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YEMEN TIMES

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Confidence Building and Performance Improvement Measures Continue:

Overhauling the Banking Sector

Over the last two years, the Central Bank of Yemen, supported by a US \$80 million loan from the World Bank, has embarked on an ambitious effort to overhaul the banking sector. What has been achieved is remarkable. What is left to be done is awesome.

"We have proposed a new law which will empower the Central Bank of Yemen to carry out its responsibilities more successfully," explains Ahmed Abdul-Rahman Al-Samawi, Governor of the CBY. Indeed, the new law will be the cornerstone for a more revitalized and efficient banking sector.

The main stipulations include meeting an 8% capital adequacy ratio for commercial banks, a framework for penalties applicable for infractions, and introduction of better accountability of bank performance especially regarding credit concentration and insider lending. These last two problems have been a major headache for the commercial banks. Board members of banks are their largest borrowers. This was especially visible with the YR 9 billion delinquent loans borrowed by some 15 business households from the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the National Bank of Yemen. Failure of those 15 households to pay back their loans has jeopardized the very standing of those two banks.

The CBY has also engaged in many on-site and off-site supervisory activities which have reigned-in many of the bank directors. New requirements include external auditing and new accounting norms, bringing Yemeni banks in line with international standards.

The exchange rate of the riyal remains remarkably stable. The US dollar con-

tinues to trade on the open market for a price within the range of YR 130-138. The rate of inflation kept falling during 1996, 1997 and 1998 - to 35%, 21% and 15%, respectively. That, in spite of new issues of high denomination currency bills. The CBY issued, for the first time ever, a YR 200 bill on 11th March 1996, a YR 500 bill on 15th April 1997, and a YR 1000 bill yesterday, on September 20th 1998.

Foreign currency exposure remains,



however, a nightmare for the CBY. Although banks have been freed from the constraints of the past, especially in making FX loans, the CBY pays close attention to credit risk management. Banks will have to build their net foreign positions before they can seriously engage in foreign exchange lending. The CBY itself has piled up its foreign reserves, now estimated at US\$ 1.5 billion.

Problem banks have yet to be fully dealt with. These are in two lots - the specialized banks (industrial bank, agricultural bank, and housing banks), and the two commercial banks controlled by the state - the National Bank of Yemen and the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Working closely with IMF experts, an action plan for the specialized banks is in the works, and could be adopted as early as next week. Debtors of the two commercial banks are being nudged to pay up outstanding loans, and delinquent cases are being closely followed with the courts.

The return of confidence to the national currency as well as to the banking sector in such a short time is remarkable. Yet, the achievements remain fragile and not irreversible. In particular, three important steps are necessary:

1. Manpower Development: The CBY and banks have to continue in their training efforts. But that is not all. Salaries, especially at the CBY have to be adjusted upwards to retain and attract qualified individuals.
2. Resisting Politics: The CBY has to continue to grow independently of the Ministry of Finance. To achieve that, legal and administrative reforms are vital.
3. Avoid Scandals: One of the worst things that could happen to the banking community is an insider-based scandal. There is need to reign in "owners" and board members of commercial banks.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Professor of Money and Banking,
Sanaa University.

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YHOC Pipeline:

Pierced as Soon as Repaired

All day during Friday September 18th, a Yemen Hunt Oil Company team was busy repairing the puncture at kmp (kilometer pipeline) 94.3. That was the 13th hole, and they thought as they got over this number thirteen, the jinx was over.

On Saturday morning, September 19th, a team of military engineers dismantled an anti-tank mine at kmp 69.8. That was a big one. If it were blown up, it would have seriously damaged the pipeline - and we are not talking about a hole.

Also on Saturday, this time at 10 pm, tribesmen in Serwah made the 14th puncture in the pipeline, at kmp 140.5 in Bani Tawq, Aarush are, near the Al-Urub military camp. And this hole, bigger than average, is spilling lots of crude - 3,000 bpd.

In a new development, tribesmen are no longer content with puncturing pipelines to announce their grievances to the government. Pump station 3 and the communications unit are now under siege by the fierce and unruly tribesmen.

Demining Donor Meeting

"The purpose is threefold," explained Dr. Mutahhar Al-Saedi, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, who will be chairing the meeting of donors on September 22nd. "We plan to give a full description of the situation in the country, explain the direction of our demining effort, and go over estimates of the financial needs," he added.

Several donor countries are sending representatives to a meeting tomorrow.

Landmines were buried at different periods of our recent history in different parts of the country. These include a crescent-shaped area around Aden. The landmines were supposed to stop the advancing unionist forces in the civil war of 1994. Another area of major concern is the central regions of Ibb and Al-Baidha which witnessed the planting of anti-personnel landmines during the mid 1980s. Many countries, such as the

USA, Canada and Norway as well international NGOs, notably Sweden's Radda Barnen, have assisted the Yemeni Mines Awareness Committee in pushing ahead with its program. A national office in Sanaa and a branch office in Aden are being set up to coordinate the effort of getting rid of the mines. The Republic of Yemen was the 34th country, and the 2nd Arab country, to ratify the Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Convention).

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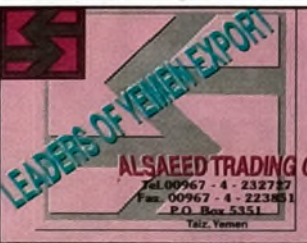
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OUR VIEWPOINT

Failure to Manage Our Cities

The worldwide phenomenon of rural-to-urban migration has left its mark on Yemen. A country that had no real urban centers only a quarter of century ago, today has nearly one dozen cities of more than 100,000 people, and the capital city, Sanaa, boasts more than a million. The human influx to our cities is destined to continue, for a multiple of reasons, notably economics. The phenomenon is itself a problem. But what is even more problematic for Yemen is that the nation has failed to manage its urban affairs. Let me use some examples:

1. Traffic:

Traffic flow in Yemeni cities is nothing short of chaotic. It is a reflection of the standard rule among Yemenis - the big intimidate the small into submission. So the guy driving the bigger car has right of way, no matter of what. One witnesses many violations - frequent change of lanes, going through red lights, double parking, wrong parking, awful congestions at qat and other market places, speeding, etc. The nation has been unable to manage traffic flows in its cities.

2. Garbage:

City people, given their higher level of affluence and different lifestyle, produce more garbage than village people. And given the high concentration of residents in small land areas, cities put out a lot of garbage. Yemeni cities have failed to collect it. With visible international help (Dutch, Japanese, etc.), municipal authorities have been unable to collect garbage on a regular basis. Why? Nobody knows why we fail, but we do. The stockpiles of garbage in various streets, especially the capital city, Sanaa, is glaring proof to this failure.

3. Streets:

The per kilometer expenditure of Yemen on street construction and repair is about three-fold the average in Jordan, Oman and some other countries. Even then, the quality of Yemeni streets and their maintenance is very low. As a result, most streets fall in disrepair rather fast. Yemen has failed dismally in taking care of its urban streets, and this failure grows as the street network grows and commissions and foul-play grow.

4. Utilities:

Infrastructure and utility services have been unable to keep pace with sprawling cities and rising demand. As a result, big chunks of our cities are dark at night, have no water or drainage facilities, no parks, etc. While the main reason for this phenomenon is finance, lack of proper planning and management also play a major role.

5. Zoning:

Yemeni cities have yet to comprehend the concept of zoning. Thus, you will find a school next to a welding shop, a restaurant, a residence, a grocery store, a tube puncture repair place, etc. Zoning is an integral part of modern cities, which we have not yet appreciated.

6. Financial Reports:

Finally, I have yet to see any published statement of the finances of our cities. This is especially true of the capital city which has ample financial resources. Why isn't anybody asking for a full statement of revenues and expenditures of our cities?

The Publisher
عبد العزيز الساققاف

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Photographic Exhibition

An international photographic exhibition about Yemen will be held on Wednesday, September 23 at Bayt Al-Halaqa. Photographers from Yemen, Italy, Venezuela, France, Jordan and USA will participate in the event.

Japanese-Yemeni Cooperation

A mission of the Japanese-Yemeni Friendship Association from Tokyo met with Mr. Abdulwahab Raweh, Minister of Youth and Sports, on Saturday, September 19 in order to donate 90 soccer balls to the Yemeni youth. This event was attended by Mr. Akira Hoshi, ambassador of Japan to Yemen and other embassy officials.

Yemeni Doctors on Strike

The Yemeni Doctors & Pharmacists Syndicate sent a letter to the Premier, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani with regard to the promises of improving the conditions of Yemeni doctors and pharmacists. The syndicate threatened that unless something concrete is done promptly to solve their problems, they will go on strike, particularly after the President forwarded their complaints to the government.

Yemen & Iran

Agreement Signed

An agreement in the field of technical education between Yemen and Iran was signed on Thursday, September 17. According to the agreement Iran will give scholarships to Yemeni graduates of technical schools. It will also provide some equipment to the technical training centers in Yemen.

Emigrants First

Conference in May

The executive committee of the Emigrants First General Conference, headed by the Minister of Emigrants Affairs, held a meeting to discuss the work of the committee in preparing for the conference. It has been fixed that the conference will be held in May.

Rush University

Agreement Signed

An agreement between Rush University and the Ministry of Health & Al-Thawra Modern General Hospital was signed on Thursday, September 15. Rush University will continue to assist in establishing a telemedicine system at Al-Thawra Hospital. The agreement defines many other fields of cooperation.

New Wave of Refugees

Three boats carrying 222 Somalis and Ethiopians arrived in Yemen on Thursday, September 15. At another level, the UNHCR registered 154 Somali refugees made up of two families and 111 bachelors who were caught in Shabwa and were transferred to the refugee camp in Abyan.

1st Oil & Gas

Conference in Yemen

Under the auspices of the President, the 1st Yemen Oil & Gas Conference will be held at Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa during the period September 28-30. The conference represents a milestone the nation's business life.

Dr. Drewry in Yemen

Dr. David Drewry, Director General of the British Council world-wide, is coming to Yemen from 24 to 27 September. He will meet the Prime Minister, Dr. Iryani as well as the Minister of Planning & Development. This year is the 25th anniversary of the British Council in Yemen. Cultural and education issues will be top on Dr. Drewry's agenda.

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Good Future Prospects for Yemeni-US Scholarly Cooperation

Ms. Marta Colburn arrived in Yemen as Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies in January, along with her husband and a four-and-a-half year old son. However, neither she nor her husband are new to Yemen. Colburn worked here from 1984 to 1989, and her husband was a Peace Corps volunteer during 1987-89. During the 1980s, she worked for a number of development agencies and spent her last two and a half years as the Deputy Director of Oxfam, UK. When she left Yemen she went back to university and completed her M.A. in Political Science at Portland State University in Oregon, and began working as the Outreach Co-ordinator and later the Associate Director of the University's Middle East Studies Center. During her time at PSU, Colburn was fortunate to keep in contact with Yemen via friends and many Yemeni students who studied at PSU. Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times interviewed Ms. Colburn, and filed the following excerpts.

Q: What are the tasks of your institute, and when was it established?

A: AIYS was established in 1978, and we are currently entering our 20th year of activity here in Yemen. Our mission is to promote scholarship on Yemen. This includes supporting the work of scholars from America and the West who study Yemen, as well as Yemeni scholars who study their own history, culture and society.

Q: How many researchers, associated with your institute, come to Yemen every year?

A: Annually we have between 50 and 75 researchers who come to Yemen studying a wide range of subjects.

Q: What usually are the purposes of their visits?

A: These scholars come to further their own research on various aspects of Yemen's culture and heritage and to help audiences outside of Yemen understand the beauty and significance of Yemen throughout history and in contemporary times.

These scholars and students are roughly divided into two groups, those who come with archaeological teams (so far this year we have had over 35 individuals associated with five archaeological projects) and those in the humanities and social sciences, many of whom combine their research with Arabic Language studies.

Those in the humanities study history, politics, economics, anthropology, geography, linguistics, medieval history and Arab literature. In the sciences we've also had a few over the years studying geology, botany, archeobotany, and paleontology.

Q: Do they do any field studies?

Correction

In the interview with Dr. Abdunasser Munibari in last week's Yemen Times issue, the name of one of the interviewee's colleagues was misspelled. It should have been Dr. Mohammed Ali Basahi.

The World Bank Resident Mission in Yemen

VACANCY

The World Bank Resident Mission in Yemen has an opening available for a well qualified and experienced Financial Management Officer (FMO).

The FMO will work at the Resident Mission's offices in Sana'a. Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- have at least a master's degree in accounting or finance. Preference will be given to candidates who also are qualified professional accountant (CPA or equivalent);
- be knowledgeable of the Yemeni accounting and auditing practices related to both the public and private sector;
- have experience in accounting/auditing and reporting for public agencies, public and private sector enterprises or large audit firms;
- have experience in carrying out accounting and auditing diagnostic and assessments of financial management systems;
- be familiar with International Accounting Standards and International Standards on Auditing, standard setting arrangements and regulatory frameworks;
- be confident, highly motivated, able to work under stress, and good team players
- proficient in English and Arabic.

Applicants should send a detailed CV in English, no later than September 30, 1998.

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lishing a regular newsletter which is now called "Yemen Update." This bulletin has a worldwide distribution. Articles featured in it will soon be available on the world wide web site.

We are currently distributing three new books in Arabic in our Yemen Research in the fields of Political Science, Anthropology, and on the situation of Women in Yemen (see titles below). This series takes research in English and translates it into Arabic thus making this scholarship accessible to non-English speaking researchers.

We also sell a number of other books in English including: *My Journey through Arhab and Hashid* by Eduard Glaser, translated by David Warburton, two biographies - one in the social sciences by Thomas Stevenson and one on Women in Yemen by Jake Buringa - and a 1981 publication *Yemeni Agriculture and Economic Change* by Richard Tutwiler and Sheila Carapico. In addition, AIYS distributes a number of other publications including the newly released Ancient map of Yemen by Christian Robin and Ueli Brunner.

Q: What are their titles and subject matter?

A: The titles in the Yemeni Research Series are: Vol. 1 is *Al-Tahwulat Al-Seyasiyah fi Al-Yemen*, Vol 2 *Al-Yemen kama Yarah Al-Akhr*, and Vol 3 *Surat Al-Mar'a Al-Yemaniah fi Al-Dderasat Al-Gharbeyah*.

Q: What future publications are in the pipeline?

A: Currently, we are preparing two more books in the Yemen Research Series which will be in the fields of medieval studies and archeology. Within a few weeks we are releasing a book co-published with the Center for French Studies by Qadi Yahya Al-Ansi entitled *Ma'alim Al-zira'a fi Al-Yemen*.

In the near future we will be publishing two additional books in our translation series. They are: *Visits and Customs: The visit to the Tomb of Prophet Hud*, by Sheikh Abdalqadir Mohammed Al-Sabban (published in Arabic and English) translation by Linda Boxberger. *City of divine and Earthly Joys: A description of Sana'a* by Sayyid Jamal-u-Din Ali ibn Abdullah ibn Al-Qasim ibn Al-Mu'ayyad Bi'llah Mohammed ibn Al-Qasim ibn Mohammed Al-Shahari (published in English), translated by Tim Mackintosh-Smith.

We also have another joint publication with the French Center we hope to release in the next year describing the Dhuran Mosque Complex in the Dhamar, which was badly damaged by the 1982 earthquake. This publication project is by Bruce Paluck (my husband) and Raya Saggat (an Iraqi-French researcher).

Q: Have you organized any workshops, seminars, etc? And, if so, what were their topics?

A: AIYS has been involved with a number of seminars and conferences over the years, in Yemen and outside. This year at the beginning of March, AIYS co-sponsored and was an active participant in planning the "Fourth International Conference on the Civilizations of Ancient Yemen." The conference had over 150 individuals attending, including 60 visiting international scholars. During the five days of proceedings there were fifty papers presented. During the conference, three AIYS members were given awards by the Yemeni government honoring their contributions to Yemeni Archeology.

Q: What other events are planned for the future?

A: We currently have no dates for further conferences, but we hope that in the near future, in conjunction with Dr. Yousef Abdullah of GOAMM, we will have the opportunity to assist in organizing a conference on Islamic archeology in Yemen.

Q: With which US body, official or otherwise, is the AIYS associated?

A: AIYS is a non-profit, non-governmental organization although we receive significant support from the US Department of Education and the United States Information Service. We also have a number of important corporate sponsors including the Yemen Hunt Oil Co. In addition to over 35 universities and

museums that are institutional members of our organizations, we have many including the Middle East Studies Association of North America.

Q: What are the fields of research that are not covered by the AIYS, and why?

A: AIYS researchers are active in all scholarly fields. And interestingly Yemen today is one of the accessible countries in the Middle East for scholarship due to the pluralization and democratization process and the value that Yemenis place on their history and their role in contemporary times.

We feel that this atmosphere of scholarship will lead to an increased number of scholars interested in Yemen and our ability to further advance Yemeni scholarship.

Q: Do you have any last comment?

A: I would like to say what a pleasure it is to have the Yemen Times feature our organization. AIYS is very lucky to have had long and co-operative relationships with Yemeni scholars, and with the Yemeni institutions of YCRS and GOAMM. We are always trying to inform the general Yemeni population about our work, to seek new ways to serve Yemeni society with the scholarship our researchers produce and to assist in whatever way we can Yemeni scholars and students to better understand their heritage, their present and their future.

For more information on AIYS check out its website at: <http://mcc.npem.edu/aiys>

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Human Rights NGOs: Working for a Better Tomorrow

Organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center in collaboration with USIS, a seminar on for NGOs working on human rights was held in Sanaa during September 12-13. The event was attended by the Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Information, and the American Ambassador to Sanaa, Ms. Barbara Bodine. The seminar aimed at enhancing cooperation among NGOs working in the field of human rights.

Yemeni human rights NGOs have to confront a lot of problems that hinder their work:

- 1- Restriction of NGO activity to urban areas like Sanaa;
- 2- Government apprehension towards NGO work and interference with their job;
- 3- Lack of administrative skills among NGO members;
- 4- Absence of a clear-cut strategy and funding;
- 5- Weak civil-society culture;
- 6- Lack of interaction by governmental institutions, particularly information and education organizations;
- 7- Lack of coordination among the NGOs themselves;
- 8- Absence of a law to organize NGO work;
- 9- Lack of clear-cut goals.

A brief description of the NGOs which attended this symposium, is provided below:

1. Supreme Human Rights National Committee

This is a governmental body, which seeks to address human rights issues. Yemen signed all international conventions/agreements concerning human rights.

This committee was established by Law No. 20 of 1998.

The committee is headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Director of the Presidency Office as deputy chairman; the Ministers of Legal & Parliamentary Affairs, Justice, Insurance & Social Affairs, and Interior; the Attorney General and the chairman of the Political Security Office.

2. Yemeni Organization for Defending Human Rights & Democratic Liberties

This is a non-governmental organization established in compliance with a license granted by the Ministry of Social Affairs according to Decree No. 47 of 1992.

The organization aims at defending human rights and democratic liberties, raising public awareness of law and human rights with reference to the international as well as the local laws. It also aims at training activists working in this field, giving with special emphasis on political rights.

3. Abeer Center for Child Culture

Abeer Center for Child Culture, headquartered in Aden, is a non-governmental and independent. It was officially licensed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, according to decree No. 25 dated 25 March 1998. It functions mainly by organizing studies and research related to the rights of children.

4. Yemeni Center for Helping Victims of Violence and Torture

This NGO is mainly concerned with the victims of violence and

torture. It provides them with medical treatment and psychological support regardless of the source of violence.

The center aims at:

- 1- Educating people regarding the dangers of violence and torture in society.
- 2- Coordinating with organizations and individuals concerned with violence and torture in order to mobilize efforts aimed at helping victims.
- 3- Holding seminars to highlight the dangers of violence on the community, and launching campaigns to stop violence and torture.
- 4- Documenting the different cases of violence and torture, studying the reasons and motives behind them.
- 5- Supporting local and international efforts aimed at stopping violence and torture.

5. Yemeni Women Union

This union started social work among Yemeni women in the 1950s. It grew in the 1960s when women's committees were formed in parts of the southern governorates. In 1990, the Yemeni Women's First General Conference was convened as an umbrella for all organizations working for women. And thus was created the present union. The union has branches almost all over the country. Its main concern is to help integrate women in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the nation.

By:
Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Assistant Managing Editor,
Yemen Times.

Hafidh on Press Freedom in the Arab World



Mr. Salah Hafidh, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Journalists, has recently visited Yemen, heading a delegation representing Arab journalists, Association of Arab Lawyers, and the Arab Human Rights Organizations. Their aim is to evaluate the state of freedom of the press in Arab countries.

Mr. Hafidh is also the Chairman of the Center for Media Studies and Chief Editor of Al-Ahram's international edition. He had this to say about press freedom in the Arab World.

Egypt:

Despite the attempts to encroach upon freedom of the press in Egypt, this right has now become firmly established. However, the threat is still present. Several journalists were imprisoned in Egypt, convicted of slander and defamation.

Jordan:

In Jordan, there used to be a margin of democracy - political pluralism and freedom of the press. With the issuance of the new press law, however, much of the press freedom has been

chipped off. More severe punishments are now stipulated for journalists who cross the red line.

Kuwait:

Following the Gulf War of 1991, a completely different spirit prevailed. Rules governing the press became far more strict than before the war. The chief editor of a daily newspaper, Mohammed Jassem Al-Sagar has been sentenced to six months imprisonment, and his publication closed.

Lebanon:

Lebanon is another "wing" of Arab journalism - the first one being Egypt. This country used to be an oasis of democracy in the Arab World. Three years ago, a new press law was enacted, ostensibly to regulate a plethora of unlicensed radio and TV stations. The law is used as a tool, by political powers from within and without the country, to suppress freedom of the press. It culminated with the President of the Republic slapping a newspaper editor in front of other people.

Morocco:

There is a whole heritage of democracy in Morocco, which prevailed through the ebbs and tides of the democratic process there. Nevertheless, the Moroccan Journalists Syndicate publishes an annual report on violations of press freedom.

Yemen:

Great leaps forward have been made during the last few years regarding freedom of the press and other civil liberties in Yemen.

Other Arab Countries:

In many other Arab countries, whether so-called revolutionary or conservative, journalism has become a mere organ of state or a single individual's propaganda. Human rights violations take place in countries that claim to be democratic, goodness knows what happens in the undemocratic Arab countries.

In many Arab countries, democracy has turned into a "banner" to be waved about during national events. Arab states and leaders feature prominently in the reports of several international organizations concerned with human rights. In Algeria, 64 journalists were killed. Press freedom and democracy in general face numerous challenges in the Arab World, the least of which are of a legal or a legislative nature.

Role of the Association of Arab Journalists

- 1- Uncovering violations of press freedom, regardless of any pressure by the authorities;
 - 2- Direct, good-will intervention by delegations investigating individual Arab countries and coming up with recommendations;
 - 3- Attempting to publish an annual report on the conditions of journalists in the Arab World.
- The last point has not been quite successful so far, due to rampant self-censorship. Out of fear of their own governments, some journalists syndicate members of the Association of Arab Journalists claim that every thing is well in their own countries. This we know is rarely true. Such acts of self-censorship and attempts to propitiate the authorities greatly impede our work.

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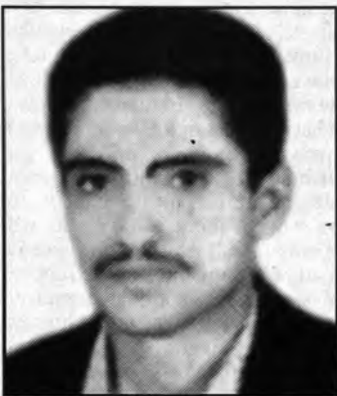
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This is an **OPINION** page.

Every week, a different intellectual writes a **FOCUS** on a pertinent issue!

Mercenary Journalists



**Abdulqawi Al-Udainiy,
Journalist with Al-Usboo' newspaper**

By pure coincidence, I found in front of me proof of why people think of us journalists this way. In the office of an oil company, I met a colleague - one of the people responsible for the distorted image of journalism. He looked quite pathetic in those circumstances, but seemed to have accepted his predicament. At the oil company, he was met with a lot of contempt and derision, because he attempted to pressure the company's management to publish advertisements in the newspaper he works for.

Many newspapers seem to disparage and vilify prominent individuals or establishments. This is usually a pressure tactic. If the individual or company respond "favorably", such reports are then followed by praise and accolades of the same individual and/or company.

I am not accusing all the people who work in journalism with this kind of behavior. The objective is certainly not to slander these people, as there are quite a few honorable ones, and who have high morals and ideals. I am trying to protect these honorable ones from the evil deeds committed by some people in the name of journalism. I feel it is my duty to write about this issue, however uneasy it make us.

What I experienced while doing my investigative journalism piece was very serious indeed. Some officials offered me a "reward" on the spot; while, many others asked me to see them again after publication. Of course, I understood what they were saying. I tried to hide my embarrassment with a few general words before saying 'good-bye' while trying to avoid a bad situation with the people offering the 'reward'. But I did make sure that I did not accept the offers.

I related my experience to one of my more seasoned colleagues. He surprised me by saying that he can give me dozens of cases of similar situations of his own: "I was new to this business and unaware of its ins and outs. I had just finished my studies abroad and was full of enthusiasm. A few months after starting my new job, the newspaper's chief editor asked me to conduct an interview with a particular minister.

"The interview was published and I was told that the minister phoned to thank me. He left instructions that he wanted me to drop by at his office. I thought that it was a good opportunity to cement a new friendship. To my great surprise and astonishment, the minister gave me a piece of paper - a money order to collect a few thousand riyals. I mumbled a few words of disgust, which I

can't well recall now, threw the piece of paper on his desk and went out.

"A similar incident happened again while I was on vacation in one of the important governorates. For personal reasons, I had to extend my stay. So I phoned my newspaper, and suggested that I do some interviews whilst I was there. They agreed.

"I talked to the governor. He posed artificially for the picture taking moments. Following the interview and when I was about to leave, the governor handed me a rather bulky envelope. When I declined to take it, he justified his act by saying that the money was to cover my accommodation expenses, and is a usual practice with visiting journalists. I refused to take the envelope, and retaliated by never publishing his interview. Although known for his flamboyance and love for the spot light, the governor never contacted me to find out what became of the interview.

"In light of these experiences, I decided not to interview any more officials. I frankly told my chief editor of my decision, and he agreed not to give me any assignments which involved such visitations."

Upon talking to my colleagues, I realized that I was not the only journalist to be involved in such a situation. I asked myself, 'Who is responsible for this state of affairs?' Is it the senior officials who now believe that everything has a price tag, including a journalist's conscience? Is it the cheap journalists who give us this bad reputation? Such people are in urgent need of a shock therapy to make them realize the harm they are inflicting on journalism. They must be condemned at misleading the public and harming the professional ethics.

These 'rewards' - mukafa'ah are

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bribes. A culture of disguised bribery is being created here.

These 'rewards' which take many forms, can only be classified as bribes. They have nothing to do with generosity. Bribery has eaten into our social fabric. Can we protect journalism from this dangerous malady? There has to be a very strong mass, impartial media to support the alleged reform program.

Journalism needs credibility to achieve its noble aims. Writers

and journalists form public opinion. Bribery in journalism is liable to create a distorted system of thought and a betrayal of the lofty principles of virtue.

Journalism has a great mission which is courageously undertaken by hundreds of people without fear of retribution by despotic rulers or without an eye on the 'money order'. This has been the case throughout the ages, and it shall remain as such. For, in the beginning was the word...

تتقدم

شركة النفط اليمنية

بأحر التبريكات وأطيب الامنيات بدوام التطور والازدهار إلى فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ

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والدكتور عبدالكريم الارياني وجميع أعضاء الحكومة

وإلى الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر وجميع أعضاء مجلس النواب

وإلى الاستاذ/ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني وجميع أعضاء المجلس الاستشاري

وإلى الشعب اليمني

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and the Yemeni people
on the 36th anniversary of 26 of September Revolution.
Many Happy Returns



SEPTEMBER 26

Social Fund for Development: Addressing Poverty & Unemployment

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) is considered one of a new institutions recently established in some developing countries. Experience has shown that these institutions are successful in cushioning the hardships associated with reform programs, and in inducing greater community participation. They also are able to operate efficiently in the optimal use of funds. This is due to the flexible management approach used to deliver basic services to the beneficiaries in a sustainable and cost-effective manner.

Mr. Abdulkarim Ismail Al-Arhabi, Managing Director of the SFD, talked to Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times, who filed the following interview.

Q: What are the aims of the Social Fund for Development?

A: The SFD is a government institution, that was established by Law No. 10 of 1997. The initiative was taken by the World Bank and other donors to lay the foundation stone for an efficient public institution that would contribute to the government efforts towards alleviation of poverty and unemployment in the country. This is the main aim of the SFD.



Q: What programs are implemented by the SFD?

A: The SFD is implementing three programs. The first one is the Community Development Program - the largest program within the SFD. It is supposed to provide basic services to the most needy communities in the country. The Community Development Program covers services like family health care, basic education, water, environment and small public works.

The second program is the Small and Micro-Enterprise Development. With small enterprises, we have a strategy to work together with commercial banks and the Small Enterprise Development Unit. So we agree on certain

criteria with these banks, and we provide them with the know-how to enable them to deal with small entrepreneurs.

The idea is to open up the banking sector for small entrepreneurs, which previously was not accessible to them. This sector, generally speaking, is very conservative. So we are going to provide them with the lending funds and, most importantly, the know-how of the business for small entrepreneurs. The second area is micro-enterprise development, in which we have launched certain programs. Micro-finance is a straight forward banking operation. We have an income-generation program, and we have certain programs which are functioning in the country. So far in this area we have been quite successful.

The aim of small enterprise development is to generate long-term employment. In the area of micro-enterprise, the SFD aims to provide poor people with income-generating opportunities.

The third program is called Institution Capacity Building. It means the provision of capacity building to the NGO sector but also capacity building of the SFD itself.

rybody regarding the resources and application. Transparency is extremely important for the SFD. In our commercial efforts we insist on informing the public about our policies. This is one of the major features of the social fund. The SFD is just half a year old. Institutions need more time just to start by recruiting and training people, etc. We already have more than 200 projects around the country.

Q: What other services does the SFD provide?

A: The SFD does not deliver services, but works with the community. We ask the sponsoring agency to mobilize a certain level of community participation.

The total cost of the projects is YR 1.7 billion, which is only the SFD contribution. The contribution of the community is 5 to 50%. Sometimes, we just finish a job that has already been started by the community, such as building schools, hospitals, etc.

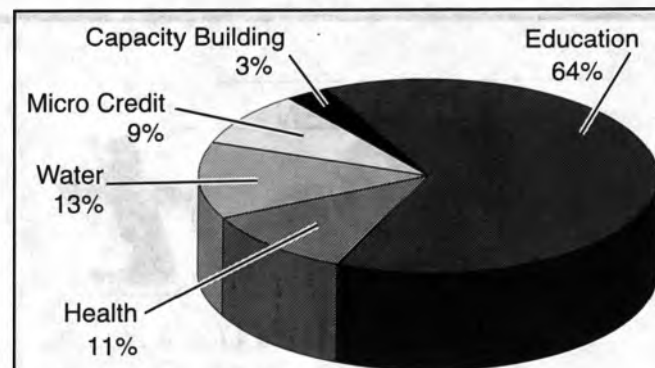
Q: To what extent does the government cooperate with the SFD?

A: So far we have had a lot of cooperation from the government and parliament. The SFD is a new idea, which demands a new approach. It is still hard to be accepted by some people.

Q: Who are the SFD's executive board members?

A: The SFD is actually attached to the highest authority. We also have two NGO and two private sector representatives.

Q: How many applications for



Distribution of Investment Loans

small project support have you received up to now?

A: We are trying to be as efficient as possible, we don't have so many levels and layers of responsibility. The whole SFD is a man-driven establishment. We don't collect information and make plans, but promote the SFD services. It is up to the community to come up with ideas. So far we have up to 4,000 applications. The money allocated for the SFD is not much, so we have to improve its capacity to deliver services. Then we can develop as many projects as possible to satisfy certain community needs.

Q: Can you tell us more about SFD branches and employees?

A: The SFD is a very hectic operation, you have to work very hard. We need highly motivated people and, to a certain extent, socially committed. So far we have 58 staff members in the SFD's headquarters and four branches. We are planning to have nine branches, as of next year. Our four branches are in Aden, Mukallah, Hadhramaut, and Hodeida. We will have branches in Taiz, Ibb, and Dhamar.

Q: Does the SFD have any publicity or information organ?

A: We have a newsletter which is

distributed to newspapers and other media organs, international aid organizations, NGOs, etc. Our main tool for promotion is the newsletter, and at the end of the year we have an annual report.

This is a very tough operation. The SFD operation is based on two things. One is targeting the most needy communities, which is not easy. We have developed certain mechanisms to reach that, but we still have to work on that very hard. The second thing is sustainability and, most difficult, to develop the SFD's function. This is a big challenge.

Q: From where does the SFD get its funds?

A: The funding of the SFD comes from the World Bank, the European Union, the Arab Bank, the Dutch Government and, of course, the Yemeni Government.

Q: Is there any form of cooperation between the SFD and the Islamic Bank for Development?

A: Representatives of the Islamic Bank for Development visited us, and were delighted by what we are doing. The Islamic Bank is now considering providing the SFD with US \$10 million.

Investment Distribution by Governorates in 1st & 2nd quarters 98

Governorate	1st quarter investment	Relative Distribution	2nd quarter investment	Relative Distribution
Sanaa City	70,824,200	20%	16,271,297	3%
Ibb	0	0%	77,867,216	14%
Hajja	0	0%	13,536,686	2%
Hadhramaut	0	0%	9,409,218	2%
Hodeida	10,370,932	3%	48,840,482	9%
Dhamar	0	0%	42,533,666	8%
Al-Mahara	0	0%	52,668,000	10%
Taiz	47,400,123	13%	123,281,709	23%
Shabwa	64,474,909	18%	560,196	0%
Sanaa Gov.	46,530,545	13%	67,984,626	12%
Al-Baidha	40,035,569	11%	25,905,873	5%
Aden	0	0%	16,049,786	3%
Lahj	30,463,224	8%	5,283,102	1%
Mareb	8,000,000	2%	11,095,791	2%
Saada	23,000,000	6%	4,810,196	1%
Abyan	0	0%	20,386,900	5%
Al-Jawf	20,599,640	6%	0	0%
Total	361,699,142	100%	545,484,744	100%

Q: Have you succeeded in encouraging the banking sector to lend to small entrepreneurs?

A: So far the response has not been very encouraging from commercial banks, only two banks have agreed to go into business with us.

Q: How many governorates do you cover?

A: The SFD covers the whole country. We have developed our own policies and criteria for distribution of funds among governorates on the basis of population and poverty level. We go to different governorates applying the same criteria.

One of SFD's major qualities is to be as transparent as possible. So the information is available to eve-

First National Symposium on Exports

Organized by the Yemen Export Supreme Council (YESC) and under the patronage of H. E. Prime Minister Chairman of (YESC) Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, the First National Symposium was convened under the emblem "Towards Establishing an Export Development Strategy" during the period September 14-15. The symposium aims at the following:

- 1- Reaching a general strategy for developing the export sector, showing its importance on the national economy.
- 2- Analyzing the present situation of export activities, singling out the obstacles and the necessary solutions.
- 3- Enhancing the technical capacities of the companies working in the field of exportation.
- 4- Studying the impact of the changes in the international trading relations on the Yemeni exports.

In his speech, Mr. Mohammed Abdu Saeed, representative of the private sector indicated that the influx of foreign products into

Yemeni markets is very detrimental to the local industries, adding that 20% of the Yemeni industries have become bankrupt. According to him, there must be an exact strategy for Yemeni exports which should be supported by the government.

In his speech, Dr Iryani indicated that in view of the globalization of the economy the whole countries will be open markets to the products of all countries. Therefore, the quality of our products should be very high and of a good standard. He also said that the issuance of the republican decree No. 127 of 1997 concerning the establishment of the YESC is a good sign of the government concern with the Yemeni exports. Sixteen papers were presented in the seminar from Ministry

of Industry, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Supply and Trade, Ministry of Agriculture and Sanitation, Agricultural Cooperative Union, National Institute for Administrative Science, Sanaa University, Investment General Authority, Yemeni Standardizations Authority, Industrial Bank, Hail Saeed Group of Companies, Commercial Chamber of Hadhramaut, and Mareb Insurance Company.

By Yemen Times Staff



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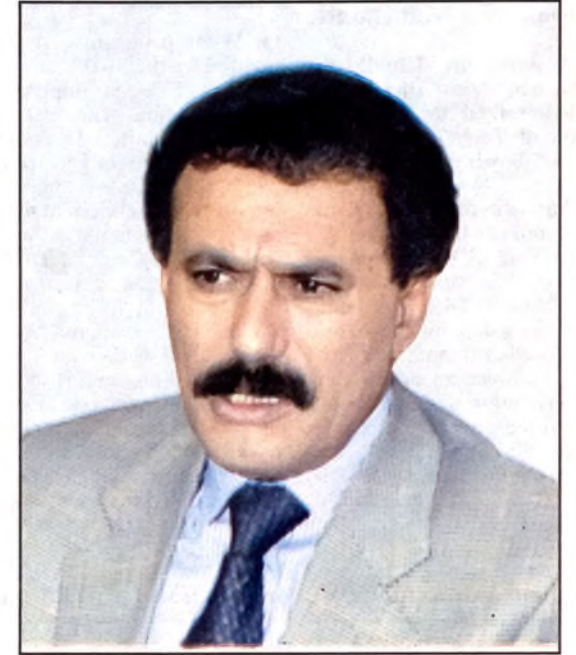
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on the 36th anniversary of 26 of September Revolution

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علي عبدالله صالح

والدكتور عبدالكريم الارياني وجميع أعضاء الحكومة
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وإلى الاستاذ/ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني وجميع أعضاء المجلس الاستشاري
وإلى الشعب اليمني

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SEPTEMBER 26

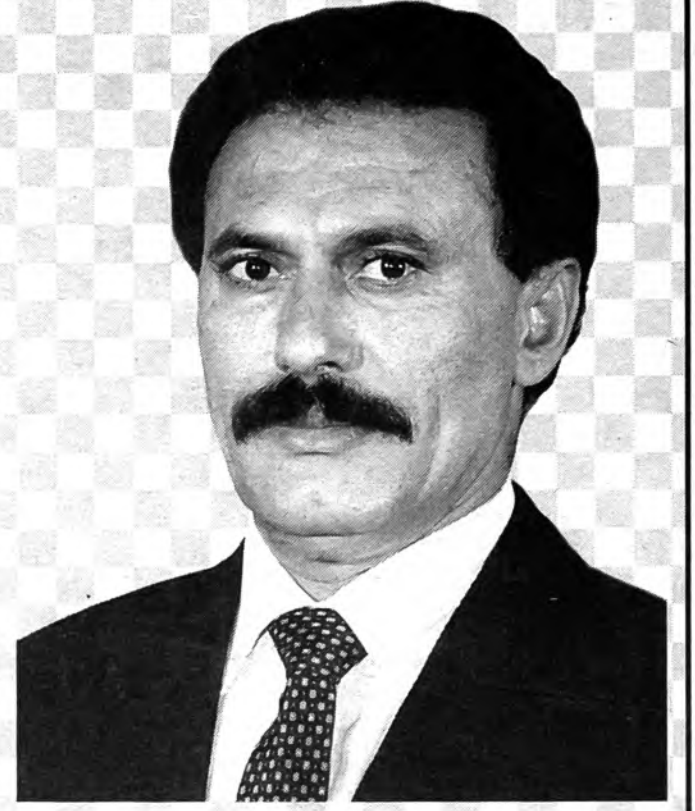
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SEPTEMBER 26

Dr. Waleed Jazrawi, President and General Manager of

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen

and all staff



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President Ali Abdullah Saleh

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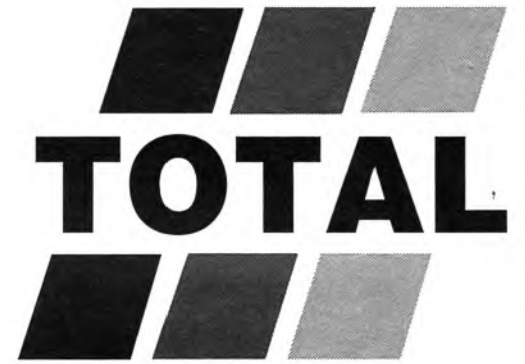
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شركة توتال اليمن



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يتقدمون بأحر التبريكات وأطيب الأمنيات بدوام التطور والازدهار إلى فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ

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بمناسبة العيد السادس والثلاثين لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر

وكل عام واليمن بخير

SEPTEMBER 26



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offer

their congratulations and best wishes to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani and his Government,
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar & Parliament,
Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani & Consultative Council,
and the Yemeni people
on the 36th anniversary of 26 of September Revolution

Many Happy Returns



الإدارة العليا، والمهندسون والعمال في

اتحاد المقاولين العالمية

سي سي سي



يتقدمون

بأحر التبريكات وأطيب الامنيات بدوام التطور والازدهار إلى فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ

علي عبدالله صالح

والدكتور عبدالكريم الأرياني وجميع أعضاء الحكومة

وإلى الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر وجميع أعضاء مجلس النواب

وإلى الأستاذ/ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني وجميع أعضاء المجلس الاستشاري

وإلى الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة العيد السادس والثلاثين لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر.

وكل عام واليمن بخير

SEPTEMBER 26



TIFA In Yemen

Public Health - Agriculture - Industry - Military

Tifa is the largest manufacturer of spraying and fogging machines and aerosol generator in the world. Equipment produced by Tifa incorporate the latest developments in the most efficient methods of dispersing insecticides, germicides, fungicides, deodorant formulations.

Tifa Around the World

More than 25,000 Tifa hot and cold fog generators were produced and sold around the world. Being the largest world manufacturer of such equipment, Tifa produces a comprehensive range of micro-aerosol and fog generators, cold aerosol generators, and electric and hydraulic sprayers. Tifa sprayers and aerosol generators are very reliable for insect and pest control in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and similar other fields. Tifa relies on a vast technological

expertise and many years of stimulating exchange of ideas and experiences between customers, authorities, and the factory have culminated in exceptional Tifa equipment designs and construction.

Saving Lives

During World War II, the US Navy, needing to move under dense fog, used Tifa thermo-fog generating equipment. Harmless chemicals were used for this purpose. Thus, the lives of thousands of US and allied soldiers were saved by using the Tifa equipment not only by pro-

tection by conventional methods can be saved when using Tifa thermal fog, which will save the environment our budget and our human resources. Tifa machines will continue to contribute strongly to the malaria control program and general insect control country-wide, as it is the only multi-purpose heavy duty machine available in the world, which have proven great success in many districts in Yemen.

T.I.F.A

Tod Insecticidal Fog Applicator

Tod is Tod Leicester, an admiral in the British Royal Navy, who invented the original spraying machines. The company's ownership became wholly American in 1970.

Tifa in Yemen

A live demonstration and lectures on the practical applications of Tifa products were conducted on Monday, September 14 in Sanaa by the Tifa Area Manager, Eng. Khalid Khattab and Tifa specialist, Eng. Ahmed Al-Nahhas. The two Tifa specialists were invited by the Tihama Tractors and Engineering Company Ltd - the official and sole Tifa agent in Yemen.

Eng. Khalid Khattab:

"Tifa organizes regular lectures, seminars and demonstrations in more than 50 countries around the world. Our company closely cooperates with the WHO and other donor organizations operating in developing countries.

"We came to Yemen to present Tifa's latest equipment, and show people working in the sanitation, health, agricultural and industrial sectors the best methods to fight and exterminate disease-carrying insects and pests. In addition to regular maintenance services throughout the 25-30 years of the equipment's expected life, Tifa conducts about three to four free-of-charge lectures each year in Yemen, providing free equipment for demonstration purposes. I believe Tifa is the only company in the world which provides such services.

"Tifa first came to Yemen in 1975. The company then sold a large number of machines and cooperated with the Yemeni Ministry of Defense to fumigate military camps to combat mosquitoes and other harmful insects. We worked in both Aden and Sanaa, and great results were achieved. Last month, Tifa has supplied MoD with more than 200 Tifa machines and spare parts. An extensive training program was held on September 13 for more than 25 military personnel from the Preventive Medicine Department to acquaint them with the use and maintenance of their new machines. Recently, Tifa donated \$100,000 worth of sprayers to Yemen in cooperation with the WHO. And a successful training program was conducted in Aden.

"There is a lot of potential for future market expansion for Tifa products in Yemen. This can certainly be achieved through the close cooperation with our partners in this country - Tihama Tractors and Engineering Co. Ltd.

"Our Tifa machines can be successfully utilized in locust control and plant protection in Yemen. Practical experience and experiments have shown that more than 60% of traditional pesticides used for plant



protection by conventional methods can be saved when using Tifa thermal fog, which will save the environment our budget and our human resources. Tifa machines will continue to contribute strongly to the malaria control program and general insect control country-wide, as it is the only multi-purpose heavy duty machine available in the world, which have proven great success in many districts in Yemen.

"I suggest that Yemeni customers, looking for suitable sprayers and aerosol generating machines, should firstly consider the after-sales service and the life expectancy of the machine and relate that to the price and the machines features. Tifa is more than capable of providing top-quality, reliable sprayers and fumigators along with regular and efficient maintenance services.

"Pest control and extermination are not done just by random spraying of pesticides. There are particular scientific methods that must be accurately followed. So, our aim by giving such lectures is to acquaint people with the best ways and the appropriate equipment that they need to use to achieve optimal effects. Each area or field of use requires a particular combination of equipment and chemicals. The material used on the farm, for example, may not be employed in dairy factories or at households. Military uses, on the other hand, require wholly different applications."

Mr. Abdulqader Sabri, Sales Representative, Tihama Tractors and Engineering Co. Ltd:

"The training session came as a result of the fruitful cooperation between Tifa and Tihama company. The aim is to raise acquaintance of Tifa equipment users, and the importance of adopting the correct methods of spraying pesticides and other chemicals for health purposes.

"We invited to this course a large number of people working in this field in the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Industry, Housing, and health workers in hospitals and other establishments.

"Five different pieces of equipment were used in the demonstration. These include some of Tifa's top-of-the-range sprayers, aerosol and microsol generators, etc. Tifa equipment are multi-purpose, a feature that distinguishes the company from its competitors. So one Tifa machine can be used in place of five different machines manufactured by other companies, say.

"Tifa products are regularly adopted and accredited by the WHO and other international donor organizations such as USIAD, GTZ, FAO, UNDP, Japanese AID, and others."

Tifa Products Main Characteristics

- Extremely safe to operate and ready to use at any time
- Almost maintenance free
- Rugged construction with at least 25 years of life expectancy
- High-quality materials and outstanding workmanship, assuring many years of dependable service
- Low noise generation, making them acceptable to noise-sensitive areas such as hospitals and nursing homes
- Very wide range of applications as it is the only machine in the world that can disperse several spraying techniques: ULV, thermal fog, cold spray, Larvicide, conventional spray
- Operate under extreme weather condition
- Economical to use with no waste of time for expensive repairs or time consuming maintenance; and many more outstanding features particular to each different model and piece of equipment.
- Free training program for end users by Tifa engineers
- Guarantee of the availability of spare part for the machine's lifetime
- Free-of-charge regular maintenance of the equipment and backup support to the end user during Tifa's engineer regular visits.

viding cover and camouflage, but also by eradicating disease-carrying insects. This success encouraged many other countries to incorporate Tifa products in their basic army supplies.

Many health authorities in many countries around the world have standardized the use of Tifa equipment to suppress and control many fatal diseases with great success. Deadly epidemics such as malaria, yellow fever,



Anything To Declare? The Next Generation



Introduction:

Children born to Yemeni parents living in Britain have experienced two completely different cultures. Almost all of them received proper education and training, something that is not readily available in Yemen. Almost all of these people read, write and speak English very well.

They all agree that their main dislike about Yemen is the way that the country is run. However, they all like the ancient history of Yemen, the old buildings, the weather and the antiquity. About England, they also agree that they dislike the crime and violence,

but like the fact that they can get a proper education.

Let us see what else these people have to say:

Firyal, 23, lives with her parents and works in a private company in Sanaa. She was born, then lived and studied in England, but came back to settle in Yemen when she was about 19 years old. Was she able to adapt to the British lifestyle? "Yes, enormously, after living there for so many years, it was hard not to." What do you like and dislike about Yemen? "Well my list is too long, basically I dislike the government and the way poor people have to live. In England, I dislike the violence, crime, and racism, including that by the police. "Nevertheless, I like the way they take seriously such things as education, training schemes, and careers. And there is help available for any kind of problem one may have, whether it be domestic or educational." Would Firyal consider going back to England? Can she do so? "Yes, I would consider going back to England. My only

obstacle is my parents wanting me to work or study in Yemen instead."

Mohammed, 19, was born, had lived and studied in England. He came to settle in Yemen when he was 18 years old. As soon as he finished his studies, he had to return with his family.

What is Mohammed doing in Yemen now? "I do not study but I'm still looking for work." Did you adapt to the English lifestyle? "Yes I did, it's hard not to because I lived there for so many years." Finally, I asked him whether he would consider going back to England, and also what obstacles stand in the way? "Yes, I will return to England, and the only obstacles are my parents wanting me to stay in Yemen to either work or study."

Helima, 17, was born, had lived and studied in England and came to settle in Yemen when she was 16 years old. She could not finish her studies. Helima is due to get married, so she is not ready to work or study. I asked whether she had adapted to the English lifestyle? "Just a bit yes, it's unavoidable."

Would she would consider going back to England, and also what obstacles would stand in her way? "I wouldn't really bother with England anymore. Yemen is my home, and besides that, my parents would not allow it."

Fatima, 22, was born in Yemen, but moved to England with her family when she was just 3 years old. She returned to Yemen when she was 19, as soon as she finished her studies.

I asked Fatima whether she had adapted to the English lifestyle? "In between, I did and I didn't, it was hard not to, living there for so long."

I asked whether Fatima would consider going back to England and also what obstacles stand in her way? "No I would not really consider going back to England, and the only obstacle I would face, if I decide to go back, are my parents saying it's wrong for an unmarried woman to return there, which is true really."

Sameer, 18, was born, had lived and studied in England. He returned to Yemen last year when he finished his studies. Sameer works in a private company in Yemen now.

I asked him whether he had adapted to the English lifestyle? "Yes, but not much, it was hard not to."

Would he consider going back to England, and also what obstacles stand in the way of returning there? "Yes I would go back to England for a visit, after all, I was born there. The only obstacles are my parents wanting me to stay in Yemen and not return back to be involved in the English lifestyle."

Layla, 18, was born in Yemen and moved to England with her family when she was 2 years old. She settled back in Yemen when she was 17 years old.

I asked her whether she ever adapted to the English lifestyle? "Yes, just a bit, but at the end of the day, I still knew where I truly came from." Would she ever consider going back to England, and what obstacles would stand in her way? "No, I would not consider going back to England, and my only obstacles would be my parents and future husband."

Layla, 11, **Deena**, 7, **Nadia**, 10, and **Aneesa Abdu**, 8, are sisters who were all born in Liverpool,

England and still live there. In 1993, Deena and Layla came to Yemen, Nadia and Aneesa came to Yemen in 1995, and Nadia came again in 1997 with her father.

They are all hoping to come back again soon. The girls go to a private all-girls school in Liverpool. Their parents consider it

the Yemeni traditional clothes and fabrics. They also like Yemeni weddings.

About England, they don't like the weather, mainly the rain, and the violence and crime. They like their school and studies, and work in their parents shop after school. But they're not allowed to play in the streets. They visit

to visit. But most parents urge their kids to stay in Yemen, because they believe that once their children are adults they should settle in this country.

The older generation see Britain as a place to work and save money, not for living permanently. Many of these kids yearn for the freer life back in England,



wrong to go to a co-educational school.

They go to the mosque in Liverpool on Saturdays and Sundays. The girls have never adapted to the English lifestyle, they been brought up strictly according to the Islamic tradition.

Their dislikes about Yemen include mainly the dirty streets and the way sheep get killed and the flies. They like the colors of

Yemen in order to adapt to the Yemeni lifestyle, so that in the future they will have knowledge of that.

Conclusion:

The girls feel more comfortable in Yemen because there is nothing to worry about like violence and crime. Most of the boys, on the other hand, would prefer to go back to England just

but at the same time they cannot disobey their parents.

Most of the children of Yemeni immigrants seem to have acquired the best of the two cultures. They are more liberal and have a better outlook on life than their peers, who have lived all there lives in Yemen.

Ms. Waffa Alawi Nasser,
Yemen Times

Learning Through the Internet

Supervised by the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Regional Office, based in Cairo, the regional workshop on

to the potential students about learning through the Internet. Three days were allocated for application and field work. On

gave some idea about using the Internet and about using the e-mail. He stressed the importance of using computer and the Internet service in training. He said that conferences can be held through the Internet. "The availability of telecommunication technology in Yemen was the direct reason behind the distinct success of this workshop," he said.

Mr. Ilias Haddad, Research and Training Director at the Telecommunication Corporation, Syria, presented a paper on the general goals of the workshop and the practical steps that were done and that still need to be done for reaching an integrated use of modern computer technology, especially in learning. "This workshop is not the first and will not be the last of its kind. We have our specialists who have good experience in this field. So, we can organize such workshops all over the Arab World in the future," he announced.

In her paper, Samia Abdulmo'men from Egypt said: "This workshop gave us new information and more details about technology-based learning by correspondence." Antuan Ghanem from Lebanon said, "the workshop gave us all a chance to exchange our ideas and talk about our experiences. Yemen is one of 5 Arab countries which apply computer technology in learning by correspondence."

Ms. Ahlam Al-Mutawakil,
Yemen Times



technology-based learning by correspondence, (through the Internet). In addition to Yemen, 30 representatives from Sudan, Palestine, Lebanon, Mauritania, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Djibouti, Oman, and Morocco participated in the workshop.

The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Zamzami, Deputy General Manager of the General Telecommunication Corporation and Mr. Khalil Allosh, Deputy Resident Representative of the UN Production Program.

The workshop is the 5th of its kind to be held for the Arab world. Mr. Khalil Rizq, Director of the ITU Regional Office for the Arab World, said that the workshop would contribute to the progress in telecommunication techniques all over the Arab World.

Mr. Amer M. Hazza'a, a professor at the General Institute for Telecommunication, explained that the workshop gives an idea

the other hand, the workshop opens a new way for learning which depends not on trainers. In other words, the trainees can learn everything by using computers.

In Yemen the Internet service was introduced just two years ago. It is not, therefore, widely used or applied. However, it becomes necessary to apply all the different services that the Internet technology offers. The Yemeni Telecommunication Corporation plan to expand the telecommunication technology and to offer such new services. It is worth mentioning is that the telecommunication sector is open for privatization. This will incredibly hasten the process of making the new telecommunication technology more popular in Yemen.

Tony Kaye from the Institute of Educational Technology, Open University, England, is the person who prepared the program for the workshop. He

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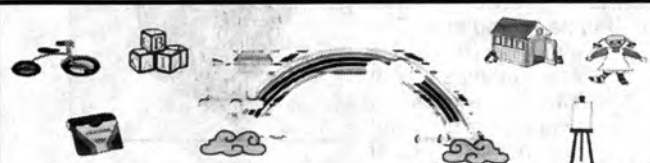
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Singing & Dancing

Ball Pit

Story Time & Flash Cards & Conversation



Taliban Asks UN to Solve Iran Crisis

The Taliban's supreme ruler Mullah Mohammed Omar last week called for the United Nations to resolve the crisis with neighboring Iran as tens of thousands marched in Tehran to condemn Afghanistan's Muslim militia.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi is to take part in an eight-nation meeting at the UN to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. The Taliban is not due to attend the meeting.

Iran accuses the Taliban militia of killing Shi'ites after the recent capture of the opposition stronghold of Bamiyan, Afghanistan. Iran has massed 70,000 Revolutionary Guards on the Afghan border and is sending 200,000 troops to the frontier for military exercises after the capture of Bamiyan and the killing of nine Iranian diplomats during the storming of the northern opposition stronghold last month.

The Taliban says it has moved at least 6,000 fighters into the border area and has threatened to target Iranian cities if Afghanistan is attacked.

India to End LPG Subsidies

India will soon remove subsidies for liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene, India's Petroleum Minister V K Ramamurthy said last Friday. He also said 48 oil exploration blocks will shortly be offered to foreign and joint venture firms.

Pakistan to Stay Neutral

Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan would remain neutral in any conflict between Iran and the Taliban, as Iranian troops pursued their military exercises along the Afghan border. Speaking after urgent talks with officials in Tehran, Aziz rejected Iranian claims that Pakistan had

militarily backed the Taliban militia, who have seized control of nearly 90% of Afghanistan.

Aziz said Pakistan had condemned the killings of eight Iranian diplomats and one journalist which occurred after the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif fell to Taliban forces on 8 August.

Iran wants the Taliban to hand over the killers and also to release a number of Iranian truck drivers being held by the hardline militia.

The funerals of six Iranian diplomats and the journalist killed in Mazar-i-Sharif were held in Tehran on Friday. The two other Iranians are unaccounted for. Thousands of Iranians joined the funeral procession, denouncing the Taliban and Pakistan.

U.S. Stands by Tests on Iraqi Missiles

The United States stood by its finding that Iraq armed missiles with the poison gas VX before the Gulf War in 1991. It said that recent laboratory tests in France and Switzerland, regardless of whether they turn out positive or negative, were on missile fragments other than those tested at a U.S. Army laboratory in July.

A London-based newspaper said that the European tests did not find traces of VX and that this contradicted the results of the tests made in the United States. The European tests were on 80 fragments taken from another part of the site and the results would have no bearing on the validity of the U.S. tests, he added.

UNSCOM, trying to work out how many missiles Iraq armed with the poisonous gas, then went back to the site and collected another 80 fragments, took swabs of them and sent half to France and half to Switzerland. Iraq has repeatedly denied arming the missiles with VX. The fragments came from a site where Iraq destroyed weapons on its

own initiative, without UNSCOM supervision.

Iraq and the UN seem set on a collision course over arms inspections after the U.N. Security Council resolution decided to suspend its regular review of sanctions, imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

100 Palestinians Injured in Clashes with Israelis

Israeli soldiers wounded nearly 100 Palestinians last Friday, as U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross insisted he was making "headway" in his attempts to broker an agreement between the two sides.

Clashes erupted outside the Jewish settlement of Psagot, near Al-Bireh, as a march of more than 2,000 supporters of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) came to an end.

Israeli soldiers fired stun grenades, rubber-coated bullets and, according to the Palestinians, live ammunition when dozens of youths started throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at the settlement of Psagot.

A total of 96 Palestinians were injured, according to Shahrir Abdullah, the head of emergency services in Al Bireh. Abdullah described the condition of three of those hospitalized as "critical" after two had been hit in the head by rubber-coated bullets and a third in the stomach by a live round.

However, a spokesman for the Israeli army denied that soldiers had fired live ammunition.

Somali Warlord Seeks "Jubaland" State

Somali faction leader Mohammed Said Hersi - known as "General Morgan" to his followers - announced plans to set up a "Jubaland" administration centered on the port city of Kismayu as part of efforts to find a "bottom-up" solution to the

country's problems.

Morgan, who said he controls the middle and lower Juba valley regions including Kismayu, said several faction leaders are pressing ahead with plans to set up their own mini-states around the country, with the regional Puntland administration in the northeast leading the way.

Kismayu lies some 500 kilometers southeast of the capital Mogadishu, in the heart of Somalia's fertile Juba region.

Iraq Breaks Off All Cooperation

The Iraqi leadership broke off all cooperation with UN arms experts and called on the Security Council to cancel a resolution scrapping all reviews of the eight-year sanctions. The decision follows a recommendation by Iraq's parliament for a total break in relations with the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) for disarmament unless the two-monthly sanctions reviews are restored.

The Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) called on the Security Council to "reverse and annul resolution 1194 (ending sanctions reviews), if it wants to re-establish a dialogue with Iraq conforming to the principles of the (UN) Charter and far away from methods of pressure and blackmail."

There was no immediate reaction from the United Nations nor UNSCOM.

The RCC, which is presided over by President Saddam Hussain, called on UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to take "a more active stance to honor his commitments" towards Baghdad.

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US Reacts Coolly to Call for Talks

The White House reacted coolly to a call by the chief defense lawyer for the two Libyans suspected of the 1988 Lockerbie airline bombing to negotiate a plan to try them in the Netherlands.

The lawyer, Ibrahim Legwell, said that US-British proposals to try his clients in the Netherlands did not ensure them a fair trial and said further negotiations were needed.

Under a US-British proposal unveiled on 24 August, the two suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland which killed 270 people would be tried in the Netherlands by Scottish judges and under Scottish law.

The United States and Britain had previously insisted that Abdulbasset Ali Mohammed Al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, be tried either in

Scotland or the United States.

Britain declined to comment on Legwell's comments. Both Britain and the United States have said in the past the plan is not negotiable.

Bangladesh Flood Recede

Floods receded further in Bangladesh last week amid warnings that water-borne disease was spreading among the 30 million people affected by the disaster. A Health Department official reported 10,784 new cases of diarrhea in the past 24 hours, which claimed 14 more lives, taking the toll of the epidemic to almost 200.

A total of 950 people have now died since the floods hit in July, causing widespread devastation. Officials said the country's main rivers showed further signs of abating and that floods covering more than 70% of the capital of nine million were likely to drain out within a week.

Orbit Orbit Orbit Orbit

Orbit Weekly Programs

Orbit Orbit Orbit Orbit

America Plus

Mon, 21 September,
1800 The New Adventures Of Superman
2100 Homicide: Life on the Street
2300 The New Adventures of Robin Hood

Tue, 22 September,
1500 Hangin' with Mr Cooper
1530 Step by Step
1900 The New Adventures of Robin Hood

Wed, 23 September,
2000 Pearl
2030 Martin
2100 Melrose Place Year 6

Thu, 24 September,
1900 The New Adventures Of Superman
2200 ER
2300 Due South

Fri, 25 September,
2030 *Cosby Show
2100 Beverly Hills 90210 Year 8
2300 Mahibu Shores

Cosby Show - 25 Sept, Friday 2030
Anyone who had watched the Cosby show before knows how funny this show is. It brings laughter to the family and at the same time teaches us valuable lessons. This is mainly due to the genius of Bill Cosby. Step out of your boring world, and join the fun with the Cosby family on America Plus!

Sat, 26 September,
1900 Malibu Shores
2000 Drew Carey
2030 Suddenly Susan
2100 Spin City

Sun, 27 September,
1900 *Babylon 5
2100 La Femme Nikita
2200 Pacific Palisades

The Disney Channel

September 21, 1998
1210 Zorro
1450 Talespin

1630 Darkwing Duck
1700 Aladdin

September 22, 1998
1630 Darkwing Duck
1830 Flash Forward
2200 Dinosaurs

September 23, 1998
1400 Mickey Mouse & Friends
1605 Ducktales
1830 Student Bodies

September 24, 1998
1630 Gummi Bears
1700 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh
1900 Thunder Alley

September 25, 1998
1300 Movie - 14 Going on 30
1700 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh
2000 Movie - Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken

September 26, 1998
1630 Darkwing Duck
1700 Aladdin
1930 Torkelsons

September 27, 1998
1800 Bill Nye the Science Guy
1900 Boy Meets World
1930 Sinbad

Orbit ESPN Sports

Mon, 21 September,
1700 ATP Tour Tennis 1997 President's Cup Men's Final
1900 SportsCenter
2000 ESPN ews Day
2330 NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at Arizona Cardinals

***7th Arab Cup, Tuesday 22, 2100**
Coming together from all over the Arab world the 7th Arab Cup brings together the likes of France '98 qualifiers Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Tunisia, long with hosts Qatar, African Nations' Cup winner Egypt, Gulf Cup winners.

Tue, 22 September,
2100 *The 7th Arab Cup
2130 World Football Report
2200 NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at New York Giants

Wed, 23 September,
1900 SportsCenter
2000 ESPN ews Day
2100 Gillette Sports Special
2130 Pro Beach Hockey

Thu, 24 September,
2000 ESPN ews Day
2100 European Football Weekly
2200 Toyota Atlantic Series

Fri, 25 September,
1730 WCW Wrestling
1900 SportsCenter
2000 College Football Arizona at San Diego State
2300 NFL Blast

Sat, 26 September,
1630 America's Horse
1900 SportsCenter
2000 Firestone Indy Lights Championship
2100 Australian Basketball China v Australia

Sun, 27 September,
1600 Firestone Indy Lights Championship
1700 SportsCenter
2330 F-3 South America Championship

Fun Channel

Mon, 21 September,
1200 Happily Ever After
1705 Power Rangers
1730 Batman
1755 Beatejuice

Tue, 22 September,
1340 Merry Melodies
1405 The Flintstones Comedy Show
1640 Animaniacs

Wed, 23 September,
1405 The Flintstones Comedy
1550 Beast Wars
1615 Sky dancers

Thu, 24 September,
1830 Superhuman Samurai Syber Squad
1900 The Big Movie: The Adventures of Smoke Bellew 3
2100 Love Boat

Fri, 25 September,
1230 Sylvester and Tweety
1400 Batman
1430 The Mas

Sat, 26 September,
1525 Reboot
1615 Sky dancers
1640 Animaniacs
1705 Power Rangers

Sun, 27 September,
1500 Pinky and the Brain
1820 Dexter's Lab
1850 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters
1915 Cattanooga Cats

Hollywood Schedule

Mon, 21 September,
1630 Infatuation
1700 Movie Show
1730 Model TV 97
0030 Bumper Summer on the Hollywood Channel Sex on the Orient & Victoria's Secrets

Tue, 22 September,
1800 The Price is Right
2000 Pictionary
2030 Judge Judy

Wed, 23 September,
1500 E! Gossip Show Daily
1800 The Price is Right
1900 Jeopardy

Thu, 24 September,
1630 Mysteries&Scandals
1700 Video/fashion
2300 Arts&Minds

Fri, 25 September,
1530 E! FYE
1800 The Price is Right
2030 Judge Judy

Sat, 26 September,
1500 Hollywood Spotlight
1600 Travel America
1630 Infatuation
1700 Movie Show

Sun, 27 September,
1900 Jeopardy
1930 Wheel of Fortune
2000 Pictionary
2030 Judge Judy

Music Now

Mon, 21 September,
1500 Cosmix
1740 Dandana
1900 Mediterranea

Tue, 22 September,
1700 Dandana
1900 Mediterranea
2100 Awtar

Wed, 23 September,
1500 Cosmix
1740 Dandana
1900 Mediterranea

Thu, 24 September,
1500 Convwith/chainreaction#2
1700 Musabaga
1830 (a)convwith./chainrt3
1900 Najwa Karam
Mediterranea

Fri, 25 September,
1600 *Oasis There & Then Concert
1800 Dandana
1900 Mediterranea
2100 Arabic R.s.v.p.

Sat, 26 September,
1600 CBS News Saturday Morning
1800 CBS 48 Hours
1900 ABC Special: Love Lust & Marriage

Sun, 27 September,
1140 NBC Nightly News
1500 NBC Weekend Today Show Live
1600 CBS Sunday Morning Live

Mon, 21 September,
1700 The Positively True Adventures of the Texas Cheerleader Murdering Mom - 2L
1900 Paydirt - 2L
2030 E! Behind the Scenes

Tue, 22 September,
1725 The Amazing Panda Adventure - 1
1900 Missing Pieces - 2V
2030 E! Uncut

Wed, 23 September,
1700 The Secret Garden - 1
1900 The Fencing Master - 2V

Mon, 21 September,
1800 ABC Good Morning America
2000 NBC Dateline
2100 ABC 20/20

Tue, 22 September,
1400 NBC The Today Show Live
1600 CBS This Morning
1800 ABC Good Morning America
2000 NBC Dateline

Wed, 23 September,
1800 ABC Good Morning America
2000 NBC Dateline
2100 ABC 20/20

Thu, 24 September,
1400 NBC The Today Show Live
1600 CBS This Morning
1800 ABC Good Morning America
2000 NBC Dateline

Fri, 25 September,
1400 NBC The Today Show Live
1600 CBS This Morning
1800 ABC Good Morning America
2000 ABC News Thursday Night

Sat, 26 September,
1600 CBS News Saturday Morning
1800 CBS 48 Hours
1900 ABC Special: Love Lust & Marriage

Sun, 27 September,
1140 NBC Nightly News
1500 NBC Weekend Today Show Live
1600 CBS Sunday Morning Live

Super Movies

Mon, 21 September,
1700 The Positively True Adventures of the Texas Cheerleader Murdering Mom - 2L
1900 Paydirt - 2L
2030 E! Behind the Scenes

Tue, 22 September,
1725 The Amazing Panda Adventure - 1
1900 Missing Pieces - 2V
2030 E! Uncut

Wed, 23 September,
1700 The Secret Garden - 1
1900 The Fencing Master - 2V

Orbit News

SPECIES - 24th Sept. Thursday 2000
A Thrilling movie with incredible special effects from Oscar winner Richard Edlund. It is about an Alien DNA coming from space. This DNA sequence results in bringing to life a monster looking alien called Sil. Government agents then try to prevent Sil from breeding, and the thrill begins. Don't miss the excitement on Super Movies!

2030 E! Extreme Close Up

Wed, 24 September
1500 Twilight Zone The Movie - 2
1700 Born To Be Wild - 1
1900 Richie Rich - 2V
2300 Species (Premiere)

Fri, 25 September,
1500 In Pursuit Of Honor - 2V
1830 E! Uncut
2100 Kingpin - 2SVL (Premiere)
2200 Sugartime

Sat, 26 September,
1500 Three Wishes - 2
1700 Maverick - 2VL
1910 Funny Farm - 2
2100 The Enemy Within - 3VL

Sun, 27 September,
1310 Funny Farm - 2
1900 Jane Eyre - 2
2100 D.O.A. Double Exposure - 3VL

Sugartime Sep Fri 25 2000
Sam Giancana (Turturro) was the original 'Teflon Don'. The FBI, rival bosses, Bobby Kennedy, nobody could get to him; that is, until he met Phyllis McGuire (Parker). This is the fascinating true story of that relationship; of a powerful mob boss losing his heart to the wholesome sister of one of a powerful popular singing groups.

***Babylon 5 Sun 17 1900**
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PC Magazine, 1998



"Best Buy Award"
Consumer Digest 1998

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Jambia: Great National Handicraft



Every nation has its own characteristics that make it distinctive. One of the things that brings honor and a feeling of pride to a nation are the handicrafts which stand as witness to its deep roots in history. Handicrafts are also independent industries with their own rules and techniques which only skilled persons in this field acquire. These handicrafts are a good source of hard currency and provide job opportunities for a lot of people.

One of the most famous handicrafts in Yemen is the jambia industry. It is an economic activity which has its own markets, especially in the former north Yemen. People of Yemen feel very proud of the jambia considering it complementary to their traditional clothes.

It is like a dagger with an arrowhead and is worn in the middle of the body. The value of a jambia is dependent on its age, i.e. the older it is, the more expensive it becomes. It is not just a weapon rather it is a phallic symbol and a gift of history to Yemenis. When a person wears his jambia it is a sign of his becoming a man otherwise he is treated as a woman.

Jambia's History

The history of the jambia goes back to the pre-Islamic period where it was used in warring similar to the sword but it was shorter and worn on the side of the body. The Yemeni used to carry it with him wherever he went because of the many intertribal wars taking place during that time. But the jambia underwent some changes and development until it took this present shape.

The jambia is composed of three main parts: sheath, arrowhead and belt. The sheath is made of leather which can be colored in green or brown. Some sheaths are also made of silver and sometimes are decorated with gold. But they are unusual today. Until the seventies of this century, a pocket used to be made behind the sheath for keeping some instruments like a comb, mirror, etc.

It is only the well-to-do who wear very costly jambias prices of which can extend to hundreds of thousands or even millions of riyals. It is the handgrip of the jambia that defines the price. The expensive jambias are of hand-

gazelle and ibex. In the past it was made of metal.

With regard to the arrowhead, it is made of steel and nickel; it usually has bright color. And the best kind is the Haddramy relating to Hadhramaut governorate and then comes the Kadibby.

The belt which carries the jambia is made of leather. Some wise phrases are written on the belt usually in golden threads adding some beauty to it.

Jambia & Social Standing

We find that the jambia has something to do with the social standing of the people and their classifications.

The shape, the material from which the jambia is made and the way it is worn is very much affected by the social group. In other words, every social group has its own type of jambias. For example, the people belonging to the Hashid tribe have their own type of jambia. The same thing is applied to the people of the Bakeel tribe and of Marib too. The other type of jambia is known as Al-Thawma or Al-Toza made of silver and worn by clergymen and judges. It is put on the side of the body leaning to the right. The Sadda, coming from the offspring of the prophet Mohammed, wear this type. But the one put on vertically in the middle of the body has an arrowhead made of leather and is worn by the common people.

But it should be remembered that the jambia wearing habit has begun to be less common in society owing to development and economic hardship. People don't like to wear cheap jambias. Also because of the prohibition of arm-carrying in public institutions this has limited the number of people wearing the jambia. This is visible in Taiz, Aden and Hodeidah. During the Imam's rule people were enforced to adhere to their traditional clothes but they are free to wear whatever they like today.

Jambias & Conflicts

The Yemeni people try their best not to use the jambia in their conflicts. And a person will not stab his enemy in the back because that is a sign of cowardice. If the person has taken his jambia out of its sheath, he has to 'tab' his rival otherwise his is considered cowardly. In the tribal society there is nothing between cowardice and recklessness. Taking the sheath out without using it seldom happens. The other possibility is known as the hajar which means that some sheep have to be slaughtered to the two rivals or enemies within the presence of their relatives; it is a sign of eliminating the disputes between them.

The Jambia's Status

The jambia is worn in many parts of the country, particularly in the northern part. It is one of the most important elements in practicing some of the religious and festival rituals like Al-Barra dance which can never take place without it. Some dervishes use it in stabbing

themselves, with no harm, in order to attract the attention of the people to their miraculous powers. It is also very important in wagering according to the tribal system of disputes. The two opponents hand their jambias over to an arbitrator who can be sometimes the tribe shiekh. Giving the jambias to him is an indication of the acceptance of the judgment of the arbitrator. The two jambias are not given back before the declaration of the judgment.



And due to the important status of the jambia in society, some people believe that it can be instrumental in disillusioning the people from the spell of evil spirits. People in Yemen like the jambia very much and always keep it away from water which can make the sheath rusty. Water also affects the handgrip, the most important part of the jambia. They also try to make the arrowhead very shiny and bright.

Yemen is an industrial country and from this comes the name of the capital Sanaa. There are a lot of workshops in Sanaa today for many handicrafts, one of which is jambia making. There are also some centers for learning such handicrafts. The handicrafts shops owners are complaining that their products are not marketable these days because they are confiscated from the tourists at the airport under the pretext of preserving the rare objects. However, the jambias sellers have affirmed that the old jambias are not sold.

In order that ancient jambias do not meet the same destiny as some of the silver and copper, we should follow the following so as to protect this valuable handicraft:

- 1- Appoint specialized people at airports to differentiate the ancient from the new products.
 - 2- Employ graduates at the handicrafts teaching centers.
 - 3- Encourage the handicraftsmen in order to preserve this profession restricting it only to people of experience in this field.
- We also appeal to the people in charge in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and that of Industry to hold exhibitions inside and outside Yemen in order to market this handicraft and show it to the world.

By: Ehab Ameen Al-Saqqaf



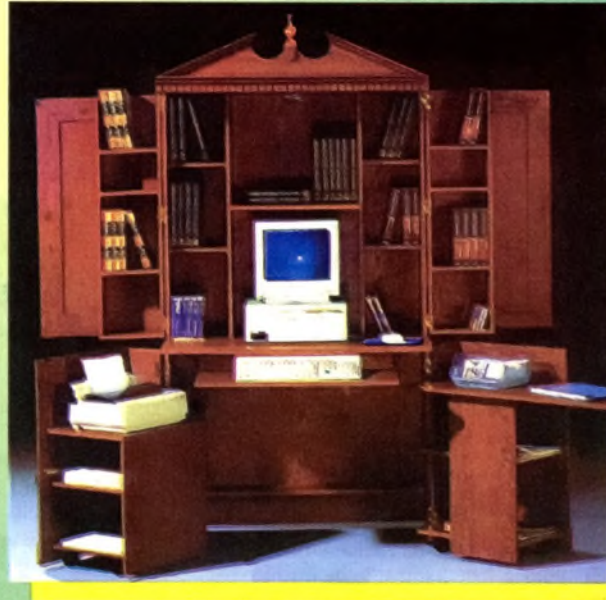
grips made of the horn of the rhinoceros brought from India and the African Horn. But the cheap ones are made of the horn of the

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عدن - المركز الايطالي للأثاث - للنمورة تلفون (٣٤٥٣٠٦) فاكس (٣٤٥٣٠٦) ص.ب (٨٠١٤٨)

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White Expresses Sadness... As Well

To those who feel no hatred
To Wadi' Mohammed Saeed, Abdullah Hashem
and Dearest S

She stood on the balcony in her old house,
looking at the long street extending below. The
long high wall of the cemetery at the end of the
street blocked her sight. Many go there and
never come back. They settle for eternity - just
like the one being carried now, accompanied by
a crowd of wailing people.

The same place, same sight... twenty years ago.
The only difference was the person being
carried off... and other people who fell with
time. How and when did they fall? She doesn't
know. How and when did they come? She
doesn't know either.

She was only eleven then. The person being
carried off at that time was her mother. It is dif-
ferent now. There are three children now calling
her mummy. Seven Springs have passed since
her eldest daughter, Rowan, was born.

She looks at the people carrying the coffin. All
will return, except one. "They are carrying Hajj
Mohammed, the greengrocer," she told her
mother, sadly. "He died this morning. He had
nothing except his love for the people, who are
carrying him now."

The procession went further down the road.
Rowan is standing beside her mother. "Mum...
isn't white the color of happiness?" she
demanded. "Yes..."

"Why do they wrap dead people with white,
then... mum?"

"You'll know when you grow old."

"Isn't death sad?"

"Not always, dear."

"Weren't you sad when granny died?"

"Yes..."

"How come death isn't sad?"

"Sadness is caused by the bereavement, not by
death. That's why they wear white and we wear
black."

"But, mum, they are bereaved as well, aren't
they?"

"When they die, they become happy because
then they'll meet people who feel no hatred...
White means peace."

"Mum, when will I die... I wanna die!"

By Abdullah Abdul-Ilah Sallam, Hodeida
Translated by Adel J. Moqbil, Yemen Times

"Pleasant Valley Sunday"

The sun shines like a plate of gold,
I feel the sun shining on my face,
I wander through this sad and lonely place,
I see flowers, I pick them for hours,
On the country fields I lie,
This precious scenery makes me cry,
It's one of those days in England,
The green and pleasant woodlands,
I'm surrounded by fields, it's velvet green,
I see the stars at night, I make a wish,
For my long lost Prince to come,
Let me lie beside you, I hold pride in you,
I can tell you stories you'll want to hear,
The woods are safe, we must not fear,
We can live together in our sweet dream,
Here it is, it's very clean,
And we'll stay innocent in velvet green.

Ms. Waffa Alawi Nasser



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil



AL-JAMAHEER: Sanaa weekly, 17-9-98.
(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Saudi Arabia cultivates farm lands situated just over the border within Yemen territory. Yemeni citizens who tried to stop the Saudi tractors were fired at by the accompanying Saudi soldiers.
- 2- Escalation in armed tribal conflict in Mareb leaves one dead and several people injured. Also during the skirmishes, an oil pipeline was punctured and a truck belonging to the Hawk Oil Co. was held up.
- 3- Health and environmentally damaging insecticides exported by Saudi Arabia flood Yemeni markets.
- 4- Yemenia Airlines aviation engineers call off their sit-in, following the settlement of a dispute caused by "unfair dismissal of a trade unionist colleague."
- 5- Three Yemeni men die in the US bombing of the alleged Bin Laden base in Afghanistan.
- 6- A Japanese loan of \$500 million to support the agricultural sector was wasted on buying sub-standard equipment, which was later sold in the local market at a loss of 10% - commission for middlemen.
- 7- The Zionist enemy establishes a submarine base on the Eritrean Island of Dahlek in the Red Sea.

Article Summary: Human Organs Sold

The attempted kidnapping of 2-year-old Mansour Al-Obadi has uncovered an international gang trading in human body organs, especially hearts and kidneys. A 13-year-old child, allegedly lost, was placed by the gang with Mansour's family to look after him. Three days later, the child "bait" then lured Mansour away from home as the family was out shopping. A neighbor standing nearby shouted at the older kid, and fired several shots in the air when he ran away. A man waiting in a car at the end of the street got away. The child "bait" claimed that he is employed by a gang to lure away

small children to secluded spots, using all sorts of incentives such as sweets and toys. He went further by alleging that the gang has doctor and surgeon accomplices, who take out the children's vital organs and exported them to other Arab and foreign countries. A year ago, a girl, 1, was abducted for 20 days in Taiz. She was later returned feeling very weak and emaciated. Medical tests revealed that one of her kidneys was missing.



AL-WAHDAWI: Sanaa weekly, 15-9-98.
(People's Nasserite Unionist Organization)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Amid rising student anger and allegations of irregularities, parliament questions Sanaa University deputy rector on admission procedures and regulations. Students with low grades were admitted into very demanding science disciplines, while others with top marks were denied university seats.
- 2- Army troops are amassed in Sirwah, Mareb, following the blowing-up by tribesmen of an oil pipeline. Tribes in the area are demanding compensations for flood damages.
- 3- Nasserite leader, Abdulmalik Al-Mikhlafti: "The proposed local administration law is an attempt to deceive the people."
- 4- Crisis within government rises: Minister of Endowments resigns and unconfirmed reports on the resignation of the Minister of Justice. Several other ministers have kept away from work due to strong disputes over government policy.

Article Summary:

Protest at the Top (editorial)
Protest over the failing government policies have reached the top echelons of power. One minister has already resigned, another is said to be considering resigning. The crisis has encompassed all aspects of life in Yemen.

The new government, that followed the resignation of

former PM Faraj Bin Ghanem, is a clear indication of the failure to bring about change. The narrow mentality that is in control here has treated the country and its resources as war spoils, to be divided among the victors according to tribal and regional considerations.



AL-TAREEQ: Aden weekly, 15-9-98.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Adviser to President Mubarak of Egypt denies any knowledge of an impending US military strike against Yemen.
- 2- According to a Sudanese newspaper, US navy ships converged on Bab Al-Mandab Straits, to strike against targets in Sudan and Yemen.
- 3- 135 Somali refugees in Yemen are voluntarily repatriated.
- 4- Ministry of Fisheries announces that Yemeni fish are free of any bacteria and parasites.
- 5- Customs Authority in Al-Mokha port has allowed several black-listed ships, known to have been involved in smuggling activities, to enter the port.

Article Summary:

Narcotic Seeds
Seeds of the Junajjina wild bush, with drug-like effects, are widely abused by young people in Hadhramaut, especially in the rural areas. Ingesting the seeds causes hallucination and mind alteration.

According to Sheikh Muslim Awadh, MP, this wild bush bears a fruit resembling an aubergine, the seeds of which are crushed and swallowed.

A public scare was created. Women at wedding parties now refuse to have tea or other drinks just in case they are laced with the Junajjina drug, resulting in them being taken advantage of. Police are investigating the matter.



AL-UMMA: Sanaa weekly, 17-9-98.
(Al-Haqq Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Ancient antiques and priceless manuscripts in Mahweet and Mareb are in danger of being lost through continuous pilfering and smuggling. A gang of smugglers was arrested in Sanaa, and more than 2,000 manuscripts were seized.
- 2- The Opposition Coordination Council welcomes the resignation of the Minister of Religious Guidance and endowments and Al-Haqq Party Secretary General, Al-Shami.
- 3- Gross financial irregularities are discovered in the Ministry of Construction and Housing. Agreements on 59 different projects were concluded without proper tender announcements.
- 4- A number of Yemeni police officers finish a training course investigating bomb explosions in Louisiana, US. The course was part of the increasing

security cooperation between Yemen and the US.

Article Summary:

Lax Security

The random usurping of plots of land in Aden has increased markedly. A visible lax of security, almost frequent bomb explosions and the absence of the Governor, on vacation in London, are the causes.

Taking over public land has reached the extent of fencing off public gardens and parks. Even the sewerage network junction was diverted, to take over the land where it is situated, next to the city's water sources in Maallah.

The process of land usurpation is often done with the knowledge and, sometimes, the protection of the police and security apparatus.



AL-RAY AL-AAM: (Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Tension between Awaliq and Sai'ara, the biggest and most heavily armed tribes in Hadhramaut and Shabwa, could lead to an all-out tribal war.
- 2- Explosion of a gas cylinder at a liquid gas plant in Aden kills one person and injures two. The gas cylinder had some grease inside it, which led to it exploding while being filled up.
- 3- An army colonel and his family came under siege by the heirs of the rented house where they live, in a culmination of a 4-year harassment to evict the colonel.
- 4- The campaign to control the carrying of firearms will continue to the end of this year.
- 5- Yemeni Association of Insurance Companies has been formed.

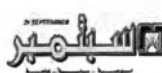
Article Summary:

Highwaymen Caught

The most dangerous gang of highwaymen operating in the eastern governorates has been apprehended, following a series of horrendous crimes. The gang intercepted a truck, belonging to the Yemeni Economic Establishment, on the evening of Thursday, September 10, near Mahfad on the Shabwa-Abyan road. The driver, Mohammed Al-Mattari, was accompanied by his son Abdulmalik, 15, and two security men.

A hail of bullets was fired at the truck. With a bullet in the heart, Abdulmalik died instantly. The driver pressed ahead, while fire was exchanged between the security men and the gang. Police was alerted by a nearby check-point.

Two gang members were later arrested by the hospital security staff when they took a third man for medical attention to his leg wound. Similar incidents took place on the same road, which has now become quite notorious among truck drivers and the public in general.



26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa weekly, 17-9-98.
(Yemeni Armed Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Meeting Joint Somali President, Aideed, President Ali Abdullah Saleh stresses Yemen's commitment to Somalia's integrity and stability.

2- Receiving a letter delivered from the President of Iran, President Saleh emphasizes Yemen's keenness to developing relations with Iran.

3- The Council of Ministers ratifies a \$45 million loan agreement with the International Development Agency to finance the Sanaa emergency electricity supply project.

4- Yemenia Airlines makes a criminal complaint against the Aviation Engineers Syndicates for conducting a strike without prior notice, which has been morally and financially detrimental to the company.

5- Minister of Justice denies all allegations of his intended resignation, and announces a comprehensive plan for reforming the judicial system.

6- Minister of Defense discusses landmines, planted by secessionists during the 1994 war, with representatives of UN agencies.

7- New Minister of Religious Guidance and Endowments announces his ministry's priorities in reviving the mosques' mission of guiding the public and preserving endowment funds.

8- World Bank and IMF provide Yemen with \$100 million soft loans.

Article Summary:

What Impedes National Industry

By Iskander Al-Asbahi

Quality may not be the decisive factor in winning the market. For example, a national factory to produce lubricants was opened in partnership with a famous international manufacturer. With a capacity of 65,000 tons, oils are produced according to the highest world specifications. Due to unfair competition, the plant, however, is only able to market 6,000 tons. The local market is flooded with smuggled and sub-standard products.

Although the Yemeni Investment Law stipulates tax exemptions for exported Yemeni products, many successful industrial enterprises find it very hard to get tax refunds on their exports.



AL-THAWRI: Sanaa weekly, 17-9-98.
(Yemeni Socialist Party - YSP)

Main Headlines:

- 1- YSP is to hold its annual general conference in November, following the successful conclusion of the Central Committee's

36th session.

2- Al-Thawri and Al-Shourah weekly newspapers are acquitted by South-West Sanaa court in a case brought against them by Press Prosecutor Office for articles highly critical of the government.

3- One person died and three were wounded when an RPG missile was accidentally fired inside the Education Office, Qaatba, Al-Dhali', by one of the new Education Director's bodyguards.

4- Official statistics indicate that 60% of Yemenis are illiterate.

Article Summary:

Words & Deeds

By Dr. Saif Sayel Khalid, YSP Politburo Member & Central Committee Secretary General

Participants at the Central Committee's 36th session, held in Sanaa during 8-12 September, reached the following conclusions:

- 1- The country is going through an all-encompassing crisis. Policies adopted by the government have failed to bring about any positive change.
- 2- To confront the challenges and dangers threatening Yemen, the YSP calls on all political parties and organizations to conduct a comprehensive national dialogue.
- 3- A political, social and popular bloc must be formed to institute a comprehensive and long-lasting national reconciliation.
- 4- The YSP stresses its adherence to the democratization process, and rejects all forms of violence.
- 5- Yemen's regional and international ties must be based on mutual cooperation and respect for territorial integrity.
- 6- The YSP must courageously adopt democracy within its own structures, and rely on constructive criticism as a means of reform.

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Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

September 21st, 1998

By: Jamal Al-Awadi

Asia's Football Qualifying Matches: Big Victory of Al-Wahda Eagles

The Wahda of Sanaa football team managed to defeat Al-Refa'a of Bahrain 3-0 in the match held last Friday in Al-Merisi stadium in Sanaa, as part of the Asian football qualifying matches for the Cup Winners Cup. As a result of this victory, Wahda of Sanaa go on to the quarter finals.

Many fans of various clubs attended the match to support Al-Wahda, and some of them cried with happiness when Al-Wahda player Ahmed Anqad scored the winning goal. The first half was dominated by Al-Wahda whose players presented a good performance.

The first half ended with a no-score draw. During the second half, Al-Wahda controlled the field and intensified attacks by three strikers: Fouad Anqad, Saeed Al-Kholeidi and Saeed Ali. Al-Wahda's first goal was scored by Saeed Ali through a penalty

kick, while the second goal was scored by Hani Abdullrahman at the 18th minute of the second half. Thereafter, Al-Refa'a players became desperate and presented bad performance.

The second half ended with Al-Wahda winning 2-0, the same result as the match held between Al-Wahda and Al-Refa'a in Bahrain two weeks ago. As a result of this outcome, the two teams were given two extra time periods. At the beginning of the first extra time, the Wahda striker Fouad Anqad managed to score the third goal. The match was attended by The Minister of Youth and Sports, the Minister of Education and some other government officials.

Yemen Times congratulates Al-Wahda for this victory which reflects the cooperation among Al-Wahda club, the players and the coach.

Football Coaches International Course Concluded

Last Thursday, the Football Coaches International Course, which was held at the Yemeni Olympic Center, finished at the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Sanaa. Twenty-seven coaches from different Yemeni clubs, military sports federations, and the University Sports Association participated in that course.

The Egyptian sports expert, Hisham Montasar, gave all the lectures at the course. He said: "Such courses will result in large numbers of young coaches. They must begin their activity nationally as a first step and, as a second step, participate in international sports events to gain experience. In addition, sports medicine must be developed and seriously applied because it

means taking care of our athletes.

In his speech, the Minister of Youth and Sport appreciated Mr. Montasar's efforts together with international organizations to support the sport sector in Yemen. The General Secretary of the Yemeni Olympic Committee (YOC) stressed that the graduate coaches must apply what they learned in the sport fields. "The Olympic Committee will support any efforts made for improving sports in Yemen," he said.

Ali Al-Ashwal, the head of the Yemeni Football Association (YFA), said "cooperating with the Ministry of Youth, the (YFA), and the (YOC), we will try to hold sports in a new stead. We will give the greatest attention to the junior athletes."

Kamal Awedh Accredited by Kukkiwon International Academy

The World Taekwondo

Federation sent Mr. Kamal Awedh Omar the certificate for completing the requirements of the training course for international lecturers. The course was held in Seoul, South Korea, during July 20-25. Mr Omar also received a card confirming that he is recognized by the Academy as an international lecturer. This is the second certificate to be



received by Mr. Kamal Awedh in this field. He has been recognized since April 1994 as an international lecturer and as an international referee since 1991. He has participated in running various championships, including the Asian Games Tournament held in 1994 in Japan and the World Championship held in 1995 in the Philippines.

Ahli of Sanaa Defeated by Talaba of Iraq

The Ahli of Sanaa football team was defeated by Talaba of Iraq 3-0 in the match held last Friday in

Baghdad, as part of the Asia championship qualifying matches for the Cup Winners Cup. It is worth mentioning that Ahli of Sanaa drew with Talaba of Iraq 0-0 in the match held in Sanaa last week.

Ali Al-Ashwal: "Why should I resign?"



The Yemeni juniors' football team finished the Asia Cup Championship with disappointing or, rather, shameful results. Many people thought that Ali Al-Ashwal, head of the Yemeni Football Association, should resign. To

answer many questions arising in the minds of Yemeni football fans, he decided to hold a press conference. Presented here are some of the questions he was asked during the conference:

Q: After the bad results that our team finished with at the Asia Juniors Football Championship are you going to resign?

A: I won't. I will stay in my position. Why should I resign since I am not the reason behind these results. Believe me, if my plans and program were supported financially from the beginning, our team would be in a much better situation.

Q: The football team was given much more facilities than other sport teams in the country, and you still complain at lack of support. How do you explain that?

A: Don't talk about facilities. In fact, we don't have any facilities worth mentioning. Let's take, for example, Mohammed Al-Da'aei, the Saudi Arabia goalkeeper. He is paid the equivalent of YR 19 million a year. In comparison to that, the whole Yemeni Football Association is given YR 15 million a year as support. What do you think of that? On the other hand, I admit that the technical staff has committed

many mistakes. The players themselves did not take the new game rules seriously and, as a result, they lost.

Q: How do you view the future of football in Yemen? Will the failure of our junior team teach any

lessons?

A: We will be given big support by the International Football Association, so we'll try to prepare our team better in the future. If we are not well supported, we won't be able to do that. You know that the government support and the matches revenue do not cover even half of our needs.

Lately, we did not participate in the Asia Tournament because we could not afford it, and the team was not in good shape to participate.

These were some of the questions Mr. Al-Ashwal answered. We, at the Yemen Times, do not take his answers to be enough to explain what happened. We believe that good participation is in itself a must. It is true that we don't have an international reputation as a good team, but we have to do something in order to, at least, achieve acceptable results. Otherwise, we will continuously be on the retreat.

Correction

The Japanese volunteer Ms. Ishida, mentioned in last week's Yemen Times, is the wife of the Japanese counsellor, not the Japanese Ambassador as was stated in the report.

Royal Jordanian Introduces the New Through Check-In Service for Passengers Travelling From Sana'a Via Amman



As of September 1st, 1998, Royal Jordanian introduced the through check-in service for transit passengers travelling from Sana'a, Yemen to other destinations via Amman.

Passengers can have the boarding passes for both flights to Amman and the final destination upon leaving Sana'a, without having to go through the transit office procedures at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman.

Royal Jordanian is the first airline that provides this service in Sana'a. The through check-in service is also offered in nine other destinations: Chicago, New York, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Cairo, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, and Jakarta. Royal Jordanian is also planning to introduce this service for Beirut passengers and the rest of its stations worldwide.

This service saves passengers' time and facilitates travel procedures.

For more information, please call:
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to Mr. Dirhem Abdu Noman, the Chairman of the Aden Free Zone

and to the friendly Yemeni people

on the 36th anniversary of 26 of September Revolution.

Many Happy Returns



SEPTEMBER 26

Aden's Historical Wall & Gates

The building of the Aden wall has accompanied the increasing importance of the city's commercial and political role. It was originally erected to regulate the flow of goods in and out of the city, on their way to and from its world famous port.

Chronicle of the Countries

As can be expected, the Aden wall served as part of the city's military defenses. A lot was written about this wall, but not many details were given. Old historians go as far back as the Islamic era. Abu Al-Fida in his *Taqweem Al-Buldan* (chronicle of the countries), dated the wall back to the time before the establishment of Bani Zorai' dynasty. He indicated that, land-wise, Aden was well fortified by a range of mountains, on top of which was a series of castles and watch towers. While the wall, Abu Al-Fida explained, blocked Aden's only passage - in between the mountains - to the seafront.

When the Sulayhids, led by

Mohammed Al-Solaihi, occupied Yemen in 1059 AD, Aden was governed by Bani Zurai', who declared their allegiance to the new rulers of Yemen. Most of the Aden fortifications were originally built by the Bani Zurai' rulers.

Al-Zanjably Adds Two More Walls

During the reign of Abu Othman Omar Al-Zanjably of the Ayyubid (1176) dynasty, Aden became a very important trade center. Al-Zanjably renovated Aden's wall and gates. Moreover, he added another wall running in parallel to the original one from Al-Khadra fortress to Al-Taakir fortress. A third wall was erected in parallel, extending to the Haqqat mountain.

As far as gates were concerned, Abu Othman ordered the making of six gates in the Aden wall: *Bab Al-Sibagha*, *Bab Howma*, *Bab Al-Saile* (was an escape route for flash floods), *Bab Al-Fardha* (now *Bab Adan*), *Bab Mushrif* or



Bab Al-Sahil, and *Bab Haif* or *Bab Al-Sirr* (used to be opened only for important matters relating to state security).

During the prosperous Rasulyd reign (1233-1455 AD), the Aden walls and fortresses were restored and renovated. Many schools and mosques were also built at that time.

One Land Passage

Bab Adan (Aden gate) was the most famous of the city's gateways, which is considered an architectural marvel. Cut into mountain rock, *Bab Adan* was described by historians as the most unique of its kind in the whole of Yemen. It was also called *Bab Al-Barr* (land gate) and *Bab Al-Aqaba*. It was the only land gateway for Aden, so the British called the "Main Passageway."

Much renovation work was done on *Bab Adan* throughout the ages and by

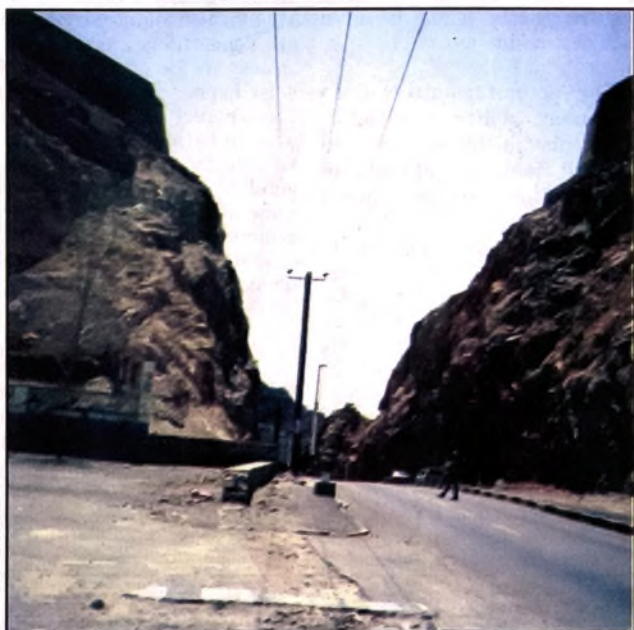
different rulers and reigning dynasties due to its great importance.

Changes by Colonialists

A lot of changes were added to the Aden gate during the British occupation. The actual gate was removed, and a new watch tower was built to replace a rundown one. Two cannons were placed on the Hadeed Mountain, overlooking the Ahwash road. The bridge over the narrow passage was renovated, and a serpentine road was cut into Al-Taakir mountain.

In the early Sixties, however, the British forces demolished the bridge altogether when they widened the road going through the Aden gate. A visitor to Aden today can see the remnants of the Aden walls and some of the fortresses on the peaks of the Hadeed, Al-Akhdar, and Haqqat mountains.

By Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times, Aden





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