that has helped Beiersdorf grow and develop its global leadership" he said.

As an internationally renowned company, Beiersdorf is represented in most countries world over with a total of 35 production sites. Together, Beiersdorf Group's products are sold in over 100 countries through 75 subsidiaries supported by a total staff strength of over 16,000 employees. In 2001, Beiersdorf recorded a total worldwide turnover of US\$ 3.95 billion, a 11.2% growth over 2000. Of this, cosmed accounts for over 65% (US\$ 2.57 billion).

"The NIVEA brand is no stranger to the Middle East, having been a leader in the region for over 50 years, ever since NIVEA Creme was first introduced," said Mr. Marwan EL-Garem, General Manager, Beiersdorf Middle East.

Along with intensive research and development that have led to the successful introduction of new

NIVEA satellite brands, one of Beiersdorf's biggest strengths is its willingness and ability to be alert to consumer needs and react to them quickly and effectively.

Added Mr. EL-Garem: "Beiersdorf's conviction in this policy underlines the company's faith in the country's economy and its tremendous market potential. Beiersdorf is completely committed to investing in Yemen and cementing its relationship with the consumers in this country."

METCO will be dedicated to making NIVEA one of the strongest and most visible brands throughout Yemen. METCO's distribution network is supported by adequate warehousing facilities covering the whole country. METCO's infrastructure is further enhanced by its over 400 strong staff and a fleet of 38 vehicles.

"It will be a dynamic synergy between Beiersdorf and METCO. Beiersdorf's long time expertise in the skin and personal care segment combined with METCO's efficient network and hands-on experience will create the right environment to further enhance NIVEA's brand image and leadership in the skin and personal care market in Yemen," said Abdullah Fakira, General Manager, METCO.

The range of NIVEA products imported from Germany to be introduced in Yemen will be extensive and include NIVEA Creme, NIVEA Soft, NIVEA Body Care, NIVEA for Men, NIVEA Visage, NIVEA Deo, 8x4 Deo and NIVEA Soaps.

All the NIVEA products will be of the highest quality and affordable to consumers from all income brackets. All the products will be available at selected pharmacies, supermarkets and grocery stores across the country and will incorporate Arabic and English packaging.

Consumers in Yemen can now look forward to a high quality, world renowned range of skin and personal care products from NIVEA.



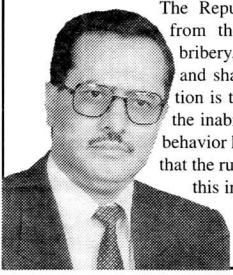
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Words of Wisdom



The Republic of Yemen continues to suffer from the visible prevalence of corruption, bribery, fraud and other forms of dishonest and shady dealings. Government administration is the worst case. As complains increase, the inability of the rulers to check this deviant behavior has added credibility to the assumption that the rulers themselves somehow benefit from this irregularity.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951-1999) Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

Judicial system of Yemen: Where injustice thrives

The issue of corruption in both sides, financially and administratively, in the judicial system of Yemen has been raised hundreds of times in the press. Yet, we seem to be no closer in solving the problem.

Last week, I had some paperwork to complete at one of the courts of the capital Sanaa, and was shocked to see no one on his desk. I asked, "Is this a vacation? Is the day off in here? Or is there some sort of strike?" I was surprised to know that none of that was the case, it is just that the court staff left their offices early with the excuse of the month of "Dhilhijje". I was amazed to know that the 12th month of the Hijri calendar "Dhilhijje" is actually off for all courts in the country. But the court would not be closed during this time as some employees will be available to "supposedly" serve the public.

Well, if you think I was served that day, then you are wrong. I was asked to give money for the substitute employees at the court who are supposed to manage the duties of the staff in vacation. "You need to boost our morals as we are the only ones working here. Pay us -a few thousand rials- and we will have your work done." is what one of the employees said.

Eventually, even though I did pay some money, I could not finish my work because the guy with the stamp was not there. I waited for hours before I have up. On my way out of the court I asked whether I could have my work done before eid, and I got a self-ensured response: "Are you kidding me? You won't get anything done before the eid vacation, and even before its extension [10 days or so following the eid]." the guard said.

Meantime, I found one of the lawyers in the court asking, "Why did they have this vacation anyway. Isn't the holy month of Ramadan, the official and non-official vacations enough? This will only add to the miseries of the public who suffers from the a financially and administratively corrupt justice system. Where is justice?"

The question is just, and is also demanding. What could our officials say to this?

I cannot imagine how our Minister of Justice would enjoy his eid vacation, while innocent prisoners are held for months awaiting the ministry's employees to sign their papers. Those employees are supposed to be part of the ministry that provides justice, not oppression. Some say that Yemenis are used to the judicial system in the country, and that is the way justice is served here.

But is this true justice? You be the judge!

The Editor

Pakistan and India faithfulness loyalty to America

BY: Nashwan M. Dabwan Taiz

India has wanted, in it's last crisis with Pakistan, running the conflict from it's point of view. India has also wanted dictating it's conditions on Pakistani side: it exploits the conflict in Afghanistan, regional and international circumstances. India must not forget that Pakistan is a nuclear country, it has a nuclear and strategic weapon that was a point of weakness to Pakistan. Pakistani fight was suffering of strategic weapons at it's historical struggle with India. India must also not forget that Pakistani people as well as all islamic people will not stop tied the hands in front of these blackmails and conditions Hindus and doing on Pakistan if the conflict reaches the top.

India has also wanted exploiting international pressures on Pakistan and strategic all alliance with Zionists. So it 's stance reached threatening with doing blow to Pakistani nuclear energies, and it has done pressures on it [Pakistan] to closing file of Kashmir forever. Pakistan has presented several steps to avoiding the war, but India tries to

aggravate the position towards the war, and all will pay cost extremely. All indications point out that tension between India and Pakistan may not take matters to transport war; Hindus want achieving military and political victory and exploiting what is called the war against Terrorism; they want transporting the conflict from Afghanistan to Pakistan and closing file to kashmir to interest of India Hindus. India wants gathering fruit of America war as Israel does in Pakistan; the matter do not stop at this level, Hindus do not want free Kashmir only but they want dividing Islamic Pakistan into little regions. They also want getting ride of nuclear energy of Pakistan; this is what India wants. But Pakistan does not stop tied up the hands in front of this Hindu arrogance; it has force and war material that it [Pakistan] does a strong blow against India. India, can't put an end to operations of fighters at occupied Kashmir during the last decade; how it passes the matter into free Kashmir. If India ventures carrying out one of the plans or crosses the red lines, the explosion will prevail in the region wholly. If the fourth war breaks out, it will pay price extremely; not to mention ghost of division

India suffers from it; India also suffers from separatist movements in some regions in it. America as a leader of war against terrorism lets down its alliance Pakistan that presented many things for the sake of it. But we find that America stops as viewer on standing tension between Pakistan and India. So western deception is not new but it is very old on muslims and Arabs. But we unfortunately are a nation that the time does not have come to it to learn from it's history.

America sees its interests and Israel at eye, and the rest of world at other eye; it exploits others and then, throws out. America also does not have any principle to treating with others expert it's interests. Pakistan was a strong alliance to US during the war against Afghanistan. when tension and conflict have started between Pakistan and India, America appears as it does not listen, see and does not speak. But Israel has met some danger by children of stones; America appears to declare it's statement' the armless children are terrorists, but Israelis are victims of terrorism and violence. So new international system is unjust and unbalanced; it is materialist and utilitarian.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, I'm one of the uncountable readers of the great Yemen Times.

I would like as any one who reads Yemen Times, to express my great admiration for your constant efforts. I hope that I'm well come to join Yemen Times friends and contributor rather than being just a reader, yes it's my only aim to which I long. I'm petty confidant that Yemen Times is a mother of every growing pen that Years to be professor and creative one day. Let my finally shake hand with you and let me also say that I would be utterly pleased if you accept me as a friend.

Teacher, Majda Abdul Rahman Al-Maktary Hodeidah

Dear Editor, I am a reader in your newspaper. I like to read it every week, when I bought the last issue I was amazed at the changes that happened, they were wonderful. I am happy of these improvements. I congratulate you of this success,

you really deserve it because you made it by hard work. Finally, I hope for this newspaper to be developed more and more.

Om Hany Alwarith

Dear editor I read the news item "Bohras Marks Idris Imaduddin's Anniversary" in Yemen Times 4, Feb. 2002. I was very much impressed by it but several mistakes have been observed.

It has been reported that "the anniversary was celebrated on Feb 2, 2002" but "it was celebrated on Feb, 1 2002".

It has been written that "the celebrants prayed their homage to this great man" but the right expression is that "the celebrants paid their homage to this great man".

It has been written that "Salman Rushdi, Mandoob Dai Fatema Sultanual" but the right sentence is that "salman Rashid, Mandoob of Fatemi Dai, Suitanual Bohra". It has been also reported that "Shebam along with other great peaks of Haraz were great centers

of learning in the Fatamid Dai's times, not just garrison for soldiers" but the correct version is this "Shebam as other speaks was a great center of learning not a military front in the times of Fatemi Dais".

It has reported that salman Rashid said that "Dr. Syeda Mohammed Burhanuddin had advised his followers in Yemen to uproot Qat trees and clean their from this evil and they responded in earnest. He had helped them by providing viable alternative like training them on book keeping, animal husbandry and by giving them samplings of coffee and other fruit trees such as almond and olives". But the correct version is this "His Holiness Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin advised his followers in Yemen to up root Qat trees, they responded and uprooted many Qat trees. As alternatives they are helped through honeybee keeping project and many other projects like livestock farming and plant nursery for providing them with coffee and other fruit saplings".

It has been reported too that "Mr. Rashid prayed for Ali Abdullah Saleh and his government for bringing democracy and unity protecting country from it's enemies" but the correct version is this "At last Salman Rashid lauded the developmental achievement done by the president Ali Abdullah Saleh and his government. He prayed for him and thanked him and his government for the tolerance of democracy in his era".

Jamila Harazi Hara-tul-ta'awun Nuqum-Sana'a

More on Yemen's Recent History

I am happy to read your news paper here in USA and to be in touch with what is going on in my country. Please I'd like you to give me more information about the modern history of Yemen. People here want to know more about my country.

Amin Al-Kebisi al_kebsi72002@yahoo.com

Dear Amin, The best we could do is guide you to a website dedicated to provide much information on Yemen. It is Yemen Gateway and can be accessed at <http://www.albab.com/yemen>.

—Editor

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COMMON SENSE



Hassan Al-Haifi

The misguided puritans of Islam

Even when the Moslem Empire stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Walls of China and even when Islam expanded throughout the civilized world, one of the most important things to take note of was that Islam obtained its adherents by voluntary conversion. Perhaps Islam is the only religion that can rightly claim to have gained its adherents by its convincing logic and the example shown by its adherents. Islam, by virtue of not having a clergy or an ecclesial order, did not have an institutionalized missionary activity until recently.

When the Islamic puritanical movement surfaced in some parts of the Arabian Peninsula, this movement made strong efforts to assert itself over all the other individual and small-organized efforts to advocate for Islam. This puritanical movement was enhanced by gaining ground in some of the oil rich states and thus was given access to substantial funding resources. Unfortunately, these resources were not used to help spread Islam in new territories as much as they were used to challenge the other sectarian versions and to place its organizers at the top of all Islamic activities within Islamic societies. Not only that, these puritans sought to become the sole trustees for all religious activities in the Islamic world by alienating any other established sects that disagreed with the puritanical version they insisted upon as being the only acceptable form of Islam, while others are considered as infidels!

Of course this religious monopoly was alien to the Moslem world until these puritans appeared and seldom did you have any violent sectarian strife in Islam. These puritans armed with petrodollars were able to recruit sizable constituencies in several Moslem countries, especially poor and underdeveloped Moslem societies that were easily

German Embassy Language courses

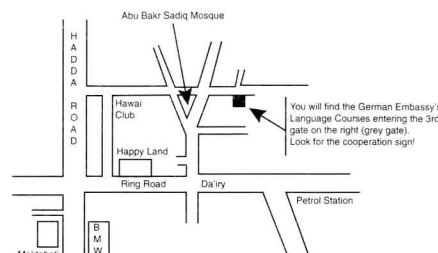


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Responding to recent tragedies

Islam refutes terrorism

By Dr. Kari Ann Owen, Ph.D.

At this writing, the motives of those who have spread terror and death among Americans in New York, Washington, D.C. and elsewhere are unknown, as the perpetrators have not yet been identified until the date of this article.

However, the current investigation unfortunately points to individuals mistakenly termed "Muslim".

This article hopes to clarify the position of Islam concerning acts of terror against non combatants as well as the strict limits placed on war by the revelation to the Prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon him.

It also wishes to clarify the meaning of "martyrdom" in Islam, proving that suicidal acts are as forbidden by Islam as revenge, greed and other motives tragically at the root of the current aggression against Americans as well as others in the United States and around the world.

In the Glorious Quran, Surah II: verse 190 states that Muslims may "Fight in the cause of Allah against those who fight against you, but do not transgress limits. Lo! Allah loves not aggressors..."

What are those limits?

Surah VIII: Verse 67 states, "It is not fitting for an Apostle (believer in Islam) that he should have Prisoners of war until he hath thoroughly subdued the land... Ye look for the temporal goods of this world, but God looketh to the Hereafter: and God is Exalted in Might, Wise."

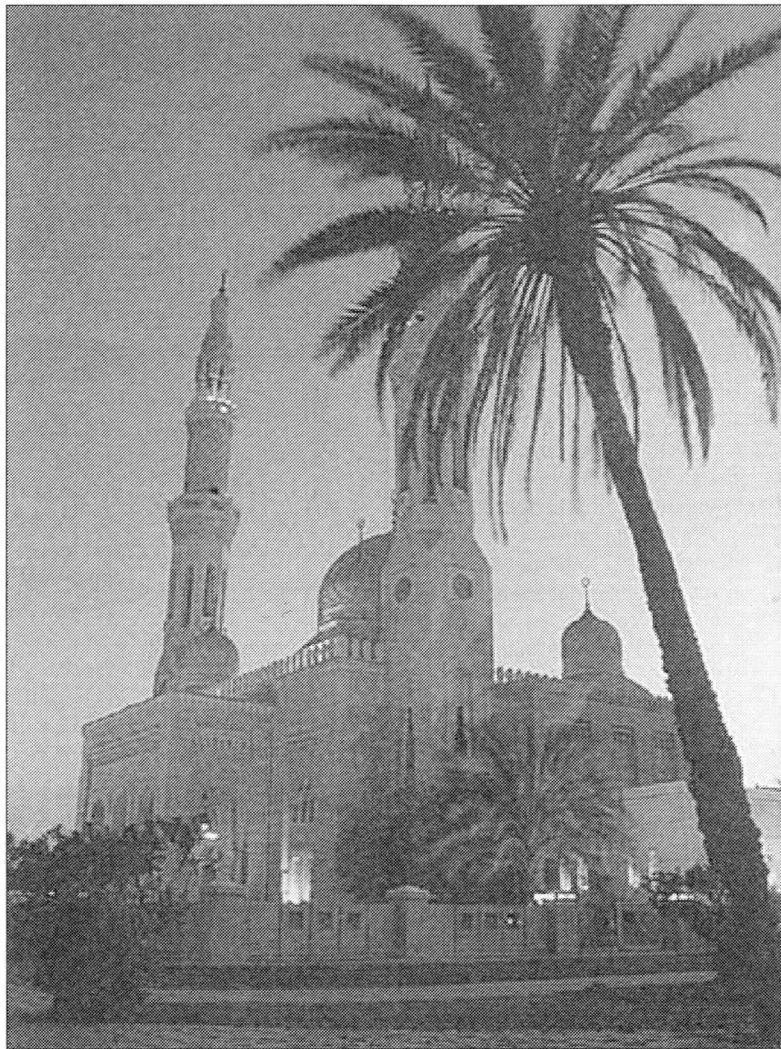
The implication here is that war is permitted only for self-defense and not for "territory or trade, revenge or military glory." (Comment on the above Surah and verse by Brother Abdullah Yusuf Ali, The Holy Quran: text, Translation and Commentary, Published by the Islamic Center, Washington, DC, 1st edition 1934 and the source for all other Quranic citations in this article).

Civilian slaughter is clearly forbidden, or Haram: "Let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression." (Surah II, Verse 193.)

Suicide is also clearly forbidden: "Make not your hands contribute to (your) destruction; but do good; for God loveth those who do good." (Surah II, Verse 194.)

Certain recent television broadcasts and even admissions by persons calling themselves Muslim have rationalized or justified what is clearly forbidden by God's revelation to the Prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon him. These individuals have stated they were taught that if they commit several forbidden acts at once -- slaughter of non combatants and suicide, for example -- they will be given a special place at the side of Allah once they ascend to heaven. Perhaps they were shown this verse: "Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord." (Surah III, verse 169).

Yet, this passage does not contradict



the strict conditions on those who would use force: "Let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression." (Surah II, Verse 193.) And it is clearly implied in Surah III, verse 179 that it is Allah and Allah only who chooses martyrs: "He chooses of his apostles for the purpose whom he pleases. So believe in God and His apostles: and if ye believe and do right, you have a reward without measure."

The particular meaning of Islam is submission. The frail human will is yoked in a positive and rational, not slavish and degrading, sense to a Higher, More Benevolent and Compassionate Will and deeply, lovingly connected to creation. Examples formally recognized in Islam include Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

In modern times, certain Native North American holy men and individuals such as Gandhi and modern saints like Edith Stein could also be regarded as examples of this very unusual and blessed mental and moral state. Indeed, limitation of truth to one culture is not recognized in the Quran: "To Allah belong the East and the West. Whithersoever you turn, there is the Face of Allah." (Surah Baqarah, 115). In the words of Sister Rabia Harris, Muslim Peace Fellowship of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, "Truth is not limited, but is to be discovered and honored everywhere. Both traditional and modern cultures have something important to contribute to the service and contemplation of Allah."

And God is above all merciful and benevolent as He adjures humans to be. The prayers spoken by one and a half billion Muslims five times a day begin with the words, "In the name of God (Allah), the beneficent, the merci-

ful..." Clearly, if mercy is the primary quality of Allah, it is the quality Muslims are first called upon to imitate and practice. All Muslims are instructed to pursue this path of spiritual evolution toward this quality, and this struggle toward the good is called jihad. No word in modern times has been more misunderstood or more misinterpreted by Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

For in that rare state of spiritual grace, concern for others and humanity at large displaces vicious egotism and violent greed, resulting in those astonishing human beings we call "men (and women) for others." Such persons could no more turn themselves into flying bombs than they themselves could sprout wings and fly... not if they believe in the submission to God, which is the core of Islam.

It is time for all who share this planet to contemplate the words of St. Paul: "The spirit of the word gives life but the letter kills".

Individual passages in both the Quran and the Old and New Testaments can be angry, even vilifying, but the spirit of religion and its behavioral disciplines are loving and above all merciful, demanding humility and a renunciation of hate both in the soul and society.

I implore those who call themselves Muslims, Christians, Jews or anything else while committing irreligious acts to have mercy on the hope religion, particularly Islam, offers. It is providing help to many young men and women in the West seeking a disciplined life of sobriety, education, sexual and moral responsibility leading to that victory one may call oneness with Allah and others merely call responsibility, or grace.



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- Ensure that Thuraya customers fully understand the service contract and their obligations, aware of the different service options and their cost, and that all documentations required for obtaining the service are submitted and the service contract is filled correctly.
- Responsible for keeping updated and easily referenced files on customers' information.
- Answer queries and solve problems of customers to their satisfaction.
- Maintain a daily journal for sales activities.
- Perform any task assigned to him by his superiors.

Job requirements

(P.S. As applicable to the post of Sales and Marketing Manager)

(3) Female Executive Secretary

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- Possess strong communication skills.
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SKETCHED OPINION



BY: SAMER A.

Tourists are welcome, but bring your own water

Farook al-Kamali
YT Staff

It has a rich past and a promising future. But unless the historic city of Lahj can be supplied with hotel and tourism services, it appears it will remain a tourism secret, and, as some people now believe, just a spot for people to stay briefly on their way to Aden City.

The city, its beautiful beaches and its potential for tourism remains completely ignored.

It seems Yemeni tourism bodies have forgotten that they have a city called Lahj and that it has such a rich heritage.

The city, in fact, lacks services such as, electricity, pure water and paved roads. There is negligence along its beaches, and coral reefs are deteriorating.

Lahj: a multifaceted city

Those who drop-by, albeit briefly, will see a historic Lahj with natural and architectural beauty. There are a variety of attractions, such as, al-Hosaini green gardens and the beautiful Yafae, famous for coffee and old houses.

The area has plenty of bushes and old trees. Around 45 varieties of natural plants, rare birds and wild animals are in the area. Lahj also has a fantastically long coastline with sands and coral reefs.

The city is known for its lush meadows, its attractive scenes and landscapes. It's famous for its palm trees and fragrant flowers such as, Arabian Jasmine.



Al-Husieni, the famous botanical garden in the city, is famous for its fruit. It's also known as the place where lovers sing the sweetest songs because of its surrounding, fascinating valleys.

Lahj has also preserved some of its rich folkloric heritage through its dances, handed down from generation to generation. The most popular dances are known as Lahji dances.

Potential

There is also plenty of potential in

Lahj in connection with tourists who like to visit sites of holy tombs, such as that of the Holy Man, Abdullah Bin Ali, Omar Bin Ali, Sufian in Sufian village, or Hassan Albahr in al-Hamra village.

Tourists won't confine themselves to visit the tombs, but go and see some of the surrounding historical sites, particularly after discovering the old sites in the city.

The city is famous for the natural hot bath waters, such as, Shura'a and al-Hoami at al-Kabita District.

So, there is loads of potential for tourists, in, for example, seeing desert and environmental diversities, diving, and visiting old historical places.

But as Director of Lahj Tourism, Abdurahman Ahmed recently said, "Tourism activities in Lahj are confined to families in Old Lahj, al-Hosaini green gardens and Dar al-Arae, which is famous for its ever-green plants."

Without more support, it appears all that the rest of the area has to offer will continue to be unknown.

Raise your spirit; Eid is a special time

By: Saleh Abdulbaki
YT Staff

The Yemeni people, along with the entire Islamic world, celebrated the Greater Bairam which signifies an authentic orientation toward God's forgiveness.

Now it is commonly observed that the low income and deteriorating economic and living conditions of quite a good portion of the people in the capital and main cities have posed some problems on their migration back to villages. At the same time, there is a mark down in festivals in towns except for some dancing groups: Shops are closed and streets are empty except for some restaurants and shops whose owners are obliged to open by the authorities concerned.

Many people find Eid festivals a great opportunity to get their sons and daughters married as most of their family members get together and as it is a holy festival. It is customary for the majority of Yemenis to spend Eid in villages and countryside. During Eid people used to practice some desirable and undesirable conventions whether in the Lesser Bairam and Greater Bairam. This can be clearly seen throughout different customs performed in the Yemeni countryside in a time in which the economic conditions are very deteriorated and therefore, we see people forget these difficult conditions and desire to enjoy.

Economists take the view that poor families resort to girl-propagation, meaning families marries one daughter to the son of the other family, leading to endless family disputes. Such a phenomenon is prohibited in Islam as such marriages are not made with the consent of all the parties. Other families tend to borrow money from other families which also leads them to future problems with the creditors.

Marriage festivals widely varies from one place to another. However, most families exchange valuable gifts in the Lesser and Greater Bairam

1st day of Eid



2nd day of Eid



3rd day of Eid



Al-Qabaitah monthly

including perfumes, jewelry and clothes. Many families feel that they are no longer enjoying Eid due to hard economic conditions, a high rate of unemployment, low purchase ability and limited income. Therefore, the people find it a chance to go down on the government economic policies. Many people as well as experts raise their eyebrows at the increasing rate of poverty at a time there is a sharp increase in oil production in the country.

In conclusion, deplorable economic conditions in Yemen has added to the suffering of people even during Eid, which should be days of happiness and joy. Marriage festivals are the only touches that mark some kind of happiness, though are very expensive unbearable.

Bora: yours to discover

By: Mahyoob Al-Kamali

Looking for an outdoor adventure? One of Yemen's richest natural lands is Bora. And it's waiting to be discovered.

Located in the middle of a mountainous area in the coastline plain of Tihama, it's 50 km from the east of Hodeidah City. The area constitutes the first series of the Western Highlands of Yemen, and Bora's highest point is 2200 meters above the sea levels.

Geological studies point out that Bora has volcanic rocks, but it's also a fertile land located between tropical and moderate climates. It's moderate particularly in the highest parts of the mountain.

The area therefore has some rare botanic diversity. Woods are abundantly grown, and rare animals and birds also live in the area.

A valuable area

Sightseers can see wild animals such as, foxes, hyenas, wolves and wild cats, plus reptiles and insects such as, butterflies. Rare birds sing with their sweet-toned voices.

So Bora has economic and tourist value, which makes it an important scene in

Yemen. It's also one of the only places in Yemen that has rich pastures good for grazing livestock.

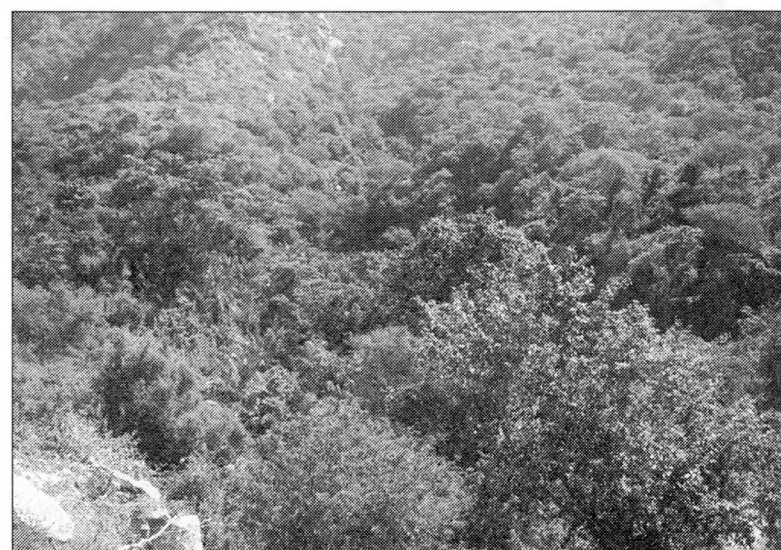
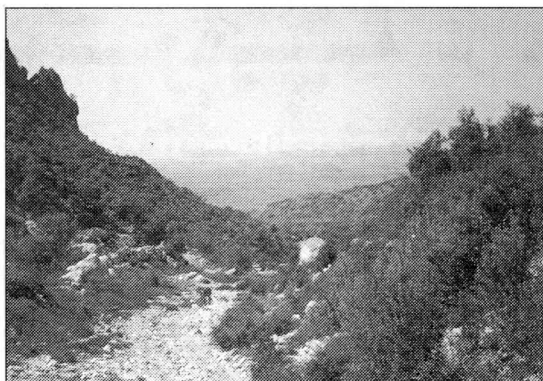
The area of Bora consists of two main regions, the first one with small trees and grassland, bushes, the second one located in a valley called Wadi Regaf, which is considered to be one of the thickest-bushed shrubs in Bora and it is about 800 hectares.

Rare trees there have medical properties, which are useful for some diseases. The coffee tree is planted in different agricultural and irrigation terraces.

Among Bora's best attractions are the evergreens grown throughout the year. The region's mist, which covers the area in an uninterrupted bath, is also a highlight.

The biodiversity in the region, such as, wild animals, long-lived trees with economic importance make Bora one of the best tourist spots in Yemen.

Visitors who enjoy the natural outdoors won't be disappointed.



Bawazir's short story

Devil's Tree

The old man's feet shivered as raindrops fell on them. Suddenly he jumped frightfully from his bed, as he heard a familiar sound, which he hated because it used to bring him misery and sadness. That night he stayed up late with sleepless eyes, as if he were waiting, but nothing happened.

When he had went to bed, the sky was clear with scattered clouds, which didn't give notice of heavy rain. But an idea had made him anxious before sleeping. Winds might unexpectedly bring black clouds, which would pour their water on his tobacco outside the village. That would make him sadder.

His life was series of sad things, since he knew that trees of tobacco -- which he called devil's trees -- had purposely did a trick by which he could recognize rain while he was sleeping inside his room. He put his feet out of the window to feel rain on them.

The old man was frightened as thunder echoed loudly and lightning dazzled. He stumbled by his children's scattered clothes and walked cautiously, lest his shivering feet should step on one of the bare bodies on the floor. He took the lantern from the small window, lit it quickly, went out and untied his donkey, saddled it and put ropes, which he needed to tie the tobacco, on its back.

The old man did it all quickly, and left the house while raindrops were disturbed by the wind. He hastened to complete his work before the heavy rain would come. He lashed the poor donkey many times. It hastened in the faint light of the vibrating lances, held in the hand of the old man.

Donkey hoofs

Along the way, he kept silent, listening to the sound of the donkey's hoofs as they hit the stones underneath. As the way to the tobacco was very long, he felt thought of the latest news of tobacco market. He had suffered from black years during which he had sold old possessions to settle the debts from planting tobacco. He had to pay for water and rent and other things. Prices were down all those years. Debts increased and he lost some of his furniture from time-to-time.

What would happen if the government were lenient with him in paying the rent, or helped him export his product to other countries, as some countries rejected importing the products? But he cared for nothing, but to exhaust his last days.

At that moment, the old man sighed deeply to dismiss such bad ideas. Suddenly his face shone as he looked up and saw a clear sky. The

danger that threatened him had vanished.

He arrived at the site where he had planted tobacco. Happy and relaxed is how he felt as he went round it. It was safe from rain while the cold breeze was joking with the golden leaves of tobacco, bringing him magic perfumes. That sight revived him.

Being very tired, he sat down on ground, and leaned on the saddle of the donkey. He kept watching the hanging tobacco in front of him, with its dancing leaves like pure gold ingots. He dreamed of a future, imagining that he was standing in front of his green plantation while long queues of workers and carts were moving tobacco to sites where it would be dried.

He was walking among people who were proud of him, swaggering in his new clean garment. People were pointing to him surprisingly. His house became one of several stories, with different painted walls behind. His sons and the rest of the family were wearing silk clothes. His fingers were playing with gold.

Spheres of luxury

He swallowed his saliva and turned his learning to the other side. His imagination led him to spheres of luxury, which he would taste after getting much of the tobacco when prices would increase. With this idea he slept with a dancing smile on his lips and a nice night of dreaming.

His dreams didn't last for long. He was suddenly awakened by that sound which echoed severely. Clouds blackened the sky and unexpected rain made him jump frightfully. Water prevented him from seeing.

He realized that he went far into his imagination, but, in fact, he had lost everything. Rain had spoiled the entire crop. It was a time to regret. All he could do was cry for help.

He started to shout loudly but no one heard him because of the loud thunder. Suddenly everything finished. Rain stopped, but it was too late. Everything was over, and the old man realized as he was staring at the spoiled tobacco that his dreams were spoiled as well.

Translated by: Sa'ad sharif Taher Nadira—Ibb

* Abdullah Salim Bawazir is a famous Yemeni fiction-writer born in Hadramout in 1938. He wrote many collections of short stories like "The way of sin" in 1965, "Three Days in prison" in 1967

"The Boots" in 1987. "Devil's Tree" was published in 1962 in Talia Newspaper.

In Brief

Ghael Bawazeer festival honors distinguished singers

The Hadramaut governorate will hold a tourist, and cultural folk art festival in the coming months. The festival will include diverse cultural activities such as Yemeni song, drama, and art activities. It will be held under the auspices of the Hadramaut Governor, Abdulakader Helal in Ghael Bawazeer.

The Chairman of the Culture Office in Hadramaut stated that a number of distinguished singers will be also honored during the festival, including Mohammed Morshed Nagi, Mohammed Sa'ad Abdullah and other prominent Yemeni singers.

Promoting tourism

The Deputy Tourism Minister, Mohammed Kofla stated that the Ministry has conducted new policies with regard to the tourism industry in collaboration with the Yemeni Airlines and tourist sector.

He added that the Ministry has intends to tackle problems faced by the tourism industry.

New policies are largely concentrated on taking initiatives towards inaugurating open tourist markets in the Gulf States, Eastern Asia and other different countries.

He added further that Yemen had taken solid steps to eradicate kidnapping, a problem that, unless solved, keeps tourists away.

Minister of Culture promises that libraries are on the way

Building new libraries to encourage Yemen's illiterate population to gain interest in reading is just one of the ways Yemen's Ministry of Culture hopes to improve the country.

Minister Abdulwahab al-Rawhani, says his desire is to change Yemen's stagnant culture and bring new hope for the future.

The minister notes he wishes to pay particular attention to children and their cultural needs.

He has met with officials during the last couple of months to discuss such issues, and promote a new sense of cultural pride in Yemen. It's his plan to also establish new cultural centers across the country, and the ministry has been working hand-in-hand with the Social Fund for Development to this end.

It's hoped new projects such as libraries will have excellent outcomes in the near future, since Yemen needs an educated population to lead its next generation.

Eco-tourism in Yemen

By: Ismail al-Ghaberi
YT Staff

The United Nations has declared the year 2002 as International Year of Eco-tourism, and Yemen has plenty to offer in terms of recognizing its natural attributes.

Yemen has laid the foundation for eco-tourism program through the The Sustainable Environment Management Program a document signed by the government and the UNDP in Sana'a, on March 16, 1997.

Eco-tourism development of Yemen

Situated at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen is bounded in the north by Saudi Arabia, in the east by Oman, in the south by the Gulf of Aden and in the west by the Red Sea.

The territory includes the islands of Kamaran and Perim in the Red Sea and Soqatra Archipelago in the Gulf of Aden.

And it's located at the boundary between the Palearctic, Afrotropical and Asiatic zones, resulting in biodiversity that is among the highest in the Middle East.

Traditional forms of protecting range lands are still practiced in Yemen, often maintained by local communities over centuries for the production of hay, food reserves for livestock during periods of drought, or for firewood.

Other forms of traditional land protection include Waqf land or property donated to religious institutions.

Jebel Bura Forest, for example, was donated in 1309AH by Sheikh Bajil Beit al-Akih and Begeli, landowner to the religious community, after which it has been under continual protection.

Land systems

Yemen is characterized by five major land systems.

1) Hot and humid coastal plains, 30-60 km wide, along the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

2) The Yemen Highlands, a region of



the coast.

The wildlife has affinities to tropical Africa, mountain flora of the East-African Highlands and the eastern desert flora with the Sahaara-Sindian region.

The highlands support the majority of endemic or near-endemic species of plants and animals. High escarpment ravines contain remnant natural, juniper vegetation such as at Jebal Al-Lawz (Khawlan), Jebal Eraf (Taiz), Jebel Saber (Taiz), ket Fah (Sada), Hawf (Al-Mahra), and Kubbeitat (Taiz).

In the high mountaintops are unique flora assemblages including alpine type vegetation. An estimated 1,700 plant species have been identified.

Out of Yemen's 555,000 sq km of land surface, grassland forest and woodland constitute nearly 40% mostly with scattered trees and shrub.

Land in many places is over-grazed by sheep, goats and cattle. Trees are increasingly cut for firewood, the country's principal domestic energy source, and for construction material, resulting in further loss of land.

Even in remote areas like Soqatra island, over-cutting of timber and localized overgrazing are threats to the terrestrial biodiversity.

The flora of Soqatra Island is of particular botanical significance, including 273 endemic species, representing Somalia-Masia flora type communities.

The coast

The coast of northern Yemen is one of the most significant fishery areas in the Red Sea, providing important sources of food and income. Domestic livestock total are high, with 1.2 million head. There is virtually no large-scale industry.

Agriculture is one of the main assets of the economy, occupying some 80% of the population. Arable land represents only 3% of the total area of the country and is largely confined to fertile valleys and flood plains. Several irrigation schemes have been developed and others are in project stage.



Birds, birds, birds

In regards to wildlife, unfortunately most sizeable mammals have long since been hunted into extinction in this country, where guns abound and a large proportion of the natural forests have been cut down.

With some dedication and luck, eco-tourists may still sport rare land animals such as the Arabian Leopard, hyena, Hamadryad, baboon, honey badger, hedgehog, ibex, and fox.

But over 220 species of migrant and wintering birds have been recorded on migration, of a total species count of more than 360. Here are 55 species of mammals, 65 species of reptiles and 43 species of freshwater fish. In total, there are five species of globally threatened mammals, 18 of birds, four of reptiles and two of freshwater fish.

Yemen arguably offers the best birding on the Arabian Peninsula, at least in terms of diversity. Over 360 bird species have been recorded in the Republic including Soqatra, of which about 140 breed.

Soqatra alone has a bird list of over 125 species, of which about 33 are

known, or thought, to be bred. All 13 South Arabian endemic for near-endemic birds species are found in the mainland, and a further six on the island of Soqatra.

This biodiversity is due to:

a) Its great diversity of habitats, largely the result of wide altitudinal and climatic range.

b) Its position at the foot of the Arabian Peninsula, lying at the center of a globally important flyway for migrant birds between Eurasia and Africa, and

c) its biological isolation by seas and deserts, which has resulted in the evolution of a relatively high endemism.

More bird species reported

From an eco-tourist point of view, the endemic bird species have the highest relevance. The endemic (and near-endemic) species of the mainland, found in the southern portion of the Arabian Peninsula are:

Philiby's and Arabian Partridges, Arabian Woodpecker, Yemen Thrush, Arabian Wheatear, Yemen Warbler, Arabian Golden Sparrow, Arabian Waxbill, Yemen Accentor, Arabian (Olive-numbered) and Yemen

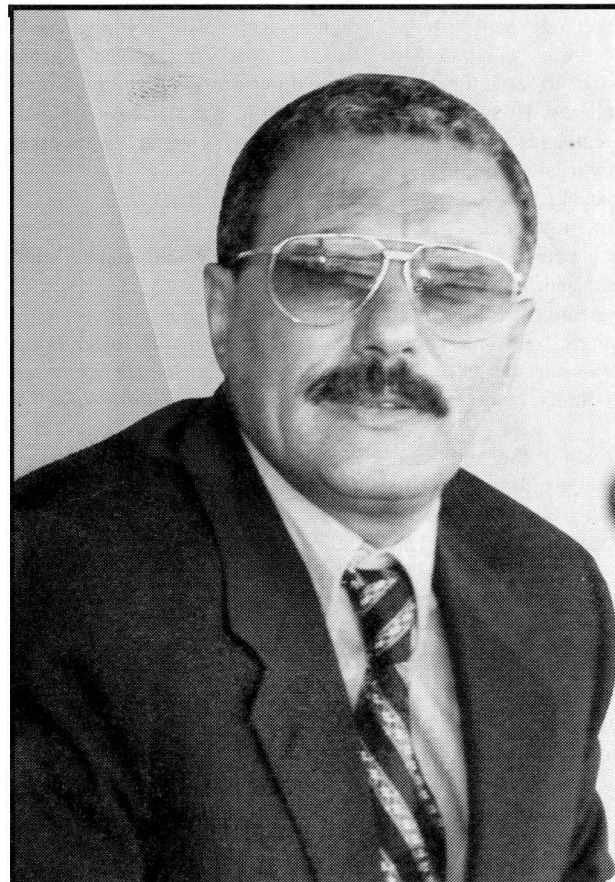
Serins.Yemen Linnet, and Golden-winged Grosbeak.

The authoritative report by M. Evans et al (1994), Important Bird Areas of the Middle East contains a detailed inventory of 57 sites which are of importance for the conservation of birds in Yemen.

These 57 sites, covering a total area of 7,300 sq km or about 1.4% of the area of the country, contain all the endemic or near-endemic bird species, as well as other rare, significant or limited-range species.

These sites, distributed around the country (including Soqatra island), also represent prime eco-tourism destinations in Yemen since, apart from containing important and interesting avifauna, many of them consist of relatively undisturbed natural areas and are of great botanical interest.

Some of them also contain other interesting types of animals. However, none of these sites are legally protected for nature conservation purposes, although some may be covered by traditional resource-use reserves, or 'mahjur', and many of them are in serious risk of degradation or destruction.



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عدن: المعلا، الشيخ عثمان. الحديدة: شارع الميناء.
إب: شارع العدين. المكلا: حي العمال.

Continued from page 4
Capturing history

In a variation on this story, Hajj Abdallah incorporated more recent events. Again there was a theft, but the guilty parties escaped. "The imam kept the statues in his palace in Marib. He had them lining the shelves that circled the room," he said, pointing to the overhead shelves in the room as if the audience could visualize the sculptures. "When I visited Marib on business and stayed with the imam, I saw them. They were of gold and were exactly like real people and animals. The statue of the man had fingernails and," he added with a chuckle, "a little penis."

"During the civil war, the Egyptian soldiers sent here went to see the imam and they saw the statues. They stole them, every one of them, and flew away in a helicopter. They took them directly to Cairo to present to Gamal Abdel Nasser. Nasser put them in a museum along with other things they stole from us. "You saw them when you were in Cairo, didn't you, Ali?" he asked a guest at the conclusion of the story.

What a man he was

Ottoman Turks occupied this part of Yemen for about forty-seven years before their defeat in World War I. 'Amranis recall Ottoman rule as harsh and oppressive. What roles they played in rebelling against, or collaborating with, Turkish policies have been forgotten with the exception of one event. This story is so well known that it is, for 'Amranis, essentially summarized by the declaration, uttered with a mixture of awe and reverence: *Shaykh Hizam*. Oh, what a man he was. There's never been anyone like him.

The object of this devotion was 'Amran's tribal leader, or shaykh, during the last years of the Ottoman occupation. 'Amranis believe the shaykh went to Istanbul seeking redress for the town's oppression. While it is sacrilege to say so, their interpretation of the event is almost certainly a case of making a silk purse from a sow's ear, for the sheikh's actions probably thwarted a successful tribal rebellion. The first time I heard the story was from Hajj Abdallah. His account became my standard version for judging other versions that I would hear.

"The Turkish commander of the fort was Yusuf Pasha," Hajj Abdallah began, pointing out the window to the garrison atop the hill, which people say the Turks built with stones taken from the old Himyarite castle. "He was the most cruel of men. He treated us badly. He let the soldiers steal from our crops. He put men in jail. Everything we did got us punished. It was terrible."

"Once he killed four men who caught the Turks stealing their grain. He cut off their heads and put them on stakes next to the government offices. He let his soldiers steal our property. He even set fire to our fields when we were about to harvest the grain. Shaykh Hizam went to the imam to stop this. The imam couldn't do anything, so the shaykh went to Istanbul."

"He sailed from Hodeida. When he reached Istanbul he said he wanted to see the pasha. At first the Turks refused, but when they learned he came from Yemen they quickly gave him an audience. The pasha heard our grievances and said he would take care of everything. Shaykh Hizam stayed as the pasha's guest for a while, and they showed him their museums. When he was about to depart, they asked him if he wanted money or other things. Shaykh Hizam said that thanks to Allah he had money but would take some household furnishings. These he brought back with him."

"After the shaykh returned, a letter was sent to the commander in Sana'a and Yusuf Pasha was taken there. The Turks cut off his head. A new commander was sent here."

Stopping, Hajj Abdallah stared blankly for a perhaps half a minute, seemingly consumed by inner thoughts on the eminence of this hero. Then he concluded: "Shaykh Hizam. Oh, what a man he was. There's never been anyone like him."

As if this declaration were a benediction, others in the room immediately responded in agreement with "Shaykh Hizam" or "La ilah ila Allah [All praise to Allah]."

When the Jews left 'Amran

A significant group of outsiders who lived in 'Amran were Jews. Yemeni Jews practiced one of the oldest forms of Judaism. Those in 'Amran were thought to have settled there about 350 years ago. They came from nearby vil-

lages seeking protection, and the shaykh granted their request. He gave them land upon which to build a village. In 1948 most of Yemen's Jews, including all those in 'Amran, moved to Israel.

Hajj Abdallah was personally involved in the transition. I heard him recount the events many times, and in each he presented himself in neutral but honorable terms. In his best performances, he would first order one of his sons to go to his room and bring some deeds. The son would return with several handfuls of rolled parchments, each tied with a fabric string, and place them in front of his father.

With studied deliberation, Hajj Abdallah would then search among his various glasses for the right pair. Invariably the lenses of the chosen set were dirty from the prying hands of his grandchildren. So smudged were the lenses that the fingerprints could be seen across the room. After a cursory cleaning with a bit of cloth, which seemed always to do no more than spread the oils more widely, he would put these on. I would cringe and wonder if he could really see. Then, as he rummaged through the papers, untying them and glancing at the contents, he would launch into his rendition.

"When there was talk of the Jews leaving, the imam told them to stay and not to believe the stories of the foreigners who were traveling about visiting them. But when the Jews decided to leave, the imam said they had to sell everything. They couldn't take so much as a cup with them. The imam sent me a message, ordering me to buy the houses and the land. I bought 121 houses and 10,000 libna [100 acres] of land. Then I sold the land and the houses to the Muslims."

Even as he was recounting this story, he'd be fiddling with his papers. Selecting one, he'd pause to untie and open a parchment, glance at it, roll it up again and retie it, and then go on. "No one wanted to buy the synagogue. Finally, since everything had to be sold, I said I would buy it. I gave the Jews forty Maria Theresa talers. Now it is a storeroom. What else could we do?" he asked rhetorically.

"Everyone wanted to buy the big houses by the gate," he continued. "The imam bought the large one that now belongs to Ali and also the one where Yahya lives. He paid one thousand Maria Theresas for both of them. The big one by the gate was owned by Salim al-Garada, the richest Jew. He had land all over, some nearby but a lot by Kahlan and Jawb. The house where Yahya lives was the best house in the quarter."

Stopping again, he continued to rummage through his papers, as if looking for something specific. The room was quiet except for the gurgling of the water pipe and cups of water being filled. Then he resumed his narrative: "Not long after they'd left, the Jews sent me a message over the radio. It came from Aden."

"It said, 'Greetings to Hajj Abdallah who bought all our houses and land for nothing.'"

He burst out laughing. Even when he was able to go on, he still had a big grin. The smile revealed his qat-covered teeth. "What could I do?" he shrugged in mock protest. "The imam said to buy everything down to the last cup."

"About a year later I received a letter from one of the Jews. He was in Israel. He said that he had buried some money in his house. He had been afraid to take the money with him and wanted me to send it to him. I went to the house--that's where Hussayn lives today. We dug in the wall where the letter said, and we found the money. Hussayn wanted to keep it, but I said the imam only ordered us to buy the houses and his instruction didn't include what was in them. So I sent the money to the Jew."

His narrative finished, Hajj Abdallah held up a scroll and declared the property to be Muhammad's house. This was merely a piece of dramatic artifice. In the local tenure scheme, the deeds would have been transferred to the new owners. But it is quite possible that these documents were indeed deeds to the several properties Hajj Abdallah had purchased from departing Jews.

Guests never questioned this or his other stories, even when I thought they should have. The audience loved to hear these accounts that portrayed their lives. Like all successful tale tellers, Hajj Abdallah captured history, shaping it into what he and his listeners wished it to be.

Press Scanner

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Qabaitah monthly newspaper, organ of Cooperation Charity Society, Qabaitah, March 2002

Main headlines:

- YR 14 million for roads, 8 million for health
- Heritage committee discusses its plans with the Society's leadership
- 2nd Cultural Forum in Taiz on March 21
- As-Saeed Society: New Charity Projects.

An article by Abumarwan al-Shaa'abi on the role of media in charity work says it's important to point to the role of media in creating and crystallizing con-

cepts about charity action in Yemen and benefit from it in active participation for achieving the aspired goals.

The role of information and mass media requires approaching this aspect by explaining the ideas of the law on societies undertaking the charitable work. The writer gives an example to assist his idea by addressing Sana'a radio to shoulder such responsibility as it is tuned in everywhere in Yemen and abroad. He proposes that the radio participates in explaining to the audience the humanitarian role of charitable societies in Yemen. He also mentions about the role of Yemeni press in this respect. He encourages newspapers' columnists in both official and non-official media to write about the charitable work in the way achieving the goals the charitable

societies are supposed to attain.





Annas weekly, 18 Feb. 2002

Main headlines:

- War against terror: Yemen from partnership to leadership
- American embassy supports tribal arbitration
- One hundred American army men to train the Special Force

In an article on demands of Arab people from the upcoming Arab summit, Dr Hassan al-Jawshai says although the coming summit has come rather late but we hope to get much of it and expect to come out with courageous resolutions

to dwarf the American ghoul and the Jewish wolf. But if he summit is to come out with weak frustrating decisions it is better for the leaders to stay in their countries and spare the millions of dollars spent on the summit and send them to the Palestinians. They are in need of these millions. Arab and Muslim peoples do not want condemning terrorism and theoretical support for the Palestinian authority in addition to denouncing the Jews' acts. These peoples are not that naive and would not be satisfied in less than a strong stand compatible with the volume of the American plots aimed at having the sway over policies and fate of the region's peoples and short of stopping the Jewish crimes in order to restore to the Arabs and Muslims their dignity.


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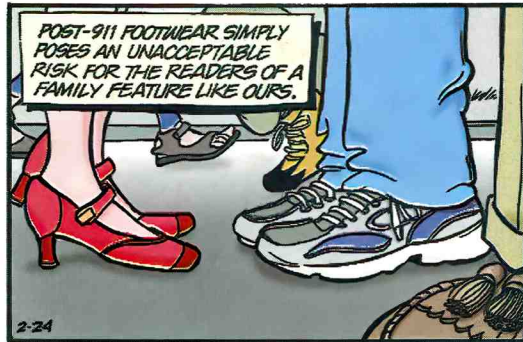
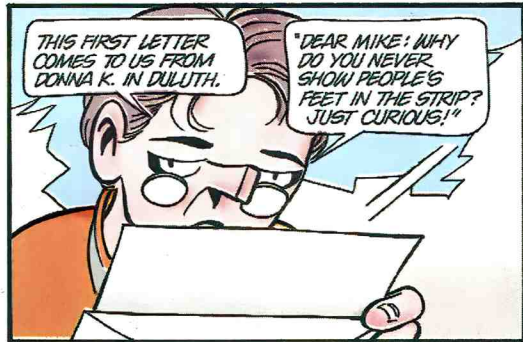
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An exciting series telling the true story of the UK's music superstar (of Yemeni origin): Dark Angel

The Dark Angel's Journal Chapter 1 – Behind the Mask



A reporter by the name of Mrs Lloyd needed a story. She knew her job was going to be over before it even started. She needed something to help her get her first break as a journalist. It was only by sheer stroke of luck that she was sitting in a recording studio with a singer she had often heard of. She stares at the singer, hoping he would say a few words. From what her experienced associates have said; this singer didn't like journalists but her instincts told her she could be at the right and place. While the world was concentrating on the POP Idol show, which has been dominating England in the last couple of years on TV, Satellites and newspapers; she and many like her were getting fed up with manufacture band and wanted to bring something real.

His head shaved, shining from the lights of the chandeliers that bounced onto him. He sits down opposite her and grabs his cup of tea and relaxes. He lowers his gaze and stares at the glazed circles within his cup, as if he can see a world or maybe a distant memory. Maybe she is wrong and maybe it was true what they said about him; it is hard to make him speak and say a word. As she wonders what to do and what to say to maybe get him to speak, his deep voice begins to flow with words that paints for her a journey.

She didn't move a muscle after she pressed the Dictaphone to record what the singer was about to reveal to her. She watched him as he walked towards the window, placing his hands on its surface as he stared towards the horizon, past the cars and the bustle of life. He lowered his head and shrugged his shoulders as he took a deep breath. He knew that he has only an hour away before his musicians and friends escorted him to the venue to perform his album on stage. There is much she must know about this singer who came from the Arab country called Yemen and yet, he is either stalling or just nervous. Just when she was about to give up and call it a day he turns round and smiles at her.

It seems, I grew up to be a man far too quick and I wish I had the time or the peace to enjoy those small and yet significant things that children do. I had no choice but to speak, to act like a man, to think and to fight like a man when I was just a child. I never wanted to grow up so dark inside, with a flinch of fear. I wish I could feel that human feeling but one gets numb when life strikes a hard blow at you

constantly. I look back now and I see that I couldn't afford the time for the things that usually become cherished memories for children; those small and magical moments of laughter, of innocence and simplicity, which so many people take for granted. I just became a surviving machine; every little thing, every small step was one huge wall to climb. Yes, my life has moved so fast and it takes me a while remembering the road of where it all began. Maybe deep inside I want to forget and maybe it would harden me even more inside but in other hand, I am selfish to not pass something to my future children and the people of Yemen because within what I tell is hope, and the impossible can without a shadow of doubt be possible.

Continued next week.

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MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series in published in a newspaper

Written by Abdulrahman Mutahhar

Translated by Janet Watson

Every proverb has a story

Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means. What comes after that, Mus'ida?

After that it goes, love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means. It's not for him who lit up his shop in the light of day. Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means. It's not for him who collects money then breakfasts in prison. Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means. It's not for the trader who was born yesterday.

Very poetic! And I've been thinking that every saying and proverb have got a story behind them, and they're there to give us an insight into life and people.

I just learn the sayings from listening to other people. I don't know whether they've got any stories behind them, and I don't bother asking!

Well I'm going to tell you the story behind that saying now.

Okay, go on.

They say that there were three people. Two of them were traders and the third collected tax [zakah] and handed it over to the state. The first trader went bankrupt because of all the goods he used to buy on credit. They lit a candle and put it over the door of his shop in broad daylight as a sign to his creditors. The second trader went into business without knowing anything about it, and was bankrupt three months later.

Go on, what about the third person, the tax collector.

The third person collected tax, and rather than hand it over to the state treasury, he kept it to himself and embezzled it. In the end, he was sent to prison. At that time, there was a beautiful girl. Each of them wanted to marry her, but it never turned out, because the first trader was bankrupt, the second trader was bankrupt without any friends, and the tax collector was locked away in prison. Later a saying emerged from the story and it became the subject of a very popular song. 'Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means. It's not for him who lit up his shop in the light of day. Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means. It's not for him who collects money then breakfasts in prison. Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means. It's not for the trader who was born yesterday.'

Tell me, though, Mus'id, is that really a true story, or did someone make it up?

M – If you think about it, you'll realize it's based on truth. My nephew hasn't got any patience. He wanted to get rich between sunrise and sunset, whatever it took. He opened up a shop and carried favor with importers and wholesalers. He acted very honest and upright so that they would trust him, and they began to give him goods worth hundreds of thousands of riyals. He would give them half the cost at the time, and the rest once he had sold the goods. But, unfortunately, he went off the straight and narrow. He began to be excessively wasteful and extravagant. In the end, he had to leave the business altogether, without a penny and up to his ears in debt, and they lit a candle over the door of his shop.

Ma – Go on!

M – Other people, Mus'ida, set up a business without knowing anything about it beforehand, and often without a clue about how the market works or how traders operate; people like these usually go bankrupt within a very short time. Some people, who are trusted by the state to collect taxes and to take it to the state treasury, betray that trust. They embezzle the money, and end up eating fenugreek and bread in prison.

From Hollywood with love: Spy Tech show opens

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Hollywood loves a good spy and the feeling is mutual.

Now the studios and "The Company," as the CIA is sometimes known, are marking more than a half-century of mutual fascination with the largest public display ever of spy gadgets, both real and imagined.

The exhibit, which opens at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library near Los Angeles on Saturday, ranges from the whimsical to the deadly, everything from the shoe phone made famous by Don Adams in the TV show "Get Smart" to a KGB umbrella used to shoot poison-tipped darts of a kind once used to assassinate a Bulgarian dissident in London.

The show, "Secrets from the CIA, KGB and Hollywood," also includes the tarantula that threatened James Bond in "Dr. No," Emma Peal's leather

pants from "The Avengers," and a 19th century spy camera designed to be strapped to a pigeon.

The blend of fact and fiction is fitting, given the way that the Cold War clandestine productions sometimes followed the lead of the celluloid spooks and sometimes anticipated them in ways that their Hollywood creators never imagined.

THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE MOVIES

"Many of the people who work for the CIA grew up on these spy shows just like I did," said Danny Biederman, a screenwriter, whose lifelong fascination with the genre prompted the collection of more than 4,000 props and gizmos on partial display.

Biederman loaned his souvenirs to the CIA two years ago for an eyes-only exhibit at the agency's headquarters in Virginia.



The 'shoe phone' used by actor Don Adams, in the television series 'Get Smart', is pictured in this undated publicity photograph. The shoe and other items are featured in a new exhibit 'Spies Secrets from the CIA, KGB and Hollywood' opened February 16 at the R.R. Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif. (R)

Now, the CIA museum (motto: "The Best Museum You've Never Seen") has taken that show to the public at the Reagan Library, along with a sampling of spy artifacts from the National Archives and the private collection of Keith Melton.

In Tokyo, street fashion goes high-tech

TOKYO (Reuters) - Twenty-five-year-old Mari Taniuchi enters Tokyo's ultra-hip Shibuya district and glances at a tiny computer screen bolted onto her jacket sleeve.

A map of the area lights up. She sifts through information on places to eat and shop, tapping a key pad woven into her cuff, as music plays from headphones wired through her collar. Her padded white jacket reflects the latest in Japanese street wear — a hybrid of fashion and technology that

has its roots in a concept that has never quite worked: the "wearable PC".

"Our country has always been good at downsizing electronic gadgets," said designer Michie Sone, who created Taniuchi's jacket in collaboration with electronics group Pioneer Corp. Although the jacket is not yet commercially available, fusing high-tech accessories with clothing is seen as an inevitable step in Japan's fast-moving fashion industry. Sone, 64, taught at Tokyo's Bunka Fashion College until last year when she began spearheading a \$222,500 project to develop high-tech fashion with electronics companies.

She hopes to design the ultimate ready-to-wear clothing that offers the functionality of cell phones, personal data assistants (PDAs), laptops, mobile data network systems or MP3 players.

She admits it's a challenge but says Japan's obsessions with fashion and tech could produce a fertile market.

Attempts so far at the

"wearable PC" have been fashion flops, often built by computer engineers focused more on chips than hips and confined to factories or university laboratories. Sone, whose hair is dyed a bright blue, wants the concept to gain mass appeal and has even coined a term for it: "media fashion". "Tokyo is the only quirky market for fun fashion right now," she says. Her biggest financial backer is the government of Gifu prefecture of central Japan, which hopes "media fashion" can help revive its once-booming garment towns.

Sone is also hoping for support from the national government.

FOLDABLE AND WASHABLE?

A key challenge is to develop a waterproof fabric-like display that can be folded without losing its functionality.

To that end, Pioneer Corp. sees Sone's project as an outlet for 10 years of research on ultra-thin displays that are flexible enough to be embedded in clothing. It plans to showcase its latest heat-proof organic light-emitting diode (OLED) screen at a November "media fashion" show backed by Gifu prefecture.



A Pioneer Corp employee shows the latest in Japanese streetwear—a hybrid of fashion and technology that has its roots in 'wearable PCs.' With the white jacket under development, Japanese electronics maker Pioneer Corp aims to showcase more functions to the heat-proof, fabric-like display embedded on the sleeve. Photo by Toshiyuki Aizawa

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SabaFon Celebrates Its First Anniversary

Thursday, the 14th of February 2002 marks the first anniversary for SabaFon as the FIRST GSM operator in Yemen. Looking back, SabaFon is very proud of its performance during the year 2001 and at the same time the company is looking ahead for a very competitive performance during 2002

SabaFon is the first to introduce the GSM service into the Yemeni market. The basic post-paid service was launched on the 14th of February 2001 with the following value-added services: CLIP, Call waiting, Call holding, and Call forwarding. The pre-paid service (Naba') was launched by end of February to meet a particular segment of the GSM market. Again, it was the first pre-paid service to be launched in Yemen.

As the leading GSM operator in Yemen, SabaFon was also the first to issue the bills to its subscribers during April for the period ending March 2001. This has enhanced SabaFon customers' trust in the company and its services. The launch of CLIR and SO-CLIR services also followed short after that.

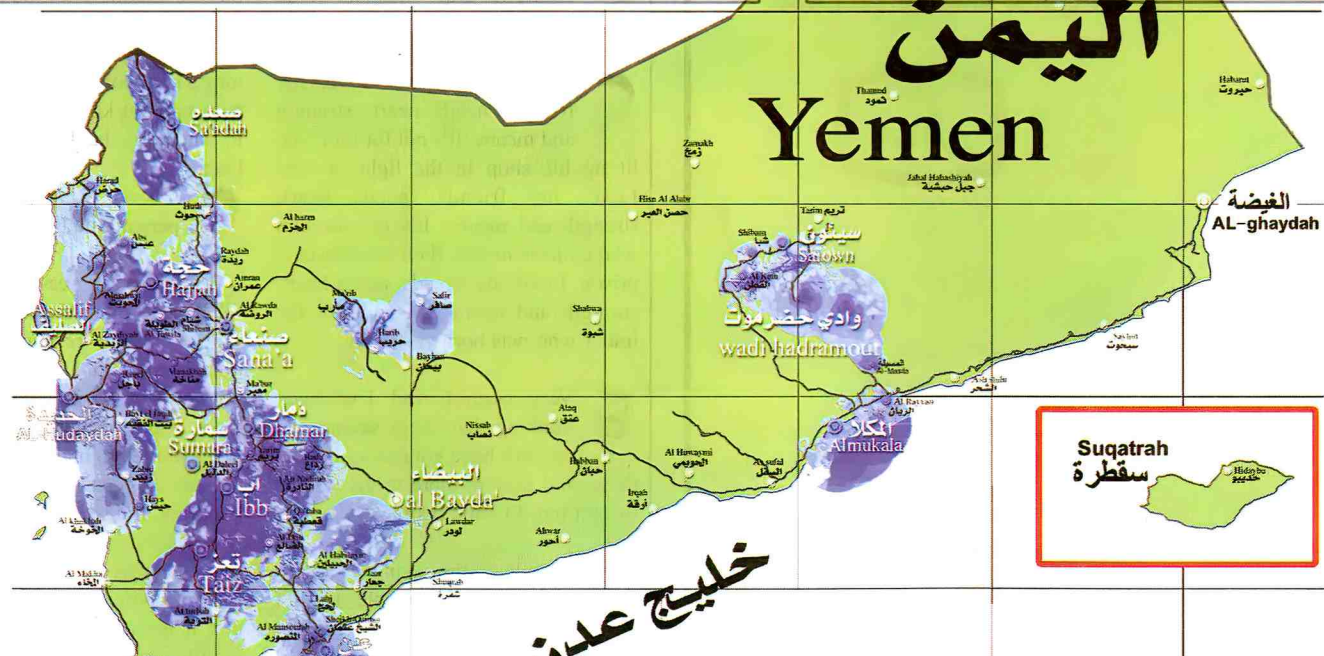
Initiatives and offers have always been characterized SabaFon's performance. These range from providing discounts, draws, and competitions to joining hands with major enterprises inside and outside Yemen like Thuraya and Yemenia Airlines as well as other roaming operators world-wide, which ultimately provides SabaFon customers with a leading edge.

Covered Areas

Area Covered	City	Area Covered	City	Area Covered	City	Area Covered	City
Sana'a	Sana'a	Al-Hudaydah	Al-Hudaydah	Hajjah	Hajjah	Wadi Banna	Ibb
Al-Mansoura	Aden	Bagel	Al-Hudaydah	Mahabisha	Hajjah	Kilab	Ibb
Moualla	Aden	Harad	Al-Hudaydah	Ma'rib	Ma'rib	Shaar	Ibb
Sheikh Osman	Aden	Abes	Al-Hudaydah	Hailan	Ma'rib	Baadon	Ibb
Khomaksar	Aden	Almukala	Hadramout	Dhamar	Dhamar	Sumara	Ibb
Crater	Aden	Dias	Hadramout	Issy	Dhamar	Sa'adah	Sa'adah
Tawahi	Aden	Buwaych	Hadramout	Yarim	Yarim	Muhallab	Sa'adah
Burayka	Aden	Fuwah	Hadramout	Lahj	Lahj	Sabah	Sa'adah
Mujalla	Taiz	Al-Rayyan	Hadramout	Yafea	Yafea	Al-Mahwit	Al-Mahwit
Tahrir	Taiz	Shiban	Hadramout	Bahar	Yafea	Al-Rajn	Al-Mahwit
Hawban	Taiz	Salown	Hadramout	Mufthi	Ibb	Al-Tawlah	Al-Mahwit
Shamsal	Taiz	Qaatan	Ibb	Ibb	Ibb	Al-Masila	Al-Masila
Hujarah	Taiz	Raydah	Amran	Al-Daleel	Ibb	Ibb	Ibb
Masar	Taiz	Amran	Hadramout	An Nadrah	Ibb	Ibb	Ibb
Manakhah .st	Taiz	Zayn	Hadramout	As Saddah	Ibb	Ibb	Ibb

المناطق المغطاة

المناطق المغطاة	المناطق المغطاة	المناطق المغطاة	المناطق المغطاة
صنعاء	صنعاء	الحدودة	الحدودة
المصنوعة	عاب	الحدودة	الحدودة
العملا	عاب	الحدودة	الحدودة
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حجرية	عاب	الحدودة	الحدودة
مسار	عاب	الحدودة	الحدودة
تن سافعة	عاب	الحدودة	الحدودة



SabaFon's subscriber base has grown very fast. In no more than four months of launching the service, SabaFon had 20,000 subscribers. Short after that this number doubled and this trend is continuing. Spontaneously, SabaFon continued launching more services like, the International Roaming, Super Naba' campaign (endorsed by Prince Naseem), Short Message Service (SMS), the Closed User Group (CUG) solution, and the Voice Mail Service (VMS), etc.

The new Yemen Call initiative was introduced lately by SabaFon, offering a new range of valuable services to SabaFon customers. SabaFon plans to incorporate also suitable offers for the users of this service, which will include a variety of prizes.

The constant progress in SabaFon coverage network has always been an on-going priority. Efforts have been concentrated on enhancing the coverage service by expanding the currently covered areas as well as opening new areas. SabaFon has an intensive plan for the year 2002, which will expand and improve upon the coverage network throughout Yemen.

The public interaction and trust with all that SabaFon provides is the driving-force for the company. As a result, SabaFon is determined to be always up to its customers' requirements and expectations. Flashing back at this brief of last year performance can be regarded as an indicator for all the achievement and progress to come during 2002.

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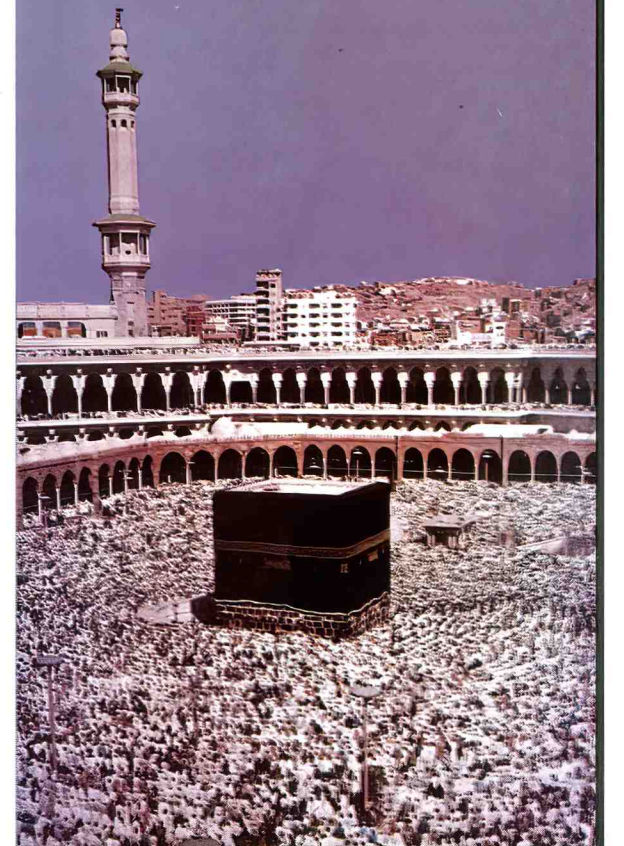
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Oscar nominee Smith says he's delusional

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Will Smith, Oscar nominee for his starring role as legendary heavyweight boxer Muhammad Ali, says he's delusional -- and it's got him where he is today.

"There's a wonderful delusional quality I possess that allows me to attempt things that are really bad ideas," Smith told reporters Monday ahead of the Australian premier of "Ali."

Smith said people close to him told him that taking on the role of the larger-than-life "Ali" in the film, by heavyweight director Michael Mann, would be a mistake.

"Two years later, I'm sitting in Australia and I'm an Oscar nominee," Smith said.

He made the comment in response to a question based on his remarks in the December issue of Playboy magazine in which he said he could do anything he set his mind to -- including becoming

president of the United States.

Asked about his chances of winning the Academy Award for Best Actor, Smith said with a chuckle: "I've got my fingers crossed. I only wish Russell Crowe hadn't made a damned movie this year."

Crowe's best actor nomination, his third, is for his role as Nobel Prize-winning mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. in the Ron Howard-directed "A Beautiful Mind."

Crowe won the 2001 Oscar for best actor for his role as a fallen Roman general sold into slavery in "Gladiator" and was nominated for the award a year earlier for his portrayal of a tobacco industry whistle-blower in "The Insider," also directed by Mann.

Smith, 33, said he spent a year and half following a program to transform the tall but slight actor into a copy of Ali in his physical, mental and spiritual prime.

Ali is known, among many things, for his trademark confidence and bold statements which centered around his youth, power and beauty. Asked for Ali's assessment of his performance, Smith joked: "He said I fell down on pretty."

Smith, who began entertainment life rapping at parties when he was 12, said the film experience had left him able to understand what it means to be great.

"Muhammad Ali's life had almost biblical proportions to it. He was playing David to Goliath after Goliath," he said, adding he admired Ali's ability to stick to his beliefs in the face of enormous opposition.

"I spoke to Muhammad Ali the other week. I heard the joy in his voice. He's happy. If you feel happy in your life, you've won," Smith said.

Smith, who said he took a left hook for real while filming, said a full punch brings a blue flash, then a long, ringing sound and then thoughts completely disconnected from the boxing ring.

"There's something really primal about being able to stand up, get yourself back together, and keep on fighting," he said.

Reuters Photo By Victoria Tait

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A bouquet, made to an order from an unidentified person, of red roses decorated with pictures of U.S. President Bush, Saudi dissident Osama Bin Laden, Palestinian President Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Sharon, is pictured at a flower shop in Amman, on Valentine's Day Feb 14, 2002.

Photo by Ali Jarekji/Reuters

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