



# YEMEN TIMES



September 26th through October 2nd, 1994

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**EL SOFFARY**

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No Surprises at the End of a Successful First Congress of the Party:

# Meet the "New" ISLAH Leaders

**Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,**  
Chief Editor,  
Yemen Times.

The atmosphere was tense, in spite of the arrangements that had been worked out. There was a lot of jawboning and lobbying. In the final analysis, there is one conclusion: The doctrine preachers and ideologues have come to dominate the ISLAH. They used to exert much influence, even before the congress of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) which was held during 20-24/9/1994. That does not come as a surprise.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar continues to be Chairman of the party and the 15-man Supreme Board, the party's top executive body. The Supreme Board is like the politbureau (YSP lingo) or general committee (PGC lingo). From there on, it is the doctrine preachers who have taken over.

The Vice Chairman of the Supreme Board is Sheikh Yasseen Al-Qubati, who is a long-time spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood and party ideologue. The chairman of the 100-man Council of Elders (Majlis Al-Shoura), which is the final arbiter of all power in the party, is Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Zindani. The Council of Elders is the permanent (or central) committee of the party.

Sheikh Abdul-Wahab Ad-Dailamy, another ideologue, was elected as chairman of the Judicial Council of the Party. Now, this body is responsible for defining the authorities and duties of each post and body. It is expected to play a major role in the power distribution. Another ideologue, Mr. Mohammed Al-Yadumi, has taken over as Secretary-General of the party. He has replaced Mr. Abdul-Wahab Al-Anisi who is now the Assistant Secretary-General. The rise of the ideologues has dampened the ambitions of the merchant/business class as well as those of the young Islah aspirants. The merchant class was badly hit. Its leaders - like Ahmed Al-Aqil and Abdulghani Rammah - have actually failed in the elections to even make to the 100-strong Council of Elders. The young aspirants have also lost some ground.

Those two groups may make up some of the lost ground by having their people appointed to head a few of the twelve departments in the general secretariat. But even that is still in the air, as competition is stiff and strong.



The ISLAH leaders clockwise: Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Zindani, Sheikh Yasseen Abdulaziz Al-Qubati, Sheikh Abdul-Wahab Ad-Dailamy, Mr. Mohammed Al-Yadumi, Mr. Abdul-Wahab Al-Anisi, and Faris Al-Saqqaf.



In a four-page statement issued by the ISLAH at the end of the congress, the following positions were made clear:

I: Internal Issues:

1. The Sahwa newspaper is adopted as the mouthpiece of the party.
2. Corruption is seen as the country's most dangerous enemy and that the state must combat it.
3. The Islah commits to pluralism as the political system for the country, and democracy as the path.
4. The Islah considers that the YSP's (new) leadership has not taken a clear position on the secessionist efforts and leaders, thus affecting the relationship of Islah and YSP.

II: External Issues:

1. In the peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israel, the Islah sees that the Israeli is making far more gains than the Arab side.
2. The Islah calls on the Arab and Muslim leaders to take a firm position against the persecution of Muslims in Bosnia, Kashmir, the Philippines, etc.
3. The Islah affirms the special relationship of the states of the Arabian Peninsula.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### The Price of Success

Most Yemenis and foreigners agree that the Yemen Times is a successful business venture, unlike almost all other newspapers and media in the country. The perception, a correct one, is that Yemen Times is doing well. But this perception is increasingly leading to enormous burdens. Let me share with you some of the problems of succeeding in Yemen:

#### 1. Appeals of Making Contribution:

The country is filled with various kinds of projects which send people around asking for contributions in their financing. Apparently, if you make a donation to one project, your name is passed on to other projects as apotential contributor. Unless you make a dozen refusals in a series, your name won't be taken off the list. That is our predicament, at this stage.

#### 2. Government Demands:

We have been singled out among all newspapers by the tax authorities and pressured into paying this or that tax. We have successfully pleaded, so far, that we fulfill our end of the responsibilities on the basis of the Press and Publication Law of the country. Even then, we have had policemen and soldiers sent to us demanding this or that tax payment, beyond the duties assigned by the law. At the least, they ask us to pay the fees of the policemen.

#### 3. Parasitic Class:

There is a large class of parasites who go from office to office praising government officials and businessmen. These are called dowshan (or orators who praise for money, even when you don't ask for the praising). In return they demand to be paid. The Yemen Times has been visited repeatedly by these people who have a strong sense of where to go, based on the fortunes of the host. The problem is that if we continue to refuse paying these parasites, as we have been doing, then we risk being subjected to a lot of nasty rumors and bad-mouthing.

#### 4. Social Security Problems:

There are a lot of people who deserve to be assisted because of their sad conditions. As the government is unable to shoulder this responsibility fully, and society has yet to develop a system to help them, these people camp outside the homes and offices of successful businessmen and individuals. Lately, Yemen Times has been targeted, and the daily flow of visitors is rising. We do interact positively with these people, but our resources can in no way make a dent in the problem.

#### 5. Officers' Services:

Many officers visit the successful businesses offering their services. In some cases, these are senior people. Last week, Yemen Times was visited by the commander of a brigade (entrusted with the duty of guarding a very top level official) offering his services. In return, he expects to be paid. I did not see how we will need his services, although I can see how the paper could use services in traffic, immigration, airport, etc.

The Yemen Times has tried hard to plough back whatever it can to help society. We have assisted researchers and scholars, and we have helped stranded students, especially during the war. We finance part of the efforts to evolve a civil society in Yemen. This means helping the birth and consolidation of political pluralism, freedom of the press, gatherings and seminars, unions and syndicates.

But it looks like our image of success brought with it a lot of unwanted clients. This is probably a factor which tends to pull down successful individuals by overburdening them. The Yemen Times will continue to resist such clientele. It is legally and morally inappropriate to part away with your income just because someone else wants a part of it. This is especially dangerous if the recipient is undeserving and/or you are not parting with your money willingly. It becomes a form of extortion, which is unhealthy for our evolution.

*The Publisher*  


# YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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### Criminal Incidents Record for 1st Half of September

The Ministry of Interior reports the following incidents all over the republic and which occurred during the first two weeks of September according to Al-Hares newspaper (Issue dated 21/9/1994):

\* 79 incidents involving the use of firearms in which 33 persons were killed.

\* 93 traffic accidents in which 37 persons were killed and 178 persons were injured.

\* 105 theft cases involving 46 break-ins into homes.

\* 60 car thefts, of which the police recovered 10 cars.

### Immigrant Delegates Arrive in Yemen

Delegations representing immigrant Yemeni communities arrived in Sanaa last week. They are here to participate in the celebrations of the anniversary of the Revolution.

"They are also here to confirm support of the Yemeni communities abroad to the president and system," explained an official of the Immigrants' General Secretariat.

Delegates from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda were the first to arrive. Other delegates from Europe, USA and South-east Asia have also arrived.

A visitor disclosed to Yemen Times that while the visit is aimed as a show of support for unified Yemen, the delegates are looking for investment opportunities in the homeland."

### Continued Government Measures Against the Independent Media

The government continues to take measures to limit the freedom of independent newspapers. In the give-and-take between the Al-Ayyam newspaper and the Minister of Information, the revelations indicate the extent to which the government officials are willing to go to curb the ability of newspapers and journalists to do their work. The Minister has been telling visitors and friends that Al-Ayyam is unable to pay its dues to the printing house, 14th October Press. The truth, however, according to Al-Ayyam Chief Editor Hisham Bashraheel is totally different. "I have proof the 14th October Press owes us over YR 3 million. Whatever the case of the accounts, I am willing to pay in cash on the spot if the minister would let us issue the paper," he said.

At another level, Attaganmu' newspaper has been blocked, again by the minister. This time the excuse is that "There are technical problems at the press." According to an editor at the Attaganmu', apparently the Ministry of Information has taken a decision not to allow any newspaper that is not under its control to come out of any city except Sanaa - under its nose.

At a third level, tremendous pressure is being applied on Ashoura newspaper, which has become the focal point of writings critical of the government. "We are expecting real trouble," the Chief Editor said pointing to the falling level of tolerance towards criticism and freedom of the press in official circles.

### Defence Minister Promoted to Major-General

The Minister of Defence, Mr. Abdu-Rabbo Mansoor Hadi, has been elevated to the rank of Major-General. The decision was announced on Thursday, 22nd September, during the graduation ceremony of two batches of officers at the Military Staff College. The decision is seen as a recognition of the minister's effective role during the recent civil war. With the promotion, the minister becomes the second highest ranking military person in the country. The only person outranking the minister is the president of the republic who holds the rank of General.

### The YIDD to Be Announced Early October

Yemen Times learned that the Yemeni Institute for Developing Democracy will be launched in early October. According to Mr. Ahmed As-Soufi, the dynamo behind the idea, the YIDD's internal charter and list of founders have already been completed. He said that a representative from the Ministry of Social Affairs will attend a meeting in which the founders will announce the establishment of the institute. YIDD's objective is to increase awareness in society regarding the workings of democracy and push for a more active public participation in democratic events. "We have a tall order charted for us," As-Soufi said.

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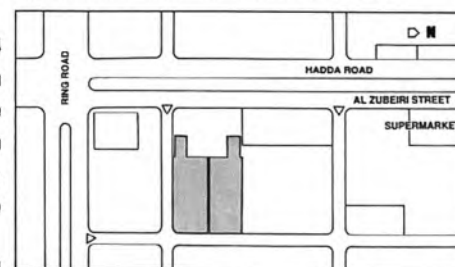


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# Iskander Thabet:

## A Monument in Modern Yemeni Music History

Yemeni music has undergone several major transformations - in content, tune, tools used, and even language. Given the evolution and the limited research done, little can be pinned down to give a definition and identity to Yemeni music. Yet, there are some music giants who can serve as an important reference point. Iskander Thabet, 70, is one of them.

Mr. Thabet comes from a Sheikh Othman (Adeni) family that is attached to music. His father and elder brother were both singers. He himself began singing at the age of ten. This year, he marks the passage of half a century of singing.

During this time, he has entertained generations who have fond memories of him. But even more, his enthusiastic and emotional anti-Imam and anti-colonial rule songs became a moral boosting factor in the fight against oppression (in the North) and in the fight for freedom (in the South). He is indeed a monument in modern Yemeni music history.

Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi of Yemen Times interviewed him to mark his fiftieth year of singing, and filed the following report.

**Q: Could you tell us a little bit of your beginnings as a singer?**

**A:** I am lucky because my father and elder brother were singers. Thus I got an early start. I started playing the ood at the age of ten. It was all in the family.

At 16, in 1940, I travelled to Cairo and joined Halwan High School on a scholarship from the Arab Reform Club. I continued my education at the Arts College (University of Cairo), followed by specialized studies at the Arab High Musical Institute.

I presented my first real song through Radio Sawt Al-Arab (Voice of the Arabs) in Cairo in 1954. This station beams its programs to all over the Arab World, thus our people in Yemen used to follow it. I remained in Cairo improving my performance before I returned to the homeland in 1961.

**Q: You made a real contribution to drumming up support for the revolutionaries against the Imamic regime (in the North) and British rule (in the South). Could you share with us more details?**

**A:** First, let me say that I was an active member in the Yemeni Union - the body which brought together the revolutionaries - in Cairo. The martyr Mohammed Mahmood Zubairi was our leader.

Second, with respect to my enthusiastic songs, I presented many pieces. I can list some of the more famous ones:

"Al-Yaman" is one of the early songs glorifying the nation and lamenting its sad conditions.

"Oh Tyrant, Why All This Oppression" was another song which really irritated the Imam. He instructed his ambassador in



Cairo to protest to the Egyptian authorities and asked them not to air that song.

"A Thousand Salutes to My Nation and Soldiers" was a song addressed to men and women fighting for the independence of the southern part of the homeland. It was banned during British rule of Aden.

"O Traveller from the Shores of the Nile to Wadi Tuban" is another anti-colonial song which became very popular with the public.

I presented many other songs which psyched up the public and fighters and gave them a moral boost. I think that my songs, as well as those of others, have played a crucial role in rallying the people around the cause of the nation.

**Q: Your songs have been, by and large, classified as part of the Adeni School. Could you explain to us the various schools of music in the country?**

**A:** It is hard to speak of schools of music in Yemen, but we can speak of colors or shades in the rhythm. In this way, we can speak of the Adeni color, the Hadrami color, the Sana'ani color, the Tihama color, the Lahji color, etc. Some of these have certain special features. For example, the Sana'ani songs tend to be classical.

But let me point out that as the level of communication and contact has increased, these colors are increasingly being fused into a new product that we can call Yemeni music. This fusion process is being done by the young artists.

**Q: Speaking about the new breed of singers, let me ask for your opinion on the modern song?**

**A:** I am afraid I do not think highly of the very modern songs. I think the basic aesthetic value of the song is lost in favor of the rhythm. The new songs focus on the rhythms that make for physical action or movement, which they call dancing.

The beauty of the words, the metaphor, the lyric, the dreams, the longings, etc. are lost. All you have is drum-beat that triggers body movement. Often the words are very cheap, and sometimes outright carnal. The modern songs have lost the sublime aspects of this art.

**Q: What are the problems that you faced in your artistic life?**

**A:** I did not suffer from any problems which singled me out specifically, but I can speak of the problems that artists often meet.

I can mention, to start with, the absence of the highly backward nature of the organizations responsible for interacting with singers. The radio and TV stations, the ministry of information, etc., do not have sufficient appreciation for artists. In the West or even East, for example, singers and artists are idolized. Here in Yemen, to record one song, you are made to wait around for hours. This happens all the time.

Another thing to mention is the market. We do not have a large enough market, to start with. But even this small market is

subject to illegal recording and piracy of rights. Thus, the revenue one gets is a small fraction of the income.

**Q: Speaking about piracy, many Yemeni singers complain that many of their songs are being stolen by the Arab Gulf singers. Could you elaborate on that?**

**A:** This is true. There are many Yemeni songs that are taken over by Gulf singers. And since they have better access to a more powerful media, the Yemeni songs are identified with the Gulf singers. I personally have lost songs this way, and I can easily prove that. Other colleagues have also lost their songs to Gulf singers.

We do not have the mechanism to rectify this problem. The government is not interested, and there is no syndicate or other body to stop this piracy. If there is somebody that is interested, I can right away give a long list of stolen songs.

**Q: What was your feeling during the last war in Yemen?**

**A:** I was saddened, of course. It is sad that our nation should fight with itself. I dream of a strong, unified and prosperous Yemen. I do not understand why we should fight among ourselves.

I am happy that the agony was short-lived, and that the unity of the country has been preserved. I pray that we will deal with the aftermath of the war in a civilized way that reflects the wisdom and good nature with which our forebears have been famous.

I think the unification of Yemen is not only a local achievement, it is also an Arab and Islamic pride. That is why safeguarding it is of paramount importance to us, the Arabs and Muslims.

**Q: I heard you were sick. What are your medical treatment plans?**

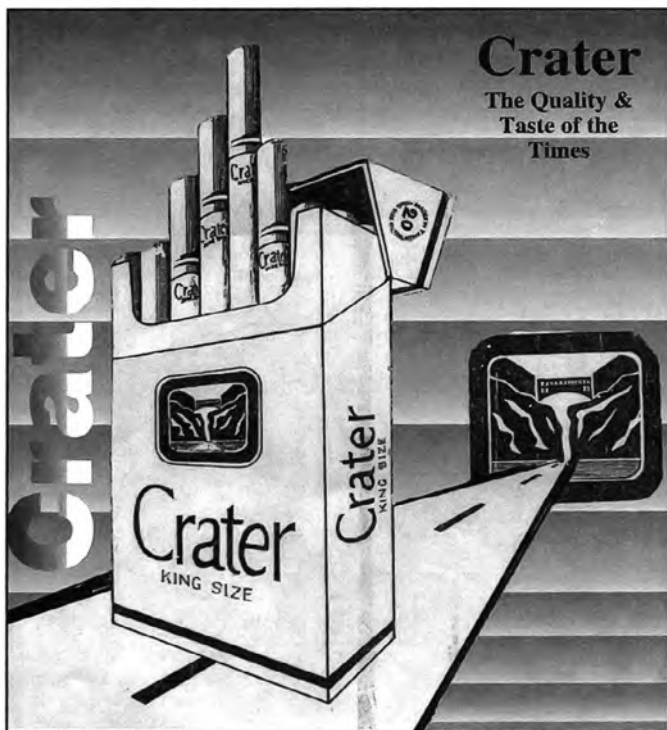
**A:** Yes, I suffer from a health problem. I have been advised to travel abroad for medical treatment. I have approached President Ali Abdullah Saleh (through Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani) on this matter. He has graciously helped with a cash donation of YR 150,000 as well as tickets for my travel.

I would like to use this occasion to thank the president for his positive response to my appeal.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** I would like to thank the Yemen Times for what it writes. This paper covers various aspects of Yemeni life - not just the politics. I read the paper regularly and I am often pleasantly surprised with the articles.

And since this issue of the paper is going to come out on September 26th, I would like to use the occasion to convey my warm felicitations to our people on the anniversary of the Revolution. I wish many happy returns to all.



### تهانينا الحارة

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Ismail Al-Ghabri Writes the Second Sequel on the Subject:

# Female Leaders Speak Women's Issues

## 1. Paper on "Women and Poverty" by Dr. Nuria Ali Hummad:

Dr. Hummad in a well-researched paper has written to show that women are generally far more disadvantaged in economic terms than men. "We can basically say that women are much poorer than men worldwide, and this phenomenon is more accentuated in Yemen," she wrote.

There are many factors that contribute to this situation. First and foremost among these is the inability of women to independently (of their male relatives) earn income. A second factor - so visible in Yemen - is that women are not paid even when they work. "Much of the work in agriculture, livestock, household chores, for example, is done by women. But they are not paid for it," she says. A third factor is that the socio-cultural values of society treat women as minors, thus giving men the right to "help" women even in managing their assets and income. A fourth element is the population growth which is out of control. As women become pregnant time after another, and give many births in their fertility years, "their" needs increase thus digging into whatever resources they have and giving the impression of having extra demands. There are many other factors such as depriving girls of educa-



tion and training, thus reducing their chances of making it in the labor market, a lower priority in providing for their food, medical and other needs as they grow up. "Thus Yemeni women are more likely to be illiterate, sick, untrained, unemployed, etc. This means they are destined to be poorer," Dr. Nuria stated. Among the major steps that need to be taken to address this problem is to educate the public to give their boys and girls equal attention and equal chances at schooling, nutrition and medical care, to increase awareness regarding family planning, help promote a more equitable job market. But more than anything else, it requires a commitment to change the situation.

Dr. Hummad is a lecturer at Sanaa University's Sociology Department.

## 2. Paper on "Missing Tools & Mechanisms to Help Women" by Fatma Mash-hoor:

Ms. Mash-hoor has dug deeply into what kind of tools and mechanisms are lacking to help women. "The country does not even have projects directly addressed to the needs of women. Whatever projects do touch on women, do so through their functions as mothers or carers of infants, etc.," she says. Even then, there are no administrative or financial tools to cater to the female sectors, which represents the majority of the population in the country.

Ms. Mash-hoor indicated that the government does not have any administrative unit for the purpose of promoting a more visible and effective role for women. Moreover, the participation of women in the decision-making process is minimal, and sometimes non-existent. She uses two examples to prove this. First, there are no women in senior positions in government. The highest ranking woman today is an Assistant-Deputy Minister. Second, none of the parties have any women in their highest organizational bodies such as the General Committee of the PGC, the Supreme Board of the Islah, the Politbureau of the YSP, etc.

One of the main reasons for this situation is that there is no clear-cut strategy, or even vision, as to



how to activate the role of women in society. Another reason is the inability of women to work together to create a pressure or lobby group.

Since there is no government organization charged with the duty of helping women, the inability of the existing government bodies to plan, execute and coordinate their efforts and projects makes the situation (for women) worse. The shortage of financial resources adds to the further marginalization and bypassing of women's needs.

The country needs to re-structure its organizational apparatus to better address the pressing needs of Yemen, one of which is women's issues. There are a lot of ideas in this regard if the leaders want feedback.

Ms. Mash-hoor is General-Manager of Mother & Child at the Ministry of Social Affairs.

## 1. Paper on "Strategy and Plan for Women's Issues until the Year 2000" by Aisha Abdulaziz.

Aisha Abdulaziz was charged with the task of going through all the papers delivered by the other researchers and the demands and proposals they presented and draw out a unified conclusion. The final goal - a strategy and plan for the next five years on women's issues.

"I have taken the resolutions of past conferences such as the Nairobi, Montreal and other venues. Then I studied our specific needs in Yemen. Putting the two together, I wrote a paper which is going to be the backbone for our presentation in the Peking Conference, next year," she said.

Ms. Abdulaziz is now taking-in all the feedback from the workshop as well as from other interested individuals. "We are going to use all that in re-writing the strategy and plan," she said. Most of the objectives are put in quantifiable and qualitative terms. "Let me give you examples. For example in the field of education. We have the target of reducing female illiteracy by 20% by the year 2000. Another example in the field of employment. We plan to have at least 15% of the cash labor market to be filled up by females," she explained.

In terms of the qualitative objec-



tives, Aisha indicated that women have to play a more leading role in guiding society. "For example, when we want a higher presence for women in the labor market, we also want women to rise up the ranks. It is not just the numbers," she insisted.

The group is now working on the detailed budgetary requirements to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan. While the government does play an important role, it is more important for the general public - through the voluntary Non-Governmental Organizations.

"Let me stress another thing. Sometimes men play a more decisive role in promoting women's rights than women. We would like to enlist that role," she said.

Ms. Abdulaziz is an Executive Board Member of the FYW.



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## The Necessity of Preserving Biodiversity Becomes Vital

Western pharmaceutical and seed companies have been accused of "bio-piracy" by a top United Nations official.

Obaidullah Khan, assistant director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says the industrialized world is using intellectual property laws to hijack centuries of accumulated folk knowledge. He says companies are patenting plant products long known to indigenous communities for instance, for their healing properties and thus robbing them of the potential financial benefits. The communities receive no profits when drug developed on the basis of folk knowledge is marketed.

"It is tragic that in the emerging marketplace of patents over living materials, discoveries of indigenous innovators are nonchalantly dismissed as folklore," Khan said.

The same problem arises when companies seek patents for a particular crop strain incorporating or derived from indigenous strains.

"Intellectual property rights are fine. But we must also make sure we respect the knowledge of the indigenous peoples," he insisted. The traditional versus modern dichotomy usually short-changes the powerless at the market-place of the powerful. He cited a United States chemical company's rights on Margosano, which is derived from the neem tree whose compounds have been used by Asian farmers for centuries.

A European Union patent issued in March on gene transfer work by the firm WR Grace, charged

Khan, was "tantamount to a monopoly on the world's \$27 billion soybeans crop."

"Such outrageous examples of bio-piracy are not new," he said, adding that extracts from plants in the developing world provided at least 7,000 medical compounds whose worth "could be as high as \$47 billion by the year 2000."

"Because the development of medicinal plants relies heavily on the knowledge of indigenous people and communities, concerns abroad over societal review of the current dispensations under intellectual property rights are more than valid," he added.

But if plants and animals are to be tapped for their medicinal, agricultural and other properties, they need to exist - and ensuring their survival in the face of population growth, industrialization and organization is the aim of the Convention on Biological Diversity approved at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

"The public impression is that biodiversity conservation is something which is being foisted on the poor countries by the rich, but in fact it is in the interest of everybody," said S Tahir Qadri, a forestry specialist with the Asian Development Bank, which recently organized a biodiversity conference in Manila with the World Conservation Union.

Added Jeff McNeely of the World Conservation Union, "A lot is known about the important benefits of biodiversity conservation such as in medicine,

watersheds and climate amelioration. But a lot more benefits are as yet unknown and it is important to preserve these for present and future generations." Khan said only one per cent of the world's species were investigated for agricultural, industrial and other uses.

Biodiversity is the ultimate source of both economic and food security. Dr. Vernon Jennings of Sustainability, a London-based non-government organization, said the world's richest nations contain the least diversity reserves while the poorest countries have the richest reserves.

This highlights the interdependence of countries, and the urgency of devising common strategies for biodiversity that share both the responsibilities and benefits.

"The battle to save our planet through sustainable development will be won or lost in Asia," said Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the Earth Summit. He said that while the region has become a primary engine of global growth, "There is a real danger that many Asian nations will repeat the patterns of environmental destructiveness which characterized (the West's) industrial revolution."

"In the most industrialized parts of the region - China, India and Japan - population and acid rain are seriously threatening natural habitats," Mackinnon said. He pointed out that while 18 countries in the region have signed the Biodiversity Conservation, most of their conservation laws were "outmoded" and quite unenforceable.

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## Giving Dictionaries a New Meaning

The "Bank of English" as it is called, began nearly 14 years ago and recently passed the 200-million-word mark. Its job is to update the meaning of words.

Nobody understands how or why, but somewhere along the backroads of the English language, mean had come to mean excellent, wicked became wonderful, gay turned to homosexual and green into a political movement.

Expressions like groupthink, body double, brollability and dozens of others sprang into spontaneous use, confounding those not on the cutting edge of the language.

And the people who write dictionaries were the last to know. An ambitious project at the University of Birmingham is seeking to correct that.

"The gap between what current dictionaries tell you about words mean and what is actually the case is rather disappointingly, and sadly, huge," said Jeremy Clear of the School's Center for English Language Studies.

The 37-year-old linguist heads a team of more than forty lexicographers embarked on what is probably the most Herculean task ever to bring English dictionaries into line with the language as it is being used.

With publisher HarperCollins providing the money, and the university the brain power, Clear's group is compiling what is already the largest mass, or "corpus", of written and spoken English that has ever existed in

one place.

The "Bank of English" as it is called began nearly 14 years ago and recently passed the 200-million-word mark. It resides in huge storage disks of a powerful computer in Birmingham University, consuming a never-ending diet of books, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, letters, beer mats, advertisements and any other texts that come along.

Transcripts of radio and television programs from Britain and the United States are fed into it. It also devours printouts of conversations taped by hundreds of volunteers at home, at work, at lunch, on dates, in trains and buses, anywhere people talk.

The system is programmed to regurgitate words and expressions from this mass, bracketed by the ten preceding and ten ensuing words with which they were entered, to show how exactly, how often and in what ways they are being used.

Clear and his crew work hunched over computer consoles in the language center's hushed chambers, where the only sounds are the clicking of keyboards, punctuated by the occasional "wow", when somebody punches up a word and finds oceans of divergent uses.

Lexicographer Rosamund Moon, updating one of HarperCollins' many dictionaries, is working on the word "flat", which of course means level of horizontal, but is also used in flat feet, flat tire, flat as in low-heeled women's shoes,

and flat as in apartment. Also: flat voice, flat statement, flat paint. You can charge someone a flat fee or a flat percentage, run a distance in six second flat over a mud flat or salt flat while your champagne goes flat, your sales go flat, your income goes flat.

In addition, flat means dull, uninteresting, insipid, tasteless. You can get, or give, a flat refusal, flat denial, or flat rejection, but not a flat acceptance or a flat decision. And you cannot say, "It was the flattest refusal I ever got."

Don't ask why. You just can't. "In the past, people looked to dictionaries as they would the Bible - the final authority on spelling and meaning," said Clear.

"The assumption was that there are scholars somewhere who are erudite and will-read and have some authority. But obviously it can't really be like that."

"What we're doing with the Bank of English is to put dictionary making on a new footing by making it more scientific and objective."

HarperCollins, 40, has agreed to make 10% of the bank some 20 million words available for general use via the international computer hookup, Internet. But it is keeping the unabridged version to itself, said Clear.

"It's a business, after all," he said. "They're not anxious to give it all to the competition."

Incidentally, "brollability" is current TV weatherspeak for the chance you'll need an umbrella. "Groupthink" is the corporate

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3. COPY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CERTIFICATE (for local firms).

Bids of the above tender are to be submitted in sealed envelopes to the secretary of the Tender Committee at the Managing-Director's office at Hedjuff no later than 11:00 a.m. local time on 17th October 1994. Bids received after the closing deadline will not be considered.



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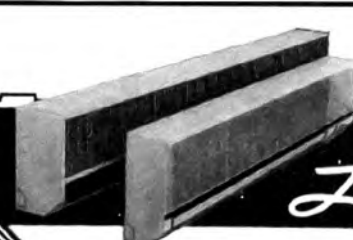


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## As We Prepare to Move into the 21st Century, Slavery & Bondage Persist in our World

According to a recent report of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva, more than 200 million children under 15 years work under extreme conditions. Children are the victims of slavery and bondage that was officially abolished by the world decades ago. Tens of millions of people are victims of bondage - forced to work under duress to repay "debts". Added to that there is illegal child labor. Anti Slavery International, the oldest human rights organization, estimates that slavery is the fate of 100 million people and it operates on a global level. That so many governments turn a blind eye to the suffering and despair slavery entails, makes a mockery of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the group says.

Last March in Geneva, the discovery of an alleged case of slavery at the Bangladesh embassy made headline news. Anwar Hossein, a man of 35, had been employed for a year as a cook by the ambassador. He worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week for miserly pay, part of which was confiscated along with his passport. One day he disappeared, probably kidnapped by one of the embassy heavies.

The case represented the classic definition of slavery: forcing someone to work without paying him, and preventing him from running away. About 15 such cases have been exposed in foreign embassies in Geneva.

The ILO reports that "domestic slavery" is also common in Latin America. In Andean Countries, young adolescents from impoverished districts or remote rural areas are overexploited in the kitchens of the local bourgeoisie.

In Haiti, they are called "restaveks" (from the French "rester avec" meaning "to stay with"). These children are cut off from their families, without education or care and are often beaten or raped in the employer's family. In Latin America, children aged between 8 and 16 are brought to live on plantations, without water or electricity, and have to work up to 11 hours per day for pay which barely meets their daily needs. They are sexually molested on a regular basis. Armed guards ensure they do not escape.

In many parts of the world, children are often the first victims of what jurists discreetly call "forced labor". They are the silent victims of societies where family planning is non-existent and where an extra mouth to feed can spell disaster for the rest of the family.

Little children are off loaded on strangers in the often misguided belief that the youngsters will be better cared for in a home where money is less of a problem. In reality, they become child slaves, undertaking all the domestic chores and bearing the brunt of frustrations of the family which often beats them or worse.

Domestic service is one of the worst and most widespread areas of child exploitation, say ILO officials. The victims are mostly young girls, who are unable to escape the drudgery and are totally dependent on the goodwill of their "employer."

Slavery is also rife in India. Of the world's 220 million victims of forced labor, 56 million are in India. In the glass industry they start work at the age of eight. Anti Slavery International says that in India, 15 million are reduced to slavery because of their debts. In India in 1992, militants even carried out a raid on a factory where children were working, managing to free 70, but these timid efforts are just a drop in the ocean of injustice.

In Pakistan, it is estimated that 20 million people are forced to work in bondage in brick factories, shoe factories or in fish processing plants. In most of Africa and the Middle East, orphans are often taken in by relatives. Although the conditions vary enormously, the little children are often reduced to servants.

Females suffer even more abuse as they are "married off" at an early age to unfit husbands. The marriage often does not last, and the child-wife suffers enormously. Male orphans also suffer similar abuse, but they tend to run away, often ultimately joining street gangs.

Since the creation of the League of Nations in 1919, international organizations have increased the number of conventions against slavery, and associations work discreetly at the field level to end these practices.



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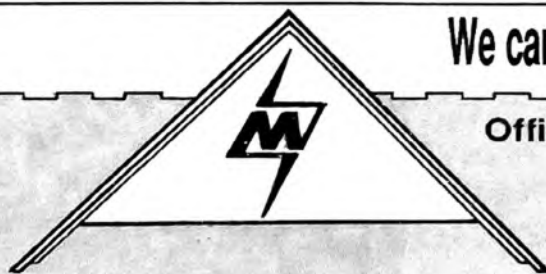
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## HELPING YOUNGSTERS JOIN THE GAMES

Beyond the four-yearly razzmatazz of the athletic contests and the roar of the stadium crowds at the world games lies a great challenge: how to widen sporting opportunities for the billion young people.

Although 85% of the associations and clubs competing at the games come from developing countries, they field on average only 24% of the competitors and win less than 20% of the medals. The advanced countries of the West collect most of the prizes, although some countries of the Third World did make considerable headway in some sports: Brazil in football, Pakistan in cricket, Morocco in long-distance running, etc. But the games are almost always dominated by the industrialized countries.

This is not surprising given that in many regions young people lack the simplest sporting facilities. One consequence is that millions with time on their hands get bored and can be tempted into anti-social behavior. Delinquency, street crime, drug-trafficking and disease may follow - all hampering a country's ability to develop.

There is growing feeling that sports can make an important contribution to national development. That is there is today a strong call that aid programs should include help for sport.

The climate in the world on this issue is changing. A first step came in 1991 with the report of a Working Committee on Strengthening Sport, chaired by Justice Roy McMurtry of Canada. The committee, with members from 11 countries, asked governments to accord sports "the recognition and support it deserves in the development process."

Their report was warmly received and a committee on cooperation Through Sports was set up for four years under McMurtry with members from Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Jamaica, South Africa, Britain and Australia.

It is possible with quite small resources to start to provide the means for young people to develop sporting capabilities. There are many examples in the world to be followed.

The Toronto-based Street Kids International, which seeks to promote independence and self-respect among the world's estimated 40 million street children, found in 1992 survey that basic sports equipment is a top priority.

In Zambia, for example, the Lusaka Drop-in Center began offering sporting opportunities. Soccer and netball were used as way of opening a dialogue with street youth. Collective endeavor built self-esteem and self respect.

The Mathare Youth Sports Association in Kenya arranged with local authorities to provide young people with access to soccer balls, netballs and plying fields. In return, sports teams contributed to public health by helping clear garbage and clogged drainage ditches. By 1992 the Mathare program had expanded to six leagues, 225 teams and 4,000 players. Some have competed nationally and internationally. Mathare's health and environmental program has won attention in Europe, the United States and Canada.

The *New York Times* said of the Mathare program: "Organized soccer as opposed to chaotic pick-up games played with balls of paper tied together with string has become a useful antidote to the gasoline-sniffing, drinking and violence that overwhelm the youth. For young dropouts sport wins out over crime and getting high."

Third World cities lose to the cities of the rich industrialized in the horse trading over the venue for the games, especially for the prestigious olympics and other internal games because of the funds available to them. In a similar fashion, Third World teams, often with far less resources, are eliminated early in the competition. Thus is the teams of the industrialized countries that end up playing in the final stages.

At many meetings in recent years, world leaders committed themselves to strengthening the world games and other machinery for boosting sport. Many countries have contributed to a strategic business plan that for the first time gives the world sports institutions some of the wherewithal to develop the games' organization.

Some new games are also being added to the traditional ones. World games are set on a new path, but a lot more action is still needed. Some specific actions, for example, include the removal of customs and taxation barriers on sports-related goods and services and to give tax incentives for private sector investment in grass roots sports development. Increased participation of women in sport and more women's sports and events in world competitions is another step.

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## UNKNOWN THREAT TO SURVIVAL OF THE WORLD

Among much scientific uncertainty about our world, one thing is all but certain - environmental processes are at hand with the capacity to generate major problems. Yet we know next to nothing about them. These potential problems warrant the designation of unknown unknowns.

The name might seem a contradiction in terms. How can we know what we do not know? While we know all too little about global warming, and still less about when and how it will arrive, we know it is on its way. It is a "known unknown". Until recently, however, we hardly knew it existed. It was an unknown. Acid rain, too, for decades built up unseen and unsuspected hazards.

So what new unknown unknowns are waiting to leap out? The issue is a major challenge to science, yet receives next to no attention. Here are signs that should make us think.

Many amphibian species are undergoing marked decline in eastern and western Canada, south-eastern and far western United States, the Rocky Mountains, Guatemala, Costa Rica, lowland Amazonia, the Andes cloud forests, France, Italy and parts of Australia. The decline varies from area to areas, and both among and within species, but the phenomenon appears to be pervasive and significant.

Not all parts of the world have been investigated. If they were, other areas might show a similar decline if only because of pollution and fragmentation of habits. Also involved could be desiccation of ecosystems due to incipient global warming, and enhanced ultraviolet radiation through ozone layer depletion. Amphibians are specially susceptible to pollutants because their thin epidermis leaves them in intimate contact with their environs. The young often forage at the base of detritus food webs and adults at upper levels of those

same webs, where pollutants become concentrated. As major consumers of invertebrates, especially insects, amphibians are often top carnivores, and their decline could have sizable repercussions for their ecosystems.

Next, there has been a series of bleaching episodes since the early 1980s, notably in the Caribbean, but also around Taiwan, the Maldives, Australia and Hawaii. The bleaching causes extensive morbidity and mortality throughout coral communities. The causes may lie with global warming or white-band disease, or both, possibly with other factors.

Third, there is the mass deaths of dolphins and seals. Perhaps 50% of the dolphin population died in 1987-88 along shorelines from New Jersey to Florida in the US, ostensibly because of severe bacterial infection. During the same period, one tenth of Lake Baikal's seals mysteriously died, as did perhaps 40% of seals in the Baltic and North Seas because of rampant viral disease and pollutants. Similarly, the Black Sea urchin, once ubiquitous in the Caribbean, has virtually disappeared, due, it's thought, to an unidentified water-borne pathogen.

Next, several near-shore algal blooms have erupted in recent years. Their number and extent seems to be increasing. Episodes have occurred in the Baltic, North, Adriatic and Black Seas, along the US East Coast, in Hong Kong Harbor, the Seto Inland Sea of Japan and the Gulf of Thailand. The cause seems to be nutrient loading though man-made emissions of nitrogen and phosphorus, possibly in conjunction with toxic chemicals.

Sixth is the phenomenon of cancer epizootics in fish. During the past three decades, more than 40 tumor epizootics have appeared in the US, principally in the Great Lakes and along the north-eastern coast.

Finally, consider a number of

miscellaneous population declines. Birds migrating between the US and Central America or the Caribbean show a 25 to 50 per cent drop-off since the mid-1960s. Between on third and one half of European bird populations are losing numbers. The main problem appears to be habitat disruption, especially in the tropics, but pollution may also be implicated. Half of all marine turtles examined in the Caribbean and Pacific reveal tumors.

Saguaro cactuses in the south-western US and northern Mexico have lost half their numbers in some areas, and many others are showing "browning" and loss of spines. In these latter 2 instances, the most likely cause is pollution. All these incidents share several characteristics. First, they cover hundreds or thousands (occasionally tens or even hundreds of thousands) of square kilometers. Hence they can reasonably be regarded as regional or even global phenomena. Second, they are unprecedented in our scientific experience. Third, there is no immediate or obvious explanation, although a primary culprit appears to be pollution.

Fourth, pollution seems to exert its most deleterious effects when it works in conjunction with other stresses such as aquatic eutrophication, other forms of habitat disruption and whatever else can induce immuno-suppression. Fifth, we know next to nothing about what these perturbations tell us about further such phenomena engendered by "chemical time bombs". But they add up to a whole flock of miners' canaries bellowing warnings. What should we do?

Consider the amphibians. their characteristic attributes make them probably the most capable of all vertebrates as indicators of environmental decline. The 4,200 plus species are distributed throughout the world. They are generally easily observed and readily recognized. The support

of amateur naturalists could be mobilized in a worldwide endeavor to watch for declining populations. Should we attempt such an amphibians alert program?

What other taxa could serve a similar role? Take dragon-flies and damselflies, which, like amphibians, are dependent on both aquatic and terrestrial habitats at various stages of their life cycles, the nymphs are specially susceptible to water pollution. Also, they are found throughout the world, and are easy to observe. Still more promising are tiger beetles, as their biology is well known, and they are widespread across a broad range of habitats. A tiger beetle population can be sampled within as little as 50 hours, a small fraction of the time needed for most other taxa in the same sites.

Equally helpful could be lichens, since they are ubiquitous, and with their slow growth rates they reflect long-term trends. Also revealing could be bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), being usually susceptible to both water and land pollution.

We should ask ourselves a front-rank question. What is the source of the seven omens listed above? A likely culprit lies with the 50,000 synthetic chemicals we have injected into our environment with only minimal testing against only a few recognized threats (unknown threats remain unknown because we don't have the wit to look for them). We can do a far better job of checking what we do know: That these chemicals have capacity to inflict prodigious harm is verified.

Next, we can tackle the unknown threats. Scientists prefer to grapple with problems about which they already know something. It is a safety-first strategy with proven pay-offs. If a similar spirit had motivated Darwin, Edison and Einstein, we would have remained the more benighted.

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# Yemeni Lad Collects the Trophy of the Hong Kong Junior Squash Games

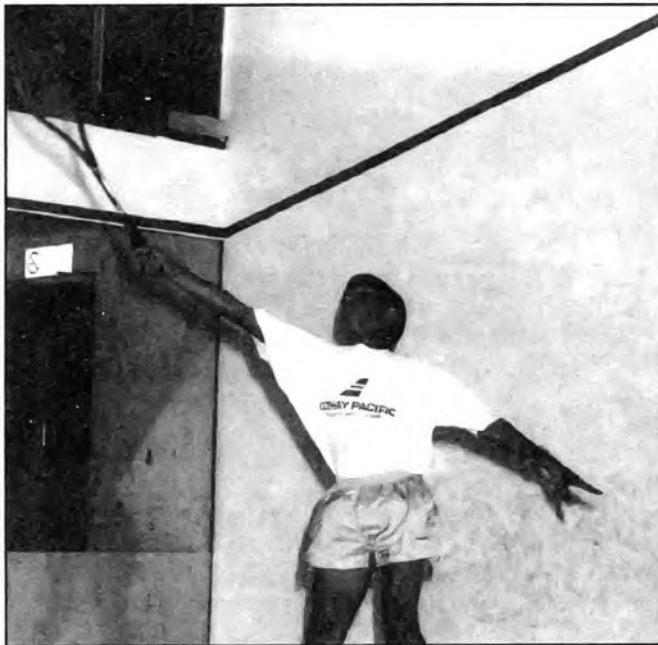
Wa'ad Badr Hamood Al-Hashimi, a Yemeni lad born and residing in Abu Dhabi, won the trophy of the Hong Kong Junior Squash games held during 23-27 August, 1994. The championship, for under 13 years of age, saw players representing Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Singapore.

It is three years now since 12-year old Wa'ad and his elder brother started playing squash. Wa'ad, in spite of meager training resources, showed excellent potential. During the Hong Kong games, Qamar Zaman, the former world champion and trainers of new potential champion, saw the lad and was deeply impressed. He invited Wa'ad to train at the Peshawar Squash Center.

Wa'ad has already bagged three titles at the Abu Dhabi Open Squash Championships this year. There are still two tournaments lined up for him over the next three months. The first is the Al-Ain palace Open which starts next week, followed by the Abu Dhabi League which is scheduled for December.

"Wa'ad does not give up. He pushes himself to the limit," said the father, who has been the main source of support. "He has to miss out on many games, like the last Singapore Open because of the financial factor. He will also miss the coming British Open," he added.

The Yemeni government has yet to pay attention to the accomplishment of this young lad, let alone help in his training. The father of the athlete is spending the next few days in Sanaa trying to solicit as much support as possible from the Yemeni authorities. Good luck!



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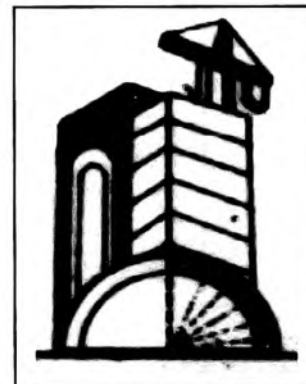


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on the anniversary of the September 26th  
and October 14th Revolution.



## Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor

### Editor's Note:

Starting with last week's issue, the Yemen Times resumed publishing the letters it receives from its readers.

### A POOR LITTLE HELPLESS GIRL CALLED THE "YEMEN TIMES"

I am a nervous helpless Yemeni girl who came into existence some four years ago. I was brought up in a low middle-class family of which I am very proud and boastful. The very beginning of my life seemed rather modest but through perseverance and hard work, I became successful. By nature, I was born with good and noble qualities. As I was always associated with good virtues and high ideals. Soon, I had hundreds and thousands of lovers in Yemen and abroad. Only four years in this world, and I have been able to link-up with hundreds of pen-friends simply because of my sincere nature and good companionship. Moreover, I am an open-hearted girl.

But being honest, frank and straightforward also have their problems. I know this because I have been harassed by the very many agents of evil in this wild world of ours.

My problem is increasingly becoming critical because the progress that had been achieved

is under the risk of vanishing. I used to grow so wonderfully that I could attain the appreciation of everyone. I have always aimed at being loyal to my family (country).

Having been an easy-going girl, I never thought, even for a minute, that I would be subjected to this kind of harassment. I am sure everybody knows what my problem exactly is. How can I explain? Let me try in the following lines.

"One day, there arises a family misunderstanding and dispute which grows to the extent of threatening the family with fragmentation. My attempts were aimed at keeping the family together, but also to bring the stronger members of my family to their senses. I pushed hard to reconcile the various members and advised them against extreme attitudes."

Unfortunately, I was rewarded very badly. Evil agents are now standing firmly on my way. I cannot do my work properly. I am no longer an attractive girl as I used to be. I have lost weight. I have fewer friends now and people can't dare speak out on my behalf. My life now is closely associated with agony, boredom, failure and frustration. I feel miserable and helpless. I am looking for Mr. Helpful who can help me survive.

By: Gamil Al-Guwairy  
Taiz City.

### MISUSE OF A PRECIOUS RESOURCE: WATER

I read with great pleasure your editorial on problems of water in Yemen. That was very good to read in this wasteland we are living in and at such an ugly juncture in our history.

But I would like to add something. The idea that Yemen is an arid country is not very accurate. We get a lot of rainfall annually. It rains in year-round: in winter, summer, autumn and spring, in various parts of the country. But unfortunately, the rain-water either seeps in the desert sand or flows into the seas. Dams could be constructed in the big wadies to store up water, harness its use, and replenish our underground reservoirs, out of which a lot is being drawn up every year.

Wells are being dug haphazardly and they are getting deeper each year as the water level falls. Yet, nobody seems to bother at all.

The misuse of water is not only the hobby of the rich but the poor folks are bad as well.

I think it is a good idea first to define the problem and then think about the solutions.

By: Al Hassan Mohamed Abdalla  
Sa'ada City.

### INJUSTICE AT ALYEMDA AIRLINE

First of all I would like to express my admiration to your great newspaper 'Yemen Times.' I am not telling you something new if I tell you that what you write is the source of a lot of heated debates in many qat chews. Yemenis who can read it report the contents to those who can't and thus the circles grow.

This is the first time I write to you. I am 25 years old and I live in Aden. I have done my military service and recently I graduated from the College of Science, Arts and Education.

As a regular reader of your newspaper, I felt encouraged to write about my problem with the so called 'Alyemda Airlines'.

I call this company "Dhalla Kingdom." Yes it is Dhalla Kingdom, because most job opportunities in this company are given to the people of Dhalla, for the rest it is very difficult.

One time the company announced vacancies for male stewards. I was there for the interview and I passed the oral and written exams. I was very happy, because I felt I had all the qualifications needed such for the job, including a good command of English. To add to my optimism, Director of Airlines Affairs A. Al-Dukhail told me that I was good and got high marks. He told me I was at the top of the list of applicants.

Surprisingly, I wasn't chosen. I raised the matter with Mr. Dukhail who me the excuse that he wasn't authorized to choose whom he thought was qualified for the job. The former General Manager Abdullah Ali was the only person who decided whom to employ - often this is not based on qualification.

Then I wrote to the former general manager. Then was no answer. I tried to meet him to solve my problem but he didn't care.

Then came change. I was happy when Abdullah Ali was removed and there is now a new management. I am still interested in working with the airline. I hope that the new management will consider giving an equal employment opportunity for all Yemenis irrespective of their tribal or regional background.

By: Gamal Musa Ali Ahmed  
Sheikh Othman, Nurses Building, Flat No. 4, Tel: 385692.  
Aden City.

## PARKING "SYSTEM" AT SANA'A AIRPORT

Can someone tell me who is responsible for the new parking system at our infamous Sana'a International airport?

On Sept. 11th, I escorted my father who was traveling abroad. To my surprise, both lanes that had been used by travellers to unload their luggage were closed at the very junction with the main road coming into the terminus. Now, people were asked to haphazardly unload their luggage at the entrance of the parking lot and the cars are forced to enter the parking lot.

There was such a mess and tremendous inconvenience caused to innocent travelers. A traffic jam occurs as more and more cars arrive at the scene. Furthermore there were no trolleys available to transport the heavy luggage. Many of us were literally forced to hand-lift our baggage to the departure lounge.

As we entered the parking lot, I noticed two boys writing down car information on pieces of paper like the license no. This was given to each driver, just like a metered parking lot in other countries. Until then my reaction to the whole affair was one of mixed feelings.

First I was happy that some system was being implemented to regulate car parking. On the other hand, the inconvenience caused due by the luggage handling was not necessary. But a bigger surprise was yet to come. I was happy enough to see my father off. Then at the exit of the parking lot, a bigger surprise was waiting for me. Cars queued to exit were asked to produce the parking tickets. Two to three youngsters were moving down the queue checking the receipts and demanding 10 riyals for each hour's stay in the parking

lot. Their idea was to increase the pace of car movement as the queue was getting longer.

A youngster approached me and after going through the receipt asked me to pay him 20 riyals (I had parked the car one and half hours). Anyway I asked him if what he was doing was authorized by the Airport Authority, and where was it mentioned that the cost of one hour is 10 riyals. Further I asked him to give me a receipt to the effect for the amount demanded. He refused and smelling trouble, he called on his assistants to handle me. Promptly, they lowered a steel bar across the exit. Then they reduced the amount to 15 riyals, and asked me to cough up the money. I got more suspicious about the whole affair, and I continued to refuse to pay until they gave me an official receipt.

One of the people stated that the

parking lot was a private business undertaking. The queue was getting longer and they were getting nervous as drivers were honking endlessly. So the let me out and asked me to wait by the road side. I did and after a while one of them came to me and said that if I didn't want to pay it was okay I could go.

All my time there I was thinking about the MAFIA type activity. I could see plastic bags full of money, collected from unsuspecting drivers. The whole thing was well organized and it even included the traffic and policemen on duty.

I hope that the Airport Authorities will look into this matter immediately. I hope the Yemen Times can pass on the message to the proper authorities.

Nasser F. Adam Ali  
Sana'a City.





# KLM Returns to Yemen with Flare

By: Fatma Rawah,  
Yemen Times.

The resumption of services to Sanaa was well-received by the Yemeni authorities and public. On the night of September 11th, as the KLM bird landed, a special reception was held at the airport's VIP lounge to mark the occasion. Senior government officials, airport people, Yemenia and KLM agents attended the celebrations.

The captain of the plane, J. Engels, expressed delight at the resumption of flights and stated that he and his crew had wonderful memories of Yemen.

Another delighted person was the representative of the Civil Aviation Authority, Colonel Mohammed Al-Faqeh, Manager of the airport was also extremely happy with the business. But the person who was really gratified was the Regional Manager of KLM, Mr. Ibrahim Elkohlani. "KLM is optimistic about the future of Yemen, and as a consequence, about its own association with it. Together in cooperation with the national carriers - YEMENIA and ALYEMDA - we are working to develop the Yemeni market," he said.

KLM is one of the most rapidly transforming airlines, in terms of aircrafts as well as services. The 10 Airbus A310-200 in its fleet are being phased out by 1995 and will be replaced by the more advanced B767s.

Meanwhile, the airline has phased out the first class denomination and upgraded the business class. This is known as the World Business Class (WBC) which offers a whole new level of service including



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better menus, control of a personal video system, nearly 50% more legroom and recline and other comforts. In many ways, KLM is a pioneer. On October 7th, 1994, KLM will complete 75 years in the business. It will mark this occasion by unveiling many new

pleasant surprises. It is working overtime to remain at the top of the list of best airlines. KLM and its partners such as Northwest Air-lines, Air UK and others provide convenient connections to over 350 destinations in more than 80 countries on six continents. Its hub, Schiphol

KLM-Yemen has actively participated courageously in establishing some of the well-known principles in airline business in the local market and introduced some new modern concepts such as Dial A Boarding Pass. Telephone Check-in or Through Check-in to final destination.



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Connections on other days of the week are available as follows:

DAY	FLT #	Dep SAH	Arrival	FLT #	Departure	Arr AMS
SAT	IY 738	1700	2000(AMM)	KL515	0025*(AMM)	0640*
SAT	IY 764	0700	1100 (DXB)	KL548	2330 (DXB)	0615*
MON	IY724	1030	1500(AMM)	KL513	0230*(AMM)	0640*
THU	GF194	1600	2050 (BAH)	KL530	0100* (BAH)	0650*

\* Indicates next day.



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## Sanaa University's Medical College: Assessing the First Decade !

By: Al-Izzy As-Selwi,  
Yemen Times.

"We are working under strenuous conditions. The financial allocations are insufficient. The classes are too small. The labs are inadequate. The machines are out of date. The university hospital (former Kuwait Hospital) is more like a clinic than a hospital. And we are under enormous pressure to admit three-to-four times our capacity of students." The list of complaints of Dr. Hussain Mohammed Al-Iryani, Dean of the Medical College at Sanaa University, is endless.

The Dean, his staff, and the lecturers at the college are trying to do their best, but the means are simply not there. In its second decade of existence, the college, in spite of an impressive building constructed by the State of Kuwait, is plagued with many small problems.

"Our capacity is to admit 50 students in medicine, 50 in laboratories, and 50 in pharmaceutical studies. Now our target is to admit triple the capacity. At the end of the day, we end up exceeding our already high target," the dean added. "In addition, many senior and influential persons in the government, army and society at large plead with us to admit this or that student who does not meet the requirements. We try not to oblige, but this is creating a sensitive situation for all of us."

The college admits only students with 80% or higher in the high school certificate. Usually, some 1000 students apply. These applicants are asked to take an admission exam in physics, chemistry and biology. The results of the exams and the high school results are together used to selectively admit students to



the college. Students from remote regions are given an extra push of 5%.

"We are careful not to furnish the market with doctors who are not qualified enough. That would be a disaster to the community. It is critical that our graduates are up to the standard in diagnosing and treating his/her patients. That is why it is imperative that the government provides us with at least the minimum requirements to do our job," he said.

Dr. Saleh As-Salami, Vice Dean of the College, echoed the same sentiments. "The doctors should have the time and facilities to do research and keep-up with the knowledge in their field. We see change and improvements overtake us on almost a daily basis. At the same time we are overwhelmed with the teaching load. Even poor government like Bangladesh allocate 1% of their GNP for research. Our situation in this regard is rather sad and

frustrating to us," the Vice Dean said.

Dr. As-Salami lamented the low pay of the Yemeni lecturers. "The average pay is US\$ 160-170 per month. In comparison, the foreign lecturer receives over ten times that amount. This creates a funny situation among the doctors because the Yemenis suffer just because they are Yemenis," he said. "The tragedy is that the Yemeni lecturer could be a graduate of a better school and could be a better lecturer. Yet, he/she is paid one tenth the payment of his/her foreign colleague at the same workplace," he explained.

Even then, there are many new people who do apply to the college and they do find an easy welcome. Many exceptionally-qualified young doctors have been refused by the college, under various pretexts. What happens to the applicants who are not admitted? "When students apply, they always state

Pictures clockwise:  
The Building of the College,  
Dean of the College  
Dr. Hussain Al-Iryani,  
and Vice Dean  
Dr. Saleh As-Salami.

### Batches of MD Graduates

1st Batch	25
2nd Batch	25
3rd Batch	33
4th Batch	38
5th Batch	62

a first, second and third choice of medicine is their first choice, and they are not admitted, then their file is transferred to the college of second choice. Hopefully, they are admitted in their second choice."

The Medical College, like all



other colleges at Sanaa University, suffers from terrible neglect by the authorities. The main form of this neglect is the inability of the government to provide for its needs for doing its job fully. The College needs to subscribe to international and specialized journals, it needs machines and other lab inputs. It needs more lecturers.

In the final analysis, the Medical College's first decade can be generally termed as satisfactory. However, that is more than can be said about the second decade. The prospects do look good, given the lower priority the college and the university command in that the government is overwhelmed with other issues.



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## What Do You Know? The Stolen Statues Publicized by Yemen Times Have Been Returned. Encouraged by this, We are Publicizing some more Stolen Beauties: The Treasures of Wadi Dura'

By: Jean-François Breton\*

[A year ago, this article appeared in the Yemen Times (20 January 1993, p. 11). Only some minor - out of date - items have been deleted. Some of the pieces stolen from the Attaq Museum during the War, came from Wadi Dura ten years ago.]

In 1984 peasants carrying out levelling operations in wadi Dura (southwest of Attaq, the capital of Shabwa Governorate) found some very valuable objects: large bronze basins and ladles, alabaster vessels, and a remarkable bowl decorated with gold foil. These pieces were placed in the Attaq Museum by Khayran Zubaydi, the Director-General of Antiquities for Shabwa. Then, the Adeni Directorate of Antiquities enabled a rescue operation, by a Franco-Yemeni team in December 1985.

The excavation brought to light a vertical series of tombs sunk into the silt. A single intact sepulchre produced objects spread around the skeleton including weapons (in particular an iron sword with a silver hilt but also three daggers and a pike), glass vessels, an ivory box, as well as bronze alters and vessels. The name of the tomb's owner was inscribed on his golden seal and his sword: Yafa'hum of the line of Tafrum. The same Yafa'hum is named on a gilded silver vessel with a lid depicting Medusa. The dhu-Tafarum are known elsewhere, as one of the line, Llidhara', offered a silver silver bowl and ladle to the god Sayyin dhu-Llim. Other people are likewise known from these eloquent pieces of gold: the name of one Hawfi'athat of the line of Rabatum adorned a silver belt buckle.

### Experts Amazed by the Ability of the Yemeni Silversmiths:

The experts at the Louvre studying the objects were amazed by the ability of the Yemeni silversmiths. They carefully imitated common Graeco-Roman artistic motifs, notably small winged creatures with feathered hindquarters. It is thus evident that Graeco-Roman gold and silver reached Yemen at the beginning of our era. François Baratte Curator at the Louvre emphasized that "the originality and quality of the objects from Dura significantly improves our understanding of ancient silverwork."

Whence came the fortune providing the owners with the wealth to possess such beautiful things? The Spice Trade? Perhaps, but essentially they must have lived off the produce of the soil. Long before the beginning of our era, the torrential floods flowing from the highlands were mastered: by hewing basins in rock, placing canals at the base of the mountain slopes, constructing stone distributors, assuring that every field, from the top of the wadi to the bottom, would receive just the right amount of water. In wadi Dura, these works have been commemorated in a series of texts engraved in the wadi walls: the earliest date to the second century B.C., and the



**The Stolen Artifacts (clockwise)**  
(left) Silver Ladle, Sword with Silver Hilt, -plated Silver Bowl, Silver Vessel with Medusa Head on Lid, and Inscribed Silver Belt-buckle. These fine pieces of silver and gold work came from the necropolis of Wadi Dura. If you have seen them, please alert the Ministry of Culture, and if they have come into your possession, re-consider your position.

a few coins (which will help us to date the ancient structures after being cleaned at the Aden Museum).

At the same time, Brigitte Cocque (of the University of Paris) started to study the geological and anthropological environment, essential to understanding the wealth the wadi's ancient denizens. The background is magnificent: pink and grey granite forming mountain domes with brown schist cut by gullies. The black desert patina varnishes everything, giving it a strange hue. The floor of the wadi at the base of the slopes has been covered with alluvial deposits since the beginning of history. For more than a millennium, the silt carried by each flood remained as a fine film on the wadi floor, effectively lifting the fields year for year, until, just before the advent of Islam, the fields towered a dozen metres above the wadi bed.



### The Changing Fortunes of Wadi Dura:

After the collapse of the irrigation systems, these fertile fields were abandoned... until the recent introduction of diesel pumps. The fields are now being bulldozed away, and cultivated again. But the communal organization of field cultivation - based on the equal distribution of water - is long gone. Only the large decennial floods still feed the earthen canals carefully maintained by the wadi communities. In a long chapter on the changing fortunes of the region. Muhammad Abdul-Qadir



Bafaqih wrote that the possessions of the kingdom of Awsan included all of the southern regions of Yemen. Around the 7th century before our era, the Sabaeen sovereign Karabil Watar destroyed Awsan, and a fragmentary inscription found at Hajar am-Dhaybiyyah may testify to this Sabaeen domination. From the 3rd and 2nd centuries, it was the Qatabanians with their capital at Timna, in wadi Bayhan, who ruled the region of Dura. One of their sovereigns even fortified a city in the wadi, named 'Abar or 'Ubayr, present-day Huwaydar. At this time, we only know that the dhu-



\* Jean-François Breton is an archaeologist, researcher at the French CNRS and director of the mission in Wadi Dura. David Warburton, Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, translated the article.

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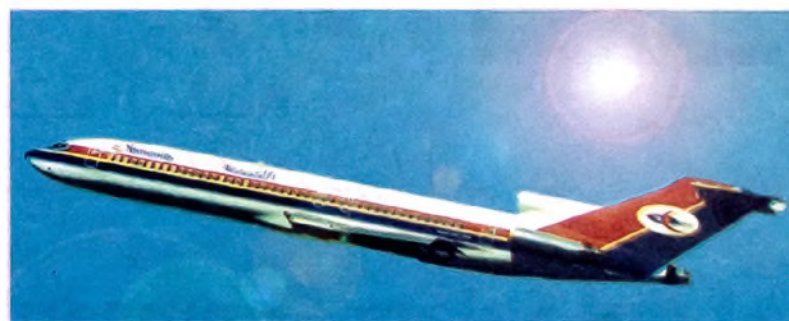
#### ADEN:

Phone: (967-2) 377.328  
(967-2) 377.294  
Fax: (967-2) 20318  
Telex: 2247YD CCCSAL  
P.O. Box: 3015  
Aden, Yemen

## Yemenia



**A New Service to Beirut - Every Monday  
EFFECTIVE 26 SEPTEMBER 1994**



Flight No.	Sector	Departure	Arrival
IY 744	SAH/BEY	01:50	04:30
IY 745	BEY/SAH	15:00	19:40

**For further information, please call Yemenia offices, shown below, or your travel agent**

SANAA	ADEN	HODEIDAH	TAIZ	BEIRUT
201822	253848	238211	221207	361230
204550	255568	238439	221206	361306

**fly Yemenia**