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YEMEN TIMES

• SANAA • September 15th thru 21st, 1997 Vol. VII, Issue No. 37 • Price 30 Riyals

INSIDE	American Lawyer on Yemeni Law Page 3.	On the Administrative Division of Yemen. Page 6.	Satellite TV Invades Yemen Page 10.	Port, Property & Police in Aden Page 13.
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After a very busy official schedule,

President Saleh Returns Following Visits To Germany, Italy, & Syria

President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the accompanying delegation returned to Sana'a, coming from Syria. Coming in the footsteps of US Secretary of State, Mr. Saleh was briefed by officials in Damascus

exchange notes. Italy is an important partner and its role in the European Commission is important," he said. President Saleh's main achievement was, however, in Germany. Following a 6-day state visit, the Yemeni leader was able to obtain a renewed German commitment for continued aid. In a statement made at a reception held on the honor of President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Wednesday 10th September, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Roman Herzog reiterated his country's "commitment to

Kinkel the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Carl-Dieter Spranger the Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, and many other German parliamentary officials and public figures.



on the latest developments in the peace process. "We are in full support of the Syrian position," he told the Yemen Times. He also indicated that the world - including the US Administration - is fully aware of the intransigence of the Netanyahu government. "It is the Israeli government which is working against peace, co-existence and regional stability," the Yemeni leader said. The President had paid a short private visit to Italy. Although dubbed private, President Saleh did hold some "consultation talks" with Italian officials. "It was a chance to

continue to support Yemen's development." On his part, President Ali Abdullah Saleh stressed that "Yemen has no course but to continue the process of reform, economic liberalization, and political democratization." President Saleh strongly invited the German business community to "get involved in joint investments and trade partnerships." President Saleh also met with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Prof. Rita Süßmuth the President of the German Bundestag, Dr. Klaus

Another Stitch Towards a Yemeni-Saudi Border Agreement

President Ali Abdullah Saleh met yesterday (Sunday, 14th September) with HRH Prince Sulatn Bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation, to further refine the draft agreement on the border between the two countries. The meeting which took place in one of the outskirts of the Milano, Northern Italy, is seen as yet another stitch towards concluding a border agreement between Yemen and Saudi

Arabia. Bilateral meetings held in August led to a compromise whereby cooperation agreements signed by the two countries are to be included as annexes in the border agreement. The first annex has to do with labor and economic cooperation and the second with security cooperation. If concluded, the agreement is set to become an historical milestone in the Yemeni-Saudi relations.

Yemen & EU To Sign Cooperation Agreement

Yemen Times has learned that Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani the Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister will fly to Brussels in November of this year to sign a far-reaching cooperation agreement between Yemen and the European Union. Dr. Al-Iryani, in a statement to Yemen Times, said, "this agreement will bring Yemen one step further toward full partnership in the Barcelona agreement, which joins the Mediterranean countries in partnership with the EU."

Having first to be ratified by the Yemeni parliament and the EU parliament and other relevant organs, the agreement gives Yemen a favorable status. It contains the most advantageous articles taken from agreements between the EU and the Mediterranean and Asian countries. Apart from certain clauses on human rights, democratization, economic liberalization and reform, the agreement requires no political or economic concessions to be made by Yemen.

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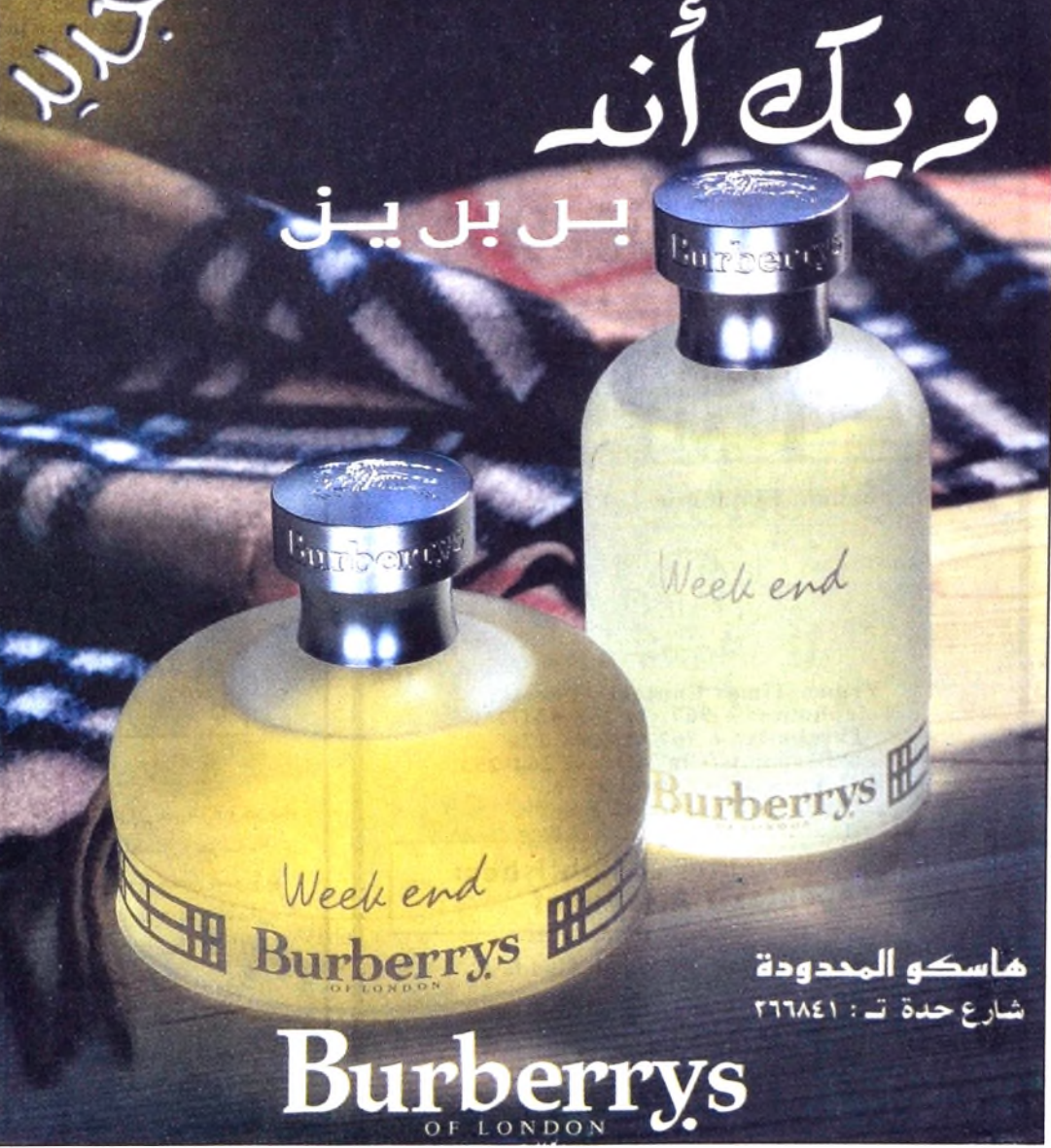
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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Coming Judicial Reforms Deserve Our Cooperation

If you ask any business-person or investors of the priorities for the steps needed to help business, he/she will probably mention the condition of the legal system early in the list. If you ask professionals (physicians, engineers, accountants, economists, lawyers, journalists, etc.), they would probably point to the justice system. Pro-democracy and human rights people will quickly complain against the courts and judges. Even people in government think there is urgent need to do something about the judiciary. Even foreigners have written extensively about the need for improvement in this sector.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, is presently working on an ambitious plan to over-haul this sector. He wants a new spirit and a new system. He alone can't do it. He needs the support of all of us. The plan, which will be supported with new appointments in vital positions of the sector over the new few weeks, will be a direct effort to re-build the justice system of the Republic of Yemen.

What can other parties do to help in the Prime Minister's new drive:

1. The Judges:

Not all the judges are corrupt. Some are still clean, and some others can be redeemed. So the plan needs data on who are the potential partners and which are the ones who need to be avoided or cast aside. This process has already started.

2. The Lawyers, Attorneys & Others:

Among those who deal with the legal system, there are those who can play a vital role in the reform process. These include lawyers, attorneys, assistants and clerks in courts, etc. Unfortunately, some of these people are just as corrupt as some of the judges. I personally know, for example, some lawyers, who for money or political gains, would twist the facts. Again here, a screening process is required.

3. Support Groups:

Journalists, pro-democracy groups, human rights organizations, and other can help by pinning down the problem, and suggesting what can be done. Unfortunately, most of the complaining of a general nature. If criticism is to be useful, it needs to be specific and accurate.

4. The Donor Community:

The donor community can sponsor projects specially addressing this sector. These may include better documentation, a transparent due process of law, improvement in archiving, etc. Some training of judges and their assistants and clerks would also come in handy. The donors can also organize training for law-enforcement agencies in order to ensure full adherence to the rights of individuals, and proper execution of the laws.

It is fortunate that the prime minister has put reforming the legal system at the top of his priorities. It is commendable that he is entering this quagmire.

But for him to succeed in his efforts, he needs the support and cooperation of all sides. This is especially possible since this is not a politically-driven effort. Judicial reform is an issue on which we can all agree.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

Supreme Joint-Committee Concludes 6th Round

The Supreme Joint Yemeni-Jordanian Committee has concluded the activities of its 6th round on Wednesday 10th September at the Presidential Palace. The Jordanian delegation was headed by Prime Minister, Dr. Abdulslam Al-Majali. His counterpart, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim headed the Yemeni side of the talks.

The two sides signed 4 new protocols of cooperation in the fields of investment, industrial coordination, standards and measures, and health and medicines. Two agreements were also signed in the sectors of labor and religious guidance and endowments. A memorandum of understanding in the sector of vocational and technical training was formulated.

Gun Brandished in YIDD

Former secretary-general of the Yemeni Institute for the Development of Democracy (YIDD), Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi threatened, with a pistol, the members of the new board of YIDD trustees when they went to take over the institute's premises. The incident took place on Tuesday 9th September. A representative of the Ministry of Culture was present to witness the handover.

The YIDD's trustees had demanded that Al-Soufi should cease his activities as secretary-general. The new board of trustees decided to freeze Al-Soufi's membership, continue procedures to receive the YIDD's premises, and file an assault case.

Conference on Arabian Peninsula

A Conference, organized by the Centre Francais d'Etudes Yemenites (CFEY) in Sana'a and the Deutsches Orient Institute, will be held in Hamburg during 11-13 September. The objective of the conference is to present the results of a collaborative Franco-German-Yemeni research program, largely funded by the European Commission and conducted under the leadership of the CFEY in Sana'a. Research undertaken in the context of this program has focussed on the transition of the Yemeni economy and the evolution of Yemeni society and culture as well as the country's political system after unification.

Journalists Syndicate To Hold 2nd Convention

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in a

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meeting with leading Yemeni journalists and editors-in-chief, stressed the government's commitment to support the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate in its efforts to hold its second general convention. The convention was delayed twice because of over-politicization of the syndicate's activities. The President told journalists that "he will work hard for the

syndicate to regain its professionalism and integrity." The convention is expected to elect the head of the syndicate. If things go smoothly, arrangements can be finalized to hold the election late this year or early next year.



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Michael Porter:

"The Yemeni commercial court system needs more resources and qualified judge."

Mr. Michael Porter is a law professor in the Faculty of Law at Addis Ababa University. Porter, 57, has two B.A. degrees in arts and law from Tulane University, USA. He primarily practiced securities law dealing with stocks, bonds, interests, and partnerships in New York and Hawaii. He moved to Ethiopia and began teaching law in Addis Ababa University. Mr. Porter has been invited by the United States Information Service (USIS) to lecture in Yemen on issues related to commercial law.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, met Mr. Porter and filed this interview.

Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: Last year, I first came to Yemen as a tourist. A Yemeni judge friend of mine asked me to come back to discuss different issues with various members of the commercial courts. The issues discussed include legal affairs and justice conventions of various treaties dealing with arbitration between private individuals such as the New York Convention of 1958 or the Washington Convention of 1965, which deals with arbitration between a nation and investors from another nation.

Q: What subjects did you lecture in Yemen?

A: We talked about the way judges conducted themselves in court and the way court procedures can be used to encourage efficiency in courts. In administration, it means providing a fair and just decision promptly. Delay itself can constitute injustice. Events would happen to make the decision no longer applicable and it becomes too late. Delay can also make the cost of court proceedings so high, it outweighs the benefits that might come from winning the case. In the US we have a saying which is "justice delayed is justice denied". That is true, especially in a commercial area where business moves very rapidly. The party that doesn't want to see the case continue is almost always the defendant. The defendant can for many times win by simply delaying or not appearing in court. So we talked about giving judgment against people who simply don't appear. There have to be proper

procedures followed, but they can't be allowed to delay the case for years and years simply by refusing to show up.

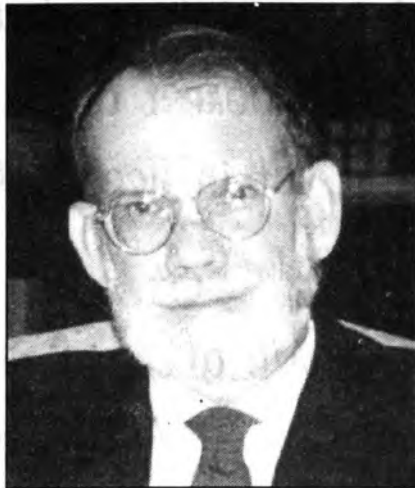
Q: Have you visited Yemeni courts? What are your impressions?

A: I went to the Commercial Court in Sana'a. The courtrooms themselves are very small. That surprised me. The one I visited was run very efficiently. They went through several cases. In too many of them, one of the parties hadn't appeared. In one of those cases, the plaintiff was there, the defendant was represented by a lawyer. His client wasn't there. The judge said this has been going on since March, we spent too much time. The judge decided that the case is finished.

Q: Because of delay in cases, some lawyers create special private organs for arbitration and reconciliation. What do you think of that?

A: In the US, with increasing public acceptance, arbitration has become a sort of standard business way of trying to resolve some disputes. It wasn't always done. A lot of contracts provided for arbitration, especially if they were joint ventures or typical sales contracts. If companies have disputes that were not based on contracts, they would then have to agree to arbitrate. It is quicker, more private, costs are less, and it is more predictable.

Q: Do you think the arbitration organ is going to work in



Yemen?

A: Yes, it seems to be very effective. For one thing, because it is quicker, people don't have time to build their emotional involvement so much. They get a quick resolution. You don't have the problem hanging over your head for years. In the US, it is viewed as a very favorable development in which many businesses and a lot of private individuals like to see happen. It cannot be used in criminal situations, divorces, adoptions or similar cases. But it is becoming very popular where it can be used. It wouldn't have become very popular if the people involved in it didn't think it was better than the courts. They are not obliged to use it.

Q: Do you think the implementation of the commercial law or business law has certain difficulties in Third World countries such as Yemen because of the social structure and mentality or political situation?

A: I suspect so. Changing the law in the US is a very controversial issue. There are always people who have vested interest in keeping conditions as they are. When you want to have law reform in the US, you frequently

have a lot of difficulty, even if it is in the public interest.

In many other countries, change is viewed as abnormal. It is not the way that things are supposed to be. So when you try to bring in commercial law, it is almost always modeled on Western European laws or American principles. It is viewed as an imposition of a foreign idea. That in itself causes resistance. In Ethiopia, where I have more experience, the commercial code is simply ignored by the vast majority of merchants. If they form partnerships,

they don't follow the procedures in the commercial code. They follow their traditional procedures.

Q: How was the response of the judges to your lectures?

A: The judges seemed to me to be very understanding of what I was talking about. They are very intelligent people. Their questions covered the whole subject. We spent a lot of time with judges talking about these alternative dispute resolutions. Out-of-court settlements reduce their work load so they can do a better job with the cases they have. We also talked about the issues of requiring people to attend at court. The court is the state and the state should be entitled to respect. The judges have to be

seen to be fair, to be following the law, and to be seen to be knowledgeable. This is very important. If the government, in the form of courts, doesn't follow the law, how can you expect the citizens to do so?

Governments only exist with the consent of the citizens. The former Soviet Union is a case in point. It collapsed because no one had confidence in its institutions. The courts are the institutions that people deal with. They may not necessarily like that, but they have to. When they deal with a particular court, they need to know that the judges are honest, following the law, and treat people with respect. These are the kinds of issues that we talked about.

Q: What difficulties do you think the Yemeni legal system face?

A: I think part of it is the lack of resources and the difficulty of having so few people to help the judges. In the US, judges have recent law graduates called law clerks. They help to read the papers that are filed and summarize them for the judge. They help to do research for the judge. The Yemeni judges don't have that so they have to spend a lot of time on the very basic sort of things. That obviously makes it very difficult for them. They have a huge backlog, although they seem to go through it rapidly when I visited the Court of Appeal. They were hearing cases

that have been decided in 1996 at the lower level. This is pretty fast. That would be good by any body's standards. It is really a question of resources. The judges should have the ability to learn the facts in the most convenient way and to find the applicable law.

Q: What impressions do you have of Yemen?

A: I enjoyed my trip here in December, 1996. The thing that impressed me the most, having lived in Ethiopia for so long, was how much better the people seem to live here. When you go out in the countryside, you see that people have running water in their houses. You see also satellite dishes, which tells you that they not only have electricity, but they also have communications. They know what is going on in the world.

Yemen, while clearly a poor country, is making a lot of progress. It is better off than many countries in the region, and seems to be doing well.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I find my stay here to be very positive. The Yemeni people are extremely hospitable and kind. I love the food. The scenery is fantastic. You have a beautiful architecture. It is a shame that Yemen has such a bad publicity from the tourists point of view. All my friends said they'd love to go to Yemen. It is one of those exotic places that we have heard about.

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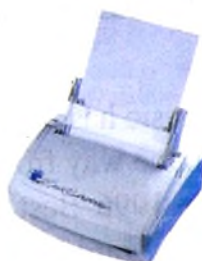
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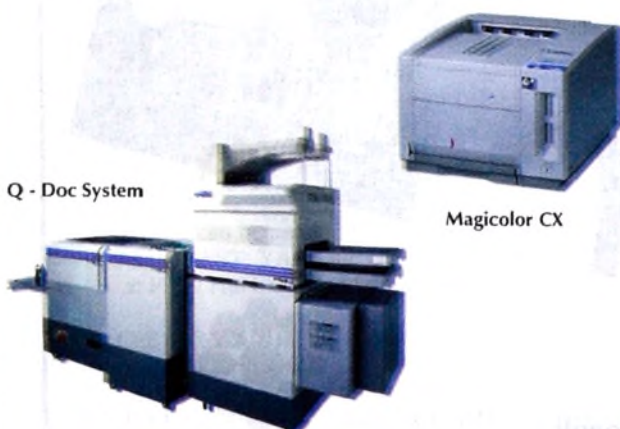


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This is an *OPINION* page.
Every week, a different intellectual writes a *FOCUS* on a pertinent issue!

New Administrative Divisions in Yemen: Objective Principles



By: Dr. Salah Haddash

Introduction

This article is not written in favor of particular idea. It aims to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the various types of local decentralization, according to Yemeni laws. It tries to clearly present the conformity, or otherwise, of the proposed local systems with the relevant Yemeni legislation.

Political or Administrative Decentralization?

The Yemeni political parties are divided between two ideas. Some of them are in favor of the implementation of political decentralization. Through the establishment of a local government system (councils). Other Yemeni political parties are supporting administrative decentralization through the local administration councils.

From a political and a legal point of view, there are deep differences between the two systems of political and administrative decentralization. Those differences are as follows:

- 1- **Field of Activity:** The administrative decentralization is a method concerning administrative organization. In other terms, it is related to the practice of the administrative function of the central government. Generally, it is implemented in unitary states and also within the state members of a federation. In contrast to that, political decentralization is a method of government. It is related to the practice of the main functions of a state such as legislation, justice and administration.
- 2- **Sovereignty:** The clearest practical example of political decentralization is the state member of a federation. Each one of these states has its own internal sovereignty. In other terms, each one of these states has its own parliament, system of justice and law, and a government. In contrast to that, the administrative local councils do not enjoy any legal sovereignty.
- 3- **Control:** In the administrative decentralization, local councils are under the control of the central government of a state; precisely, the acts and activity of the council and its administrators.

In contrast, in the political decentralization the control is mutual between the two sides. On the one hand, the federal central government exercising control on the acts and activities of the state member of the federation. On the other hand, the state member of the federation exercises its control on the central government. Some

times, the control can be done by a neutral judicial authority such as in the USA, where the supreme constitutional court is the authority concerned with exercising control.

The Constitution

The Yemeni constitution uses the ambiguous term of "local authority organs," instead of specifying either local government or local administration. Both types of decentralization have "organs" and "authority." This fact creates confusion. It is not clear enough whether the Yemeni constitution is in favor of political or administrative decentralization.

The Yemeni constitution fixes a multitude of principles concerning local authority organs. Those principles should be respected and contained by any detailed legislation (law) concerning local authority organs. Those principles are the following:

- 1- The territory of the Republic of Yemen should be divided into administrative units. The law specifies their number, borders, division, the scientific basis and criteria on which the administrative division would be based on, and the mechanism of electing its administrators.
- 2- The administrative units enjoy a moral personality. Each unit has its own elected local council. Its elections are free, direct, and equal. The local councils are formed on two levels - governorates and districts. The local councils exercise their authority within the borders of each administrative unit. They also have the right to propose programs, plans, investment budget regarding the local unit. The election of the local council members would be organized by a law, which also specifies its system of functioning, financial resources, rights and duties of its members, role in implementing developmental plans and programs, etc. The principle of administrative and financial decentralization will be the foundation for the administrative local system.
- 3- All administrative units and local councils are considered an integral part of the state's authority. Governors are responsible towards the president of the republic and the prime minister. Their decisions are imperative for the governors, which they should implement. The law specifies the method of control of the acts of the local councils. In spite of the fact that the title of the chapter concerning the local councils is an ambiguous one (Local Authority), but Article No. of the Constitution was precise in saying that Yemen will enjoy administrative and financial decentralization. This means that the Constitution position was in favor of administrative decentralization and not in favor of political decentralization.

Local Division Criteria

Whatever the local system, administrative or political decentralization, to be implemented, it should be based on a criteria. In the case of Yemen, one can suggest the following:

- 1- separation of authorities between the central government in Sana'a and the local

- councils in the governorates and directorates;
- 2- equal social and economic justice for all people in the governorate;
- 3- participation of Yemeni citizens in the political process through the election of local councils;
- 4- equal access to services in all governorates;
- 5- liquidation of traditional allegiances such as tribalism, etc.;
- 6- nation building through integrating different territories in one governorate;
- 7- economic integration of governorates through the integration of coastal, mountainous, and desert regions in one administrative unit; and
- 8- each governorate should have an access to the sea (Red Sea or Arabian Sea).

Political Objectives

Any local decentralization, whether administrative or political, should be implemented through a democratic method. Already, the Constitution states that direct election is the method of choosing the members of local councils (Article No. 4). The practice of democracy at the local level would have positive consequences such as the mobilization and participation of the citizens during the election campaign, re-vitalization of political parties, and creating new political and social leaderships. The mobilization of Yemeni citizens will be in a higher level than their participation in the representative council election. The local elections and councils touch their daily needs such as education, health, employment, etc.

Nation Building

One of the main problems of the Third World countries is that of nation building. Yemen is facing the same problem. The consolidation of national unity and the existence of a common allegiance towards the state should be one of the main objectives of legislation concerning local councils. To achieve this objective, Yemen should be divided in a way which abolishes the traditional allegiances such as ethnic affinity (Hashemite and non-Hashemite lineage), tribal loyalty (Hashid, Bakil, etc.), regional calls (Hadhramaut, Sana'a, Taiz), and religious sects (Zaidi, Shafi', Ismailite). To overcome all these obstacles, any new administrative divisions should include all these allegiances in one governorate and districts.

Abolishing the borderline which was separating north and south Yemen by creating one governorate and districts which will gather the people who had two different identities or citizenships and make them live together. All the governorates which are existing now should be changed in such a way so that districts of neighboring governorates are incorporated into a new governorate.

Geographical Objectives

Geographically, Yemen is divided into three main regions: coastal areas, highlands, and deserts. All previous administrative divisions of Yemen did not take into consideration the geographical factor. In fact, in those three regions the population structure, the level urbanization, the tribal allegiances, and the daily economy is different as a result of the different environ-

ment. It will be necessary that the new administrative divisions should include in each governorate those three regions. It is difficult to implement this criteria, but it should be done wherever it is possible. Because it will integrate different types of population. It is the integration of civic populations of the coastal areas with tribal populations of the highlands in addition to the beduin population of the desert. These criteria will also allow Yemen to integrate three types of economy - fishing, agriculture, and grazing.

Population

All governorates should include equal populations. This criteria reflects the principle of equality within populations and administrative units (governorates).

However, this rule of equal populations cannot be observed literally. Due to this fact, an exception should be made. The difference between the populations of any two governorates can be within a margin of 5%. This exception is legally correct because the constitution stipulates that the voter numbers should be equal in all electoral constituencies with an acceptable margin of 5%.

The Case of Hadhramaut

According to the project of the administrative divisions of Yemen, discussed by the Consultative Council, Hadhramaut is to be divided into two governorates. This issue has raised protestation from few political parties. This project is not based on the objective criteria. Hadhramaut should be treated as any other governorate. It should be divided into two or more governorates, according to the population and area of the territory. One should draw the readers' attention to the fact that the division of Hadhramaut into two governorates will revive two traditional allegiances - Kathiri and Qaeti. Before the independence of southern Yemen on 30th November, 1967, Hadhramaut was divided into two sultanates - Kathiri and Qaeti. Mukalla and Seion became the capital cities of the Qaeti and Kathiri sultanates, respectively. After the independence, these two territories were incorporated in one governorate called the "sixth governorate." In fact, Hadhramaut should be divided according to the following:

- 1- a portion of the eastern part of Hadhramaut should be integrated with the neighboring Al-Mahra governorate;
- 2- all the governorate should be divided vertically, including the coastal and desert interior, up to the Saudi border;
- 3- a portion of the western territory of Hadhramaut should be integrated with the neighboring Shabwa governorate;
- 4- to have a population equal to other governorates with a margin of 5%; and
- 5- to have an area similar to other governorates.

The implementation of the above criteria will confirm the fact that Hadhramaut is part of Yemen, and the people living in Hadhramaut are above all Yemenis.

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Local Government Party

On the 6th of August, 1997, a manifesto for the formation of a political party based on local government was issued. The proposed party expounds one idea - establishing a local government system in Yemen. Every Yemeni citizen has the right to believe in any ideology as affirmed by our constitution (Article 14). However, it is surprising that a well-known lawyer should adopt such an idea as founding a political party on the principle of local administration. The party's manifesto gives rural areas the right to have special administrative regulations compatible with their tribal costumes and traditions. This approach favors some regions in the country to the disadvantage of others. Creating such differences among various regions would lead to inequality among the Yemeni citizens, not of strengthening the outdated tribal structure. It shows that this proposed party is implicitly calling for turning Yemen into a federation, not a local government as the manifesto explicitly states. This attitude contravenes Article No. 1 of the Yemeni Constitution, which states that the Republic of Yemen is a unitary state... etc. The idea of a local government system itself contravenes Article 144 of the Constitution, which stipulates that the Yemeni local system will be based on local administration system. The licensing of such a political party cannot be permitted because it contradicts the Constitutions. It is possible, though, that this group will become a lobby pressuring parliament to amend Article 144 of the Constitution in order to adopt the system of local government. After such an amendment, this political party can be recognized officially.

The implementation of the above criteria will confirm the fact that Hadhramaut is part of Yemen, and the people living in Hadhramaut are above all Yemenis.

Conclusion

The new unified Yemeni state should implement a new administrative division which will help build a new unified nation, according to the aforementioned criteria. The appro-

propriate system of decentralization in Yemen is the local administration, not the local government. This is in accordance with the Constitution. Many people in Yemen wrongly believe that local administration will not give to the local councils independent powers from the central government. In fact, the Yemeni Constitution does not indicate any single limitation of local councils' authority. This gives the legislator full freedom to determine the powers of the local councils. There are two constitutional factors which could confirm the power of the central government over the local councils. These factors are as follows. First, the constitution states that governors are responsible toward the President and the Prime Minister. This means that governors are not independent. They are to be appointed by the President and the Prime Minister. Governors will represent the executive power in each governorate. The solution for this possible obstacle is that legislators should not give governors real powers over local councils. Second, the Constitution stipulates that control will be exercised over the acts of the local councils. In this matter the solution is that legislators should allow intervention by an administrative court to practice control over the local council acts.

* Dr. Salah Haddash—Ph.D of Law Assistant Prof. of Law. Managing Editor of Yemen Times



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World Bank Pledges More Support for Yemen

A press conference was held on Wednesday 10th of August at the World Bank office in Sana'a. Mr. Ander Sud, the Director of the Middle East Department at the World Bank, gave the following statement:

The purpose of my visit this time is to follow up on a very successful donors meeting. We held our first consultative group meeting in Brussels last June. At the end of the two-day meeting, which many donors - regional bilateral, and multi-lateral participated - we were able to get commitments of almost US\$1.8 billion over the next three years for Yemen. This level of support is truly unprecedented from the donors. It was an indication from the donors of how much everyone welcomed the very strong effort the government has made in the last two years to bring the economy to the proper path of development and prosperity. While indicating their support, the donors including us were very conscious that a lot of efforts will have to be made in the next three years to build on the foundations.

First and foremost, all of us are very interested in implementation. There is no point in committing the resources if there is no good implementation. Implementation was emphasized by all donors as high priority. I think in that sector, a lot of progress has been made in the last two years. Many important decisions have been made. We see very big improvement in our projects in Yemen. I was myself in Mukalla to see our water supply project, public works project and the fisheries project. The very good progress in these projects have convinced us of the advantages of decentralization to the local level, giving them more authority, and delegating resources. The improvements I saw in these projects indicate clearly that the way to go is to improve implementation and to delegate authority. In the coming years, we'll continue to work with the government in supporting its efforts in this regard.

I'd like here to highlight two very important initiatives that we started in the last 12 months. A small public works project which is financing community-based, community driven small investments, can create jobs while at the same time showing benefits to the people. That project is already functioning. The second area is the social fund. This fund is helping people with training, self-employment, getting women involved in small businesses, working through NGOs, and supporting community-based efforts.

The projects are all over the country. The public works projects are already active in many provinces including Mukalla. The social fund project is just getting started in three provinces- Mukalla, Taiz, and Hodeida. The idea is to cover all the provinces in the country. The other area is education and health. We are working on projects which will begin to address the needs of mothers, children and particularly girls. The third important area for which we have resources available is water. Here, institutional restructuring and building up the capacity are important at the local level. While a lot of investment is needed, we hope to complement it with very strong efforts to move management of the water system to the local level, where the water system is operated on a commercial basis.

As for reform, the foundation has been laid for the next phase, which will involve not just general measures to stabilize the economy since it is stabilized now, but to move towards reform which will create jobs. In the first part of that, we are beginning to start on the financial sector. We are just about to approve a project that will support the building of such financial institutions as the Central Bank and the Commercial Bank. The second part of the reform effort is modernizing the public sector. We'll supporting the public sector by training, restructuring and other reform measures. I hope this effort will also begin to address many questions on corruption. The third area of reform is the privatization. As many countries have discovered, to bring private investment you must make sure that the government's role is limited only to those areas where only the government can function. These are the areas where a lot of work has to be done. We in the World Bank are committed to helping the government in all these areas. Financially, our contribution will be very significant and we'll also be helping the government technically.



ANNOUNCEMENT

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** Only those candidates selected for an interview will receive an acknowledgment. All documents submitted by the applicant to the Company shall become the property of Total Yemen and will not be returned to applicant.

Public Invitation Invitation for Financial Advisor (FA)

1. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Yemen (MOF) invites bids from investment banks and financial management firms to act as Financial Advisor (FA) to the Government of the Republic of Yemen for the privatization of the National Bank of Yemen. The FA's responsibilities shall include performing all activities leading up to the sale of a (51%) shareholding in the National Bank of Yemen and the transfer of management control to a strategies investor including all preparatory work, structuring the sale, implementing the actual sale process and appropriate post-sale activities.

- * These Terms of Reference are being issued to the pre-qualified bidders who have demonstrated expertise in sale of financial institutions and have experience in transactions in the Middle East and North Africa Region.

2. Advisor's Responsibilities

The Financial Advisor shall be responsible for providing all the services that are essential to meet the overall objectives of the Republic of Yemen and which the Financial Advisor recommends from his own experience in the field. The activities specified in the Terms of Reference should be viewed only as information supplementary to the standard set of activities required for a transaction of this type. It is expected that the Financial Advisor will identify the complete set of activated required for the subject transaction in his proposal.

The Financial Advisor will appoint a Team Leader to assume overall responsibility of the project and to interface with the Government. The Government will also appoint a Project Manager to liaise on its behalf with the Advisor's team leader. The Team Leader will be the sole interface with the Government on all project, legal and financial matters.

The Financial Advisor will provide sufficient lead times for activities requiring decision by the Government. The bidders should submit their offers within forty five days to the Ministry of Finance.

Ministry of Finance
Republic of Yemen
P. O. Box 190
Project Coordinator
Nasser Al-Samman

دعوة لمستشار مالي

تعليمات لمقدمي القروض

- ١ تدعو وزارة المالية في الجمهورية اليمنية إلى تقديم العطاءات من البنوك الاستثمارية وشركات الادارة المالية لتقوم بعمل مستشار مالي للحكومة في الجمهورية اليمنية لخصخصة البنك اليمني الأهلي.
- ٢ سوف يدخل ضمن مسؤولية المستشار المالي كل الأعمال التي ستؤدي إلى بيع ٥١٪ من رأس مال البنك للاستثمارات الخاصة ليكونوا مساهمين بالبنك الأهلي اليمني.
- ٣ كما سيدخل ضمن عمل المستشار المالي تحويل الادارة إلى المستثمر الاستراتيجي بما فيها كل الأعمال التمهيدية للبنك. تنظيم البيع، تنفيذ عملية البيع الصحيحة وبطريقة مناسبة وفعالة.
- ٤ هذا المرجع أصدرناه لمقدمي العطاءات المؤهلين الذين يتمتعون بخبرة عالية في بيع المؤسسات المالية ولديهم خبرة بالتعامل مع منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال افريقيا.

مسؤوليات المستشار:

- سوف يكون المستشار مسؤولاً بإعداد كل الخدمات الأساسية المحققة لأهداف الجمهورية اليمنية والتي سيوصي بها المستشار المالي من خلال خبرته في هذا المجال.
- كل الأنشطة حددها المجلس المشار إليه آنفاً والذي يجب مراجعته كمعلومات فقط
- ومن المتوقع أن المستشار المالي سيقوم بتحديد مجموعة الأنشطة المطلوبة مكتملة بهدف نقل المشروع حسبما ورد في مقترحه.
- وسيقوم المستشار المالي بتعيين قائد فريق يتحمل المسؤولية الكاملة يقوم بدور الوسيط مع الحكومة. كما ستقوم الحكومة أيضاً بتعيين مدير للمشروع يعمل سوياً مع قائد فريق المستشار، وسيكون قائد فريق المستشار هو الوسيط الوحيد أمام الحكومة فيما يخص المسائل القانونية والمالية.
- يجب على المستشار أن يعد الأوقات الكافية لكل الأنشطة التي تتطلب اتخاذ قرار من الحكومة.
- على المتقدمين تسليم عطاءاتهم إلى وزارة المالية خلال فترة أقصاها خمسة وأربعين يوماً من تاريخ نشر هذا الاعلان.

وزارة المالية
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Guests in Our House; How Welcome Are They?

By: Athena Al-Absy

Yemenis commonly refer to it as the "dish." It is no longer a guest, but an important member of the family. Watching satellite TV is rapidly and increasingly becoming more popular within many Yemeni households. With the lack of outdoor recreational facilities, Yemeni families are spending hours upon hours in front of the little screen at home. There are in excess of 20 satellite channels - Arab, Indian, and Western. A colorful spectrum of programs are presented. With a remote control, a spectator would often go through these channels like leafing through a bunch of variety magazines. What is the impact of satellite TV on the daily life of the Yemeni family? How does it affect the children? Does it have any benefits at all? By interviewing three couples from different socio-economic backgrounds, I tried to get some answers to these and many other questions.

The first couple are from Sana'a. Mohammed, 55, is retired and occasionally does odd jobs as a builder. His wife Amatulaziz, 50, sells bread at a local market. Their eldest son and his wife, along with the other sons, live with the family. They purchased their satellite-reception equipment 3 years ago. Watching satellite TV takes up a lot of the family free time. Mohammed, for instance, watches TV from 10 AM until 1 PM then from 3 PM until well after midnight. His wife, on the other hand, goes out to work in the morning, selling bread. She watches TV her daughter-in-law until 1:30 AM. Two extra hours are added to the watching time when insomnia-causing qat is chewed. Mohammed doesn't watch the Yemeni satellite channel; while, his wife likes the Yemeni songs and some of the programs presented by the local channel. The couple watch just about anything and everything shown on satellite TV. "Although we don't understand everything they say on TV, we like to watch all sorts of programs just to kill time," said the couple.

As for the side effects of watching too much satellite TV, Mohammed complained of "large electricity bill and the wife and kids staying up late in the night." The sons don't go to school. Watching satellite TV forms a big part of their daily time. "The whole family is now addicted," said Mohammed.



Amatulaziz said, "the Yemeni TV presents very old and repeated programs. She likes watching Arabic, Indian, and Western films despite not understanding all that is uttered by the actors. 'I like the phone-in programs where there is more interaction with the people at home as well as qat songs shown on Yemeni TV,' she said.

Does she benefit from watching satellite TV?

"Yes, it help to have new ideas for decorating my home." The only draw back is that she stays up late in the night; consequently, she wakes up late in the morning. "This makes me quite tired," complained Amatulaziz, adding that "my husband becomes very angry when the large electricity bill arrives at the end of the month."

Ahmed, 45, is an engineer from Dhamar working for a local firm. He started watching satellite TV since he bought the equipment 5 years ago. On average, he spends about 4 hours a day watching TV. This period increases to 6 hours on holidays and vacations. "I don't watch Yemeni TV at all," said Ahmed, "the programs are quite frivolous." His main complaints regarding the Yemeni satellite channel include showing programs of a strictly local

nature such as the "parliamentary debates." Also, the "films and plays they show are heavily censored." What does he like to watch on the satellite TV?

"I very much enjoy watching the CNN news, other Arab news as well as foreign films. The most important thing is gain more culture and knowledge." Ahmed admits that watching satellite TV has changed the way he dresses and the type of clothes he prefers. What are the negative aspects?

"The children are now neglecting their school work due to staying glued to the TV. I have even caught them watching TV secretly late at night. My wife has also started neglecting her household duties because of watching Satellite TV. Electricity bills are getting bigger. However, we can't now live without it. It has become an essential part of our daily life."

Ahmed's wife Jameela is 39 years old. She is uneducated, stays at home, and spends most of her time watching the "dish." She said, "the dish keeps my mind off the daily worries. I like to see beautiful people wearing beautiful clothes and living in beautiful places. I particularly like to watch the two Lebanese channels, wishing that we would have similar beautiful parks and clubs as they do." Watching too much satellite TV has certainly made Jameela "change the decor of the qat room from the traditional 'mattresses on the ground to the more Western arm-chairs and sofas." She and her daughter are also emulating the Lebanese female TV presenters in their dresses and hair styles.

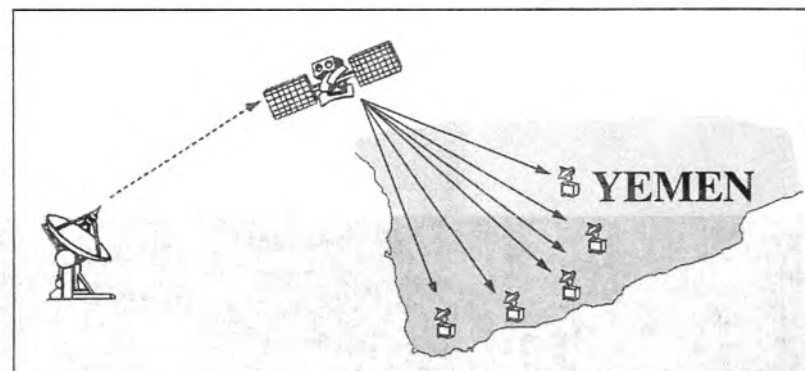
What other aspects of Jameela's has the "dish" changed?

"My husband becomes very angry when he comes back from work to find me with kids watching the dish. I do all the household chores, though. I admit that I sometimes prepare a very simple lunch such as tuna or egg sandwiches if there is a very interesting program on the dish. I feel I was deprived before the dish entered our house. When my husband threatened to sell it, I countered by threatening to sell my jewelry and buy a new dish. We quarreled several times because of it. I even stayed angry in my parents home after several such quarrels. Life would be very boring without the dish."

The last couple are from Aden. Ali, 34, is an oil pipeline controller. His wife Nasma is a 26-year-old housewife. They bought their satellite TV equipment about 7 months ago. However, they spend less of their free time in watching satellite TV than the other couples. They watch some of the Yemeni TV programs, especially the songs. They both complained that the Yemeni TV programs are very boring. Ali likes to mainly watch scientific and nature programs. Nasma goes for songs, fashion shows, TV competitions, and other general entertainment programs. Watching satellite TV is also changing Nasma's dress sense.

What are the drawbacks?

"Nothing to speak of except for some differences in opinion regarding some issues discussed in the satellite TV programs," the couple agreed.



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The applicant should have the following qualifications:

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Interested candidates are requested to send their applications supported by proofs of the above mentioned capabilities with their curriculum vitae to:

Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box No. 551, Sana'a.

Applications should be received **no later than 20 September, 1997**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgment will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post

CHILD LABOR:

Early Responsibility

By: Jameel Moghram*

It is very important to tackle the problem of child labor. Why these kids have to work?

In Yemen, it seems that the children who have to earn a living are of two categories. The first group are really poor and the parents push them towards work so as to help their parents in earning their living. The second group go to work to improve their living conditions. There are those who work during the summer vacations They are not permanent laborers.

- **Name:** Mukhtar Ameen Abdo
- **Age:** 10 years
- **Place of Birth:** Wisab Al-Safel, Raima
- **Residence:** Al-Safyia quarter, Sana'a
- **Type of Work:** Owner of a bathroom scales for weighing people
- **Working Place:** Outside "Half Moon" restaurant, Haddah St.
- **Original Capital:** YR 2,500 - the cost of buying the scales
- **Reason for working:** To help the family earn its daily livelihood.
- **Daily income:** Around YR 250-300
- **How much do you give to your family?** I give YR100 daily. The rest I save for school expenditure such as fees, books, pencils, a school bag, etc. I also intend to buy clothes and a pair of shoes when school starts.
- **Working Hour?** Around 4 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the evening.
- **Other Work Places?** In the evenings, I move to Al-Sabeen Park.
- **Do you live with your family?** Yes.
- **What does your father do for living?** He works as a waiter in a buffet.
- **Do you get harassed while working?** No.
- **How come?** I have no competitors on the same sidewalk.
- **How much do you charge each person?** Five riyals only.
- **Do like this kind of work?** No.



- **Do you like to change it?** No.
- **Why not?** Because it is easy work and I don't get tired.
- **Do you intend to continue your study?** Yes.
- **What do you want to become in the future?** A journalist.
- **Why a journalist?** In order to be concerned with the issues of the people.

* **Jameel Moghram is doing an internship in Yemen Times. He is a graduate of Sociology, Sana'a University.**

KUWAIT: WARNING AGAINST POSSIBLE ATTACKS

The US embassy told Americans in the Gulf states to be cautious after a telephone call of possible attacks. The call claimed knowledge of a possible attack against an American location in Kuwait. An executive of a US firm operating in Kuwait said, "We have issued strict instructions on receiving packages and visitors. Kuwait has been a safe place for Americans. But we can not leave things to chance." The embassy memorandum came only days after a similar warning by Washington's embassy in neighboring Saudi Arabia, saying it continued to receive reports of possible attacks against US interests in the Kingdom. It is to be noted that Kuwait hosts around 8,000 Americans including several hundred US military personnel. The US forces participate in joint exercises with Kuwait and monitor Iraq's compliance with a no-fly zone enforced by Washington and its allies on Iraq. Based on these reports the embassy urges all American citizens in Kuwait in the upcoming days to exercise particular caution and maintain heightened awareness of their surroundings. Of course, no specific location has been mentioned and the embassy can not say that the reports are reliable. It is to be said that such cautions are necessary for residents in foreign countries.

CALCUTTA'S GRIEF FOR MOTHER TERESA HAS NO LIMITS

Teresa, mother of the poor and the apostle of peace, kindness and charitable activities died in Calcutta at the age of 87 after her hard work on humanitarian services to the poor who she loved and work for them the whole of her life. It was 70 years ago when she arrived in India and dedicated herself to the dying and destitute of Calcutta. Despite her frail bearing, the Mother drew strength from her prayers and dedicated herself to the task of helping the poor, the sick, the orphans and all those homeless people. According to the sisters at the Missionaries of Charity, the mother had planned to hold a prayer meeting in memory of princess Diana, the day of the funeral of the princess of Wales. The Roman Catholic nun, Nobel Prize winner (1979) and apostle of peace described as being a living saint for humanitarian work all her life. Her organization is composed of 4,400 sisters and brothers in 600 homes across the globe. Her message was, "The poor must know that we love them." Indian leaders said their country and the world had suffered a loss with the death of mother Teresa and praised her commitment to the poor. "Words fail me to express my sorrow. An apostle of peace and

love, no more with us," said prime minister Inder Kumar Gujral. Since 1948, she devoted herself to the poor people granting them her love, help and life to make them feel happy. Calcutta will never forget this kind heart who was everywhere to be seen and had a touch and mark wherever you were. It is said that about one million will attend her funeral.

ISRAELI MILITANTS BEHIND BOMBINGS

The Palestinian Authority accused right-wing Israeli extremists of involvement in the suicide bombings. The leadership confirms that the terrorist operations against Israeli civilians was not a Palestinian attack. "We have evidence and information from the Israelis which show that those behind this attack came from abroad and got help from the Israeli radical groups which assassinated prime minister Rabin in 1995. Netanyahu tries to hide information and details about who was behind this terrorist operation and who helped them. The suicide operation struck a severe blow to the peace process and it was deliberately done just days before US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was to make her visit to the Middle East.

ETHIOPIAN GROUPS FORM ALLIANCE

Ethiopian political and Islamic groups based in Somalia have founded an alliance aimed at overthrowing the government of prime minister Meles Zenawi. The new organization was formed in Somalia and it had established a military force to fight against current governments in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Osala is a culmination of many years of relentless struggle of few far-sighted Omoro, Somali and Afar individuals and groups. Osala vowed to put an end to centuries of Judeo-Christian ideological hegemony in Ethiopia and Eritrea. It said the horn of Africa region was predominately Muslim and should therefore be governed according to Islamic tenets, although other religions would be tolerated and given official recognition.

TURKEY: ERBAKAN'S AIDE QUIZZED FOR THE FATE OF US\$10 MILLION

Turkish prosecutors questioned an ex-aide to former prime minister Necmettin Erbakan about a scandal over charitable funds that allegedly went missing, Anatolian news agency said. The case was about the fate of the US\$10 million sent to Turkey by Libya to help victims of Chechnya's conflict with Russia. Turkey's judiciary has turned the heat on members of the previous Islamist-led govern-

ment since Erbakan resigned from office after months of pressure from the military. His Welfare Party is facing a legal ban in a case opened by the country's top prosecutor who accuses the Islamists of threatening the country's secular foundations. The Welfare Party denied the misuse of funds donated to it through the media.

INDONESIA: MANDELA HAS CALLED FOR RELEASE OF TIMORESE LEADER

It is clear that the authorities in Jakarta are not willing to release the imprisoned East Timorese rebel leader Xanana Gusmao at this time despite a plea from South African President Nelson Mandela. In an interview, Ali Al-Attas described Gusmao as violent criminal and warned that there would be tremendous uproar among his victims if he were to be released. It is obvious that Mandela has called for his release as a step towards securing peace in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony invaded by Indonesia in 1975.

Al-Attas said any freedom for Gusmao, who is serving a 20 year prison sentence, would have to be part of wider solution for East Timor.

Al-Attas earlier rejected a suggestion by Mandela that an annual round of negotiations among pro and anti-Indonesian East Timorese factional leaders be held in South Africa. Al-Attas said Indonesia wants to keep the meeting at its current venue. The indications are to better handle the issue of human rights in East Timor.

MANILA: AN ADVICE TO RESIST STAYING TOO LONG IN POWER

Former Philippine president Corazon Aquino urged her successor Fidel Ramos to resist the temptation of staying too long in power, saying democracy would not thrive on personality cults. Aquino, who inspired a popular revolt that toppled down the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, said changing the constitution to allow Ramos to extend his rule could breed political instability. Aquino issued the warning as Congress prepared to open debates on a proposal to empower the legislature to rewrite the constitution and remove the term limits of incumbent officials, including Ramos, whose term ends in June 1998. "Knowing when to leave is no less important than knowing when to arrive," Aquino told a conference in Manila of Asian jurists. Aquino credited Ramos with contributing to the restoration of democracy by helping lead the uprising against Marcos but said it was important to build institutions on values of solid granite and not erect personality cults.

PAKISTAN: BHUTTO ASKS SHARIF NOT TO SIGN A LOAN AGREEMENT WITH IMF

Benazir Bhutto the main opposition leader asked prime minister Nawaz Sharif not to sign a loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund, IMF, because its conditions were too tough. She also rejected the newly-initiated dialogue with India at the level of foreign secretaries to normalize relations marred by the Kashmir dispute. "I would advise Nawaz not to sign the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility of the fund," Bhutto told foreign correspondents in Islamabad. An IMF team recommended US\$1.6 billion credit and Pakistan was expected to receive the first tranche worth around US\$500 to 700 million after a final approval by the IMF Board in Washington next month. The accord would trigger unemployment, devaluation and inflation, she said. The IMF has lauded the new government's policy and voiced the hope that it would help the country out of its economic crisis.

The IM wants the government to curtail expenditure by downsizing staff in public sectors or closing down loss-making units.

The fund has also suggested banking reforms by reducing the number of staff and branches in state-owned commercial banks and stepped up efforts to recover loans from defaulters. Bhutto said downsizing government departments would generate unemployment, adding, "I don't want to see the people starving on the streets." Nawaz Sharif believes that the accord would have a positive impact on foreign investment.

SYRIA: WORKING ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS

According to newspaper Haaretz, Syria is developing a multi-warhead delivery system for chemical weapons. The report said Syria recently finished building a production facility for the new chemical warheads near a scientific research centre outside Damascus. It is to be mentioned that during the Gulf War Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles bearing conventional warheads into Israel. The Israeli defense minister Mordechai had been sending messages to Syria appealing for a resumption of peace negotiations interrupted 18 months ago. "We are always passing messages to Syria appealing for peace," Israel does not talk or reveal its nuclear programs though it is clear to the world but she is always after the neighboring countries accusing them of building a production facility for the new chemical weapons and all her reports are but allegations and without any evidence.

Lauder: A Deprived Area Striving for Attention

Bin Sallam, Yemen Times

Part of the governorate of Abyan, Lauder is a place where basic services and infrastructure are almost non-existent. The people of Lauder complain bitterly of being deprived of many badly needed services such as proper health care facilities, schools, paved roads, water, electricity, etc. Sewerage is not disposed of properly, leading to the prevalence of numerous epidemics such as malaria, typhoid, etc. Wars and internal strife have taken their toll on the people of Lauder. Thousands of families had lost their breadwinners. They now live in very difficult conditions. There also many disabled persons who do not get any care whatsoever. There is only one poorly equipped hospital with 3 doctors, serving more than 45,000 people living in the Lauder area. The hospital does not have a proper operation theater nor any good laboratories. It has stayed the same since it was built by the British in the 60s. Several successive governments have failed to improve this hospital. We met the director of the Lauder General Hospital Mr. Mohammed Hadi Al-Madhla'a.

supplied us with some medicines and equipment, but these are still not enough for the hospital's needs. There is concern on part of the Ministry, but there is no follow up. The Ministry has a health development plan, but it is not implemented properly.

Q: Do you provide any health services to nearby villages?

A: Yes, we do in cases of epidemics. We also carry out regular inoculation campaigns for children. We are the second in the Republic in terms of the numbers of vaccinated children.



Yemen Times also met Mr. Abdullah Qassem Al-Awsaji the Director of the Education Bureau in Lauder.

Q: What is the current situation at the education sector in Lauder?

A: There are about 70 primary schools and only 6 secondary schools. Many of the schools are built through private donations. The Directorate of Lauder covers a very large area. Schools in remote areas also suffer from lack of teachers, shortage of books and the necessary school furniture. Girls in remote areas have very little chance of getting any education. Female teachers don't go to these areas.

Q: How many books do you need, say, every year?

A: We received 76,000 books, but we need at least 3 or 4 times this figure. The number of pupils is continuously increasing, so is our need for books and school buildings.

Q: Are public schools being built?

A: There is already a 12-classroom primary school being built in Moqaifa'a. It should be finished soon. There are also other projects for building annexes of

2 or 3 classrooms to existing schools. A secondary school is also being currently built in Lauder.

Q: Are there any areas which have no schools altogether?

A: Yes, there are. Many parents, however, are so desperate for their children to get educated, they send them on animals or on foot to the nearest school. Many poor pupils had to stay away from school for not being able to afford the expenses involved.

Q: Are there enough teachers?

A: Remote areas in particular suffer from a severe shortage of teachers. Some schools have only 3 or 4 teachers; while, they need a staff of at least 10.

Q: What do you think of the present school curricula?

A: They are crammed full of useless information that cannot be fully absorbed by the students. That is probably the reason why so many students graduate with unsatisfactory level of knowledge. The curricula should be reviewed and amended to take into consideration the level of the students and their abilities of comprehension.

Q: Shouldn't the law of compulsory education be enacted?

A: Education is essential for all citizens. But we cannot oblige pupils to go to school before providing them with the necessary facilities.



Last but not least, Yemen Times met Sheikh Hussein Ahmad Al-Sagheer, the Sheikh of Lauder.

Q: Could you tell us about your area and its needs?

A: The area has not witnessed any progress or

development during the past eras. All successive governments have failed to provide us with the necessary needs of our region. We need schools, health centers, water and electricity, a sanitation system, and many other essential services. We have fully done our duty for the homeland. Many of our sons died defending Yemen and its unity. We demand to be treated on equal basis with other areas in Yemen. We made out demands known to the government, but only got promises.

Q: Hasn't the government implemented any sort of service projects here?

A: They usually start on a project, but never seem to see it to the end.

Q: What other problems do you suffer from?

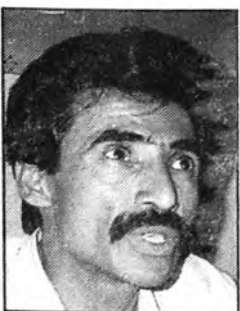
A: Lack of security is a source of a big headache for us. Also, there are no active organs to supervise the prices of basic food commodities. Unscrupulous merchants fix the prices as they fancy. The security forces just don't seem to be concerned at all. The judicial system in our region is also plagued by many problems. Court decisions and rulings are made, but left unimplemented for years. This makes many people take the law into their own hands. Consequently, fights and blood feuds ensue. The stronger wins. There were better justice and law enforcement systems during the colonial and sultanates' rule.

Q: What do you think of the recent kidnappings of foreign tourists?

A: I condemn such acts. They are against our religion and traditions. We would like to see peace and prosperity in our area. Violence must have no place here. What happened was the act of desperate people who badly wanted to be heard by the central authorities.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I call upon the President of the Republic to direct all the relevant organs to help our deprived region get its proper and deserved place in unified Yemen. God willing all our hopes will be realized.



Q: Could you tell us about the health and hygiene conditions in Lauder?

A: There are many prevalent diseases such as amebic diarrhea, dysentery, malaria, pneumonia, and several others. Medicines are quite scarce and the hospital is very poorly equipped. We don't have any specialists. We try to do our best within the available resources. All the X-ray and laboratory equipment are old and decrepit. We need eye, ENT, surgery, pediatrics, gynecology and other specialists. We also need medicines, medical equipment, and an ambulance.

We met the Minister of Health who was quite responsive and understanding. The Ministry has

الإدارة العليا والمهندسون والموظفون والعمال في شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط

يتقدمون
بأجزل التحايا وأجمل التبريكات
للشعب اليمني الأبى بزعامة الفريق علي عبدالله صالح
وللحكومة برئاسة الدكتور فرج بن غانم
وإلى جميع أصدقاء اليمن
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Port, Property and Police in Aden

The year 1997 seems to be an auspicious period for Aden. At last, most of its inhabitants, who have endured decades of economic decline, misruling and some bloodsheds, would have reason to rejoice. The cisterns and drainage system are being cleaned to avoid a repetition of the devastating 1993 floods. There is finally good news coming about the free zone with the recent announcement of a 1999 completion date for construction work. New blood is also expected to be put in charge. And the UNDP will start a major housing scheme to partly tackle the shortage in cheap accommodation.

All this would have pleased Eric Mercier who was working on a dissertation about the urban development of Aden. He unfortunately became the third victim of a xenophobic murderer of Dire-Dawa, Ethiopia, in October 1996. His dissertation advisor and Franck Mermier, the soon-to-leave director of the French Center for Yemeni Studies, edited his articles and working notes as the third volume of a series on Arab cities (vol. 1 published in 1995 was *Sanaa hors les murs*, and vol. 2 is about Beirut). The 163 pages volume is entitled *Aden. Un parcours interrompu*. (Aden, An Interrupted Route). It is illustrated with many pictures by E. Mercier



Colonial belt-buckle. Coll. R. Detalle

himself. Also included are old black and white views of colonial Aden, advertisements taken from Port of Aden Annuals before Independence and numerous statistical charts showing the rise of the population, from 1000 in 1839 to more than 400,000 now, and the ups and downs of maritime traffic.

The main focus of Eric's research was land-ownership and housing and development policies and practices. The colonial authorities tried to put some order in the urban sprawl and managed to shape some quarters of the town according to their hygienist-securitarian conceptions of urbanism. An additional article about Djibouti, across the Gulf of Aden, allows for interesting comparison with French colonial architecture using coral blocks. The comparison could certainly be extended to include Italian buildings of Massawa and Moqadishu



Picture by Pascal Marechaus. Published in Saba 3&4

reflecting the growing body of researches published on colonial architecture. Aden having been subjected to diverse regimes in the 20th century, the succession of real-estate policies gives rich perspectives on general political circumstances. After 1967 nationalizations and brutal changes at the leadership of the country ("the January events" of 1986 and the fall of the city after the 1994 war) resulted in violent transfers of ownership and occupiers of buildings.

A double movement is observable: poor people squat in vacant lots and engage in informal building or vertically enlarge their flats. The rich also squat, seize and sell private or public lands and building, but they can rely on brutal force to evict the weak tenants or on political connections to legitimize buying up parts of a school playground, for instance. The types and number of cases documented by Eric Mercier, often drawing from information and announcements published in the Aden weekly *al-Ayyam*, make one wonder how international investors will be convinced to put money in Aden where they are often several people in town claiming ownership of the same place.

Another sad thing is the interruption of the Aden embellishment program that had been started by governor Al-Syali until 1994. The political motive behind this was obvious. Embellishing Aden, prohibiting the wearing of *janbiyya* and trying to show that the YSP could do better for Aden than the Sana'a rulers were part of the competition over Adeni hearts. It is just a pity that since then the Khormaksar corniche worksite has little progressed and the Crater corniche has been entirely privatized. From that point of view, and others too, Hodeidah

is better, the poor can walk along the sea. In Aden those who can afford the seafaring places are a minority. Aden can certainly benefit from a heavy dose of free enterprise spirit and liberalism but it needs not be brutal and ruthless capitalism conducted by Adenis and newcomers to the town, as Eric Mercier wrote on more than one occasion.

Foucault in Aden

French philosopher Michel Foucault is one of the thinkers who allow France to keep some standing on the intellectual world map. Although dead by now, his work remains a major source of inspiration for social scientists, especially among American scholars. A few years ago, T. Mitchell used his theories to study British colonizing policies in Egypt. In an article published in the Spring 1997 issue of *Arab Studies Journal* (Georgetown University, Washington D.C.) John Willis uses the same approach to analyse "Colonial Policing in Aden, 1937-1967." Foucault's book, *Discipline and Punish*, describes the emergence of the disciplinary concern in Europe and the organisation of societies through police, prisons, hospitals, schools and factory regulations. Docile, obedient, clean and moral, such are the qualities expected from individuals constantly under surveillance to become the productive workers of rising capitalism.

J. Willis traces the history of the Aden police, created after the army lost this responsibility in the 1930s and reinforced by the decision to turn Aden into a Crown Colony in 1937. Until then it had been ruled from Bombay. Police is needed because there are crimes, but crimes are historically and geographically defined and prosecuted. The British in Aden were concerned with property crimes, gambling and qat-chewing. They went as far as prohibiting qat imports and sale in 1957-1958. The ban failed miserably, and is said to have led to an increase in alcohol drinking - definitely not a booster of workers' productivity.

But the colonizers were much more successful in enforcing traffic rules, and one can still notice the legacy of the British when comparing traffic in Aden and Sana'a. Willis has little to say about construction rules and the exemplary nature given to public buildings. This makes his piece a useful complement to the previously discussed book. In fact, one can also use these two approaches to illustrate the different expectations of French and US universities. Eric Mercier makes no use of Foucault or any other theoretician but has tons of new material to present, collected during years of field-work. Willis does not seem to have spent much time in Aden but certainly combed published and archive material to show the advent of "capitalist modernity" in Aden.

Yet, he ends up concluding in a rather critical tone about the disciplinarization of society, first by the British, then by post-Independence authorities. Because he is so obsessed to show that Aden fits into the Foucault framework he neglects to mention that the British may have been serving the interests of capitalism but they failed at disciplining the minds. How to explain otherwise that they were violently kicked out by people who drove decently, were schooled according to British curricula, joined trade-unions and read a press protected by British liberal laws. If Aden had been the giant prison that seems to be the background of Willis' articles, why were people from Taiz and Sana'a going there to escape from the imam's own prison-state? Judging Aden can not go without a reflection about the political environment and the acknowledgement that the city also enjoyed the freest atmosphere of the entire Peninsula with a genuine civil society resting on clubs, associations, newspapers, unions, political parties. Testing theories in a variety of places is the best way to show both their validity and their limits, but Foucault was too subtle to be blamed in this case. Hopefully John Willis will get the chance to spend as much time in Aden as Eric Mercier did and to impregnate himself with the complexities of its history. And since he loves French thinkers so much, he could go and have a comparative look at French policing in Djibouti until independence. "Khat" was as much despised by colonizers on both side of the Aden Gulf but none managed to ban it for good. The socialist regime was probably right to limit its consumption to weekends, inside towns at least.

This is 1997 and one has to conclude a piece about Aden by wishing good luck to the new paramount shaykh of Aden in his effort to get recognition not only from the government agency which employs him but also from his tribe.

By Renaud Detalle

Time does not allow for a discussion of two new publications about Hadramawt: U. Freitag and W. Clarence-Smith (eds), *Hadrami Traders, Scholars, and Statesmen in the Indian Ocean, 1750s-1960s*. Leiden: Brill, 1997 (proceedings of a 1995 conference on the hadrami diaspora but also including articles on Hadrami society and politics itself). Saba, No 3&4, Hadramawt, La vallee inspiree (a French-language beautifully illustrated review on South Arabia with short articles by foreign and Hadrami lovers of the Inspired Valley)

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الحدوي

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a
(Weekly) 9-9-97
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Members of East Sana'a Prosecutor's Office Go On Strike in Protest Over Recent Assault on Colleague by Cousin of Parliamentary Speaker
- 2- Opposition Parties in Hadhramaut Escalate Protests
- 3- Nasserites Participate in North Korean Revolution Anniversary Celebrations
- 4- Member of Nasserite Party Meets Member of "Hamaas" Political Bureau

Article Summary:

Will Aden Revert to British Crown? by Moaadh Al-Ashhab

Heads of the Commonwealth states are going to discuss, during their upcoming October meeting in Edinburgh, applications by other states - including Yemen - to join the organization. If accepted, Yemen may have to abandon some of its commitments made to "unfriendly" countries such as Libya, Sudan, and Iraq.

With the relinquishing of Hong Kong, Britain has now set its eyes on Aden. There could even be a more visible British military presence in the area. The unequal trade balance between Yemen and Britain might be offset by Yemen's providing of certain facilities on its territories for the British. The Gulf Cooperation Council's refusal to let in Yemen could very well drive the latter into other international blocs.

البلاغ

AL-BALAGH: Sana'a
(Weekly) 9-9-97.
[Islamic Action Movement
(being formed)] Main headlines:

- 1- Police Arrest 53 Illegal African Immigrants in Mokha
- 2- Council of Ministers Discusses Privatization & Founding Stock Exchange
- 3- Minister of Interior to Investigate Arrest of Some Mahra Citizens and Confiscation of their Passports

Article Summary:

Who Killed Princess Diana? by Asa'ad Yousuf
Diana's relationship with the Egyptian millionaire Imad "Dodi" Al-Fayed has had quite an uproar in the British high society. It almost shook the British throne. Diana had previously declared her intention to learn more about Islam. In Islam, she wanted to find the love and warmth she yearned for within



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

her broken family and later on in her tumultuous marriage to Prince Charles. Had she married Al-Fayed, as she intended to do in October, her sons would have had Muslim half brothers. This would have made a very serious precedent from the point of view of the staunchly Christian British royal family. It is not farfetched to suggest that the British secret service might have had a hand in causing the car accident that killed the Princess. Her death seems to have put many royal minds at rest.

الطريق

AL-TAREEQ: Aden
(Fortnightly) 9-9-97.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Yemen Relinquishes Empty Quarter & Many Other Areas in Border Deal with Saudi Arabia
- 2- American Ambassador Designate is Political & Military Expert on Yemen & Arabian Peninsula
- 3- American Democratic Institute Supports Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy's New Board of Trustees

Article Summary:

Service Licenses in Aden

A number of licensed ships' garbage collectors have complained that the Aden port authorities have haphazardly granted about 365 licenses for the same purpose. This would create fierce yet meaningless competition. Some license holders, it was alleged, have not renewed their licenses for over 3 years, yet they continue in business unchallenged by the authorities. This greatly harms the interests of the law-abiding contractors who regularly pay their license fees.

الوطنية

AL-WAHDA: Sana'a
(Weekly) 10-9-97.
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1- The President in Germany; "We welcome German investments in oil and gas sectors. Safety and security are guaranteed for all investors."
- 2- Campaign to Raise Public Environmental Awareness Organized by Ministry of Urban Planning
- 3- International Observers Issue Final Report on Yemeni Elections
- 4- Yemen Festival in Britain to Start on 15th September

Article Summary:

Unity of Journalists' Syndicate by Khidhr Al-Hussaini

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate is currently facing numerous difficulties. Some journalists think that the present syndicate does not represent them at all. They call for the forming of an independent association. This will only increase division and deepen the crisis. Some opportunistic members of the syndicate, who have nothing to do with journalism and want to exploit the syndicate for their selfish motives, will have to be expelled. They came into the organization by taking advantage of the crisis of 1994. Those people are trying to divert the syndicate from its original goals as an instrument for exposing all shortcomings within the state's apparatuses.

الأيام

AL-AYYAM: Aden
(Bi-Weekly) 10-9-97.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Muslim Frenchman Intending to Marry Yemeni Woman Arrested in Abyan
- 2- To be Released, Prisoners had to Sign Pledge to Appear when Called by Appeal Prosecutor in Abyan
- 3- Smuggled Coffee Beans & Tobacco Seized in Lahaj
- 4- Drug Trafficker Sentenced to 25 Years in Prison
- 5- For 1st Time, Two Men

Flogged in Qatan, Hadhramaut for Drinking Alcohol - Moonshiner Gets Two-Month Jail Sentence

Article Summary:

The Poor and the Poorest by Abdulrahman Khobara

With a high annual population growth rate of 3.7%, Yemen's population of 16 million is expanding rapidly. The proportion of people on the breadline in rural areas is 46%. The average annual income at the beginning of the reform program was \$350.

Now, it has come down to \$281. Unemployment is at an all-time high of 32%. The health services receive about 2.2% of the GDP. So child mortality is around 154 per 1000. Food security is almost absent. Yemen imports 80% of its basic food requirements. Agriculture forms 22% of the GDP. Actual exports are below figures announced by the government. Moreover, there is no realistic national strategy to support the political and social stability.

الرياء

AL-RAI AL-AAM: Sana'a
(Weekly) 9-9-97.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- The President to Visit UK After Germany
- 2- Consultative Council Endorses Administrative

Division of Hadhramaut

- 3- International Companies Invited to Submit Tenders to Renovate Aden's Airport
- 4- Interpol Informed of 24 Archeological Pieces Stolen in Seiou

Article Summary:

Fighter Plane Crashed

At 11.30 A.M. on Monday 8th August, a MiG 21 fighter plane crashed near Anami village, east of Arhab University, in the Governorate of Sana'a. It was on a training session for the upcoming celebrations of the 35th anniversary of the Yemeni revolution. According to eyewitness accounts, fire erupted at the back of the plane. The pilot used his ejector seat, and landed safely by parachute. Seconds later, the plane crashed to the ground. Some citizens hurried to the scene of the crash, and started looting various parts of the plane. Some observers believe that lack of regular maintenance is to blame for the crash.

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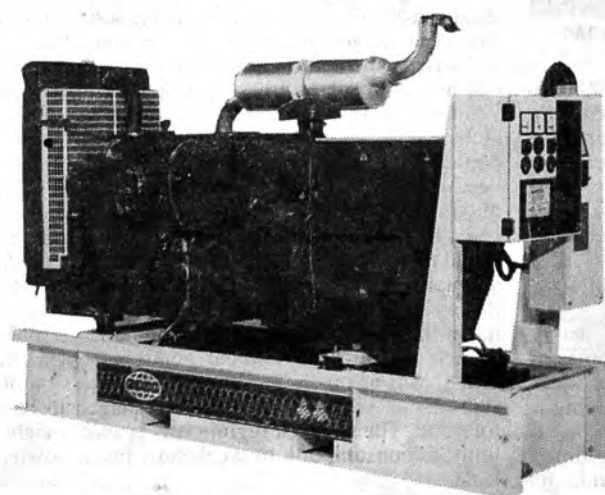
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Ahli Club of Taiz : Judo Champion

The Yemeni Union of Sports and Cultural clubs concluded on 12th of September the championship of Taiz clubs for judo which was held in the hall of Al-Ahli Sports and Cultural Club in Taiz. More than 40 players from different clubs participated in the championship.

Dr. Shayif Abdo Salem, the coach of the National Team for Youth, supervised the organization. The results showed the winning for Al-Ahli Club on all other clubs, and as follows:

- Under weight of 40 Kg - Shaker Ali Muqbil
 - Under weight of 50 Kg - Ramzi Ahmad Sharaf
 - Under weight 55 kg - Sami Ahmad Sharaf
 - Under weight 60 kg - Mohammad Saleh Al-Awdi
 - Under weight 65 Kg - Muadh Hizam
 - Under weight 71 Kg - Mueen Abo Saeed
 - Under weight 78 Kg - Waheeb Mohammad Kaeed
 For the open weight, Sami Ahmad Sharaf won the championship.

Successful Asian Participation In Dubai

On 9th of September Al-Ahli football team of Hodeidah gave a distinguished performance against Al-Shabab Club of the UAE. Al-Ahli lost 2-3. Despite the failure of our team and getting out of the qualifiers games of the Asian group (Dubai Group), it proved to be a competitive and strong team. It is to be noted that our team has got only some simple and poor facilities as compared to the other competing teams.

The first loss of our team against Al-Shabab was 2-

nil in the match held on Maktuum Bin Rashid Stadium in Dubai last week. Despite our losing the match, the president of Al-Shabab Club stated that he admired the method of Al-Ahli team playing and said, "this proves their enthusiasm towards matches despite all the difficulties they face." At the same time, Dr. Abdul Wahab Rawih announced a generous award for the team's good performance in Dubai. This will encourage the clubs and the players.



ROTHMANS GETS A NEW MANAGER

Mr. Nicolas Maistre has now left his post as Rothmans Regional Manager in Yemen. He is to become the West Europe and North Atlantic region manager for Rothmans World Duty Free division based in Zug Switzerland.

Q: Could you briefly tell us about your experience in Yemen?

A: I arrived in Yemen in December 1994 as a Market Manager for Rothmans together with our partner Hayel Saeed Anam. I was based for one year in Sana'a and two years in Taiz. It has been a tremendous experience that I will never forget.

the Rothmans Lights trademark. A third trademark, Pall Mall, is manufactured in the NCMI factory in Aden.

Q: Where are these Rothmans brands produced?
A: All of these brands are manufactured locally. Rothmans King Size and Rothmans Lights are produced at the UIC factory in Taiz.

Q: What do you advise your successor?

A: To continue to develop the excellent personal and business relationships with our partners in Yemen. I



Mr. Anthony Goodchild is the new Country Manager for all Rothmans business activities in Yemen

Q: How long have you been working for ROTHMANS?

A: I have been working for Rothmans for 20 years.

Q: Have you worked and travelled in the Middle East before?

A: Yes, I have spent a number of years in the UAE, Oman and Greece as well as Head Office in the UK.

Q: Have you visited Yemen before?

A: I first came to Yemen about 15 years ago for a very brief visit, but this is my first appointment in the country.

Q: How do you view your recent appointment?

A: I am very excited at the prospect of working here and getting to know the country and people. I am sure the future will be challenging and very enjoyable.

Q: What will be your plans for the future?

A: I expect to be carrying on developing the foundations laid by Nicolas Maistre and continue to move the business forward.

Q: How long will you be working in Yemen?

A: My posting will normally last for a few years as our contracts are based on flexible agreements.

Q: Are you going to work according to Mr. Maistre's advice?

A: Yes, even with a long experience, one continues to learn new ideas and techniques. I am looking forward to living in Yemen, and doing whatever I can for the country and its people.

Whilst working for a multi-national company such as Rothmans we are required to fulfill different assignments in our career progression and whilst I leave Yemen with great sadness, I am looking forward to the challenges that await in Europe.

Q: How is the Rothmans' market in Yemen?

A: There is a long historical relationship between our partners and Rothmans and a very strong consumer loyalty towards our international brands. The Yemeni market continues to grow and will always be a very important market for our company.

Q: Does Rothmans face strong competitors in the local Yemeni market?

A: There is a number of other brands available here. The local Kamaran, produced by NTMC, is also very strong. It is a very competitive environment.

Q: What other brands of Rothmans are distributed here?

A: In addition to Rothmans King Size, we also have

Ten Yemeni Students to Study in Algiers Athletic Institutes

Within the framework of sports and youth protocol of cooperation between Yemen and Algeria, ten seats were granted for Yemeni athletes in Algerian institutes to train as sports consultants within the five-year system.

National Football Team to Play in Iraq

The Yemeni National Football Association has received an invitation to participate in the Arab Championship to be held in October in Iraq. The championship carries the theme of "Arab Fraternity".

Excellent Football Tournament To Start In October

The Excellent Football Tournament is set to begin 23rd of October. All excellent-league football clubs will take part. The tournament is organized in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Sports and Youth. All the concerned organs are working hard speedily complete the preparations to make things ready to receive the football teams.

Inauguration of Closed Hall For Military Sports

On 14th of September a closed hall for military sports have been opened. It is equipped with all the modern facilities and equipment for sports such as taekwondo, judo, wrestling, body building and karate. It was opened by Brigadier Yahya Al Kuhlani accompanied by a number of officials from the ministry of Defense.

Jamal Al-Awadhi,
Sports Editor

VACANCY

MAM International Corp. has vacancies in its showrooms in Sana'a for sales ladies specialized in the sale of Cosmetic and perfume.

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FIRST YEMENI STUDENT VIA INTERNET

Salwa Abdulla Al Shaba is a graduate of Sana'a International School. She joined Algonquing College in Ottawa in 1996, studying Business Admin. & Management of Information Systems - a three-year course. She attended her first year-course. For the second & third years she allowed to follow her courses by distance education - a new E-Mail system using the Internet. So Salwa Al Shaba will be the first Yemeni female student taking college education by using modern telecom facilities available in Yemen. This saves her the trouble of having to travel and live in a foreign land. Now she can study at home and can take exams at the Canadian Honorary Consulate in Sana'a.

تهنئة

من كل قلوبنا تهنئ الطالبة سلوى عبد الله صالح الشبابة لقبولها للدراسة الجامعية بواسطة الانترنت في كلية «الجيونيك» الكندية، في مدينة أوتاوا بكندا العام ١٩٩٧/١٩٩٨ في مجال إدارة الأعمال وإدارة المعلومات، وهي أول طالبة يمنية تستخدم هذه الوسيلة للحصول على التعليم الجامعي. فمبروك وألف مبروك المهنؤون:

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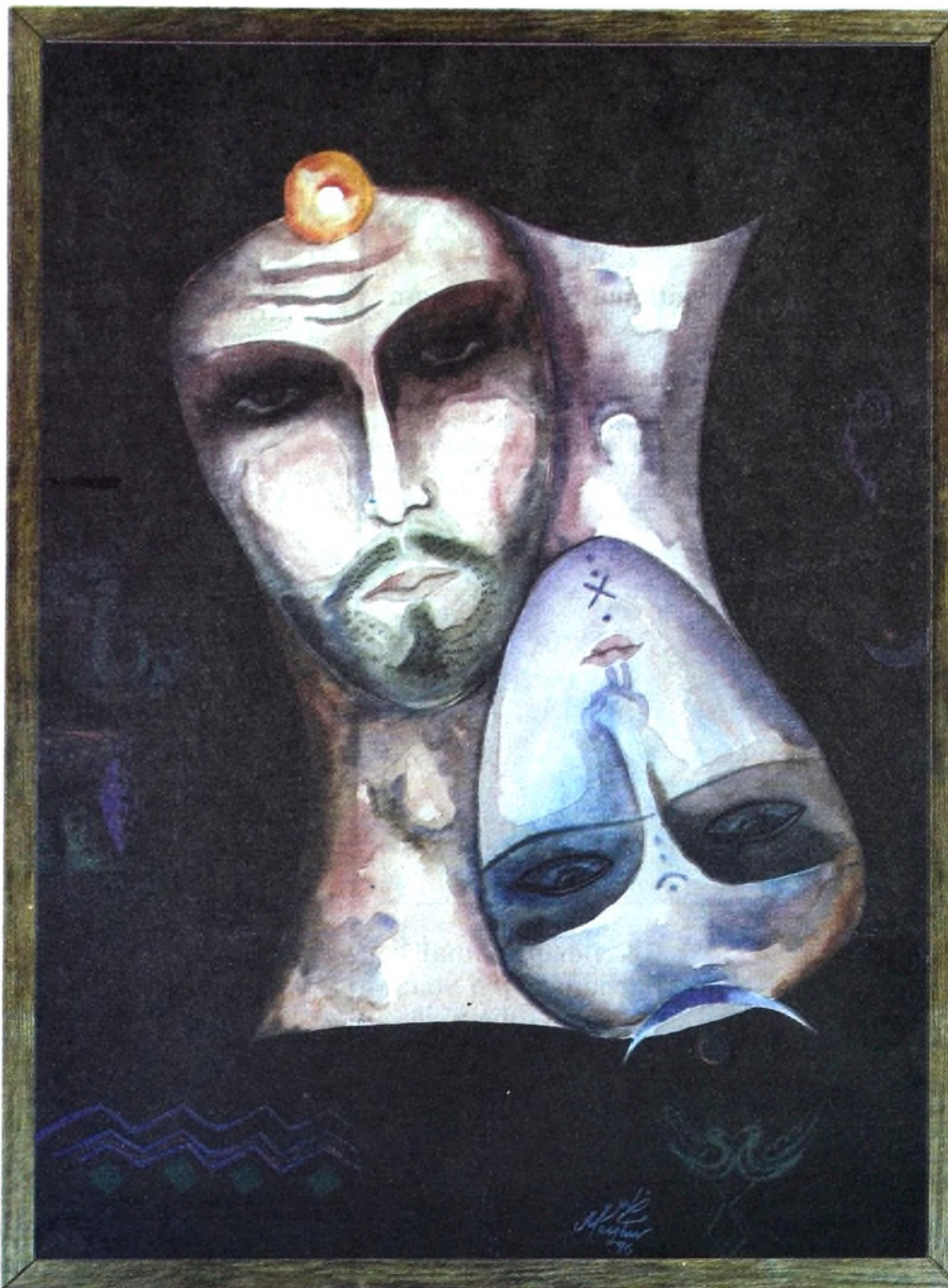
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Day & Night

In this picture I try to draw a man's head and a woman's head upside down, close to each other.

"Day" man with the Sun on his head.

"Night" woman with the Moon on her head, symbol of what I work with and the woman as Queen of Sheba.

Sun, Moon, bird fragments form Sana'a houses. Women are my ways of expression.



Born and educated in India, Mazher Nizar is a prolific Yemeni artist. With a Diploma in Graphic Art from the Government College of Art and Craft in Calcutta, India, Mazhar, 39, has participated in a number of arts exhibitions since his graduation in 1985. His paintings were exhibited in such diverse countries of the world as India, Yemen, Iraq, Algeria, Libya, North Korea, Norway, Germany, Italy, Holland,

UAE, Syria, and Bangladesh. Several of his paintings were acquired by private collectors in Germany, Holland, France, the USA, Italy, and many other places. Old Sana'a with its quaint and beautiful architecture feature prominently in much of the artist's work. Languid male and female faces in deep and varied shades of blue seem to be a favorite subject for Mazher.



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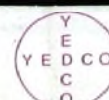
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