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LEGAL DILEMMA

The Chief Justice of the Capital Secretariat South-West Court Judge Mohammed Mahdi Al-Raymi, on Sunday subpoenaed Chairman of the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) Alawi Al-Attas to respond to two lawsuits filed by a number of lawyers attempting to nullify local councils elections and the referendum on the constitutional amendments. A press statement issued Sunday says that lawyers Mohammed Naji Alaw, Abdulaziz As-Samawi, Dr Mohammed Al-Mikhlaifi, Ahmed Al-Wadie, Jamaluddin al-Adeemi, Jamal al-Ja'abi, Ismael al-Dailami and others have lodged the first lawsuit against the Supreme Elections Committee's (SEC) violation of article (11) of the Electoral Law. This article stipulates that the committee should revise and make changes to voters' registration tables within 30 days, once every two years and again two months ahead of the date of issuing a decision on calling general elections. The lawsuit refuted the ensuing results of the violation that deprived segments of the people of exercising the right to vote.

Continued on Page 14

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الجمعية الوطنية

COLE COURT HEARINGS TO BEGIN

Sources close to the Cole investigation told YT that the files of the suspects are almost complete and are to be presented to the prosecution before the start of the trial, which is expected to begin within days. The lawyers of the Cole suspects in Aden complain that they were not allowed to meet their clients who are accused of being involved in the bombing of the USS Cole. Sources also revealed that prosecutors in Aden conducting USS Cole sessions, refused to let US investigators question the suspects. However, Yemeni authorities said that the victims' relatives could be presented throughout the trial period through Yemeni lawyers who can deliver their inquiries to the Yemeni investigators questioning the suspects. Sources close to the Ministry of Interior expected the trial to kick off in the coming few days. The government is already holding six main suspects and a dozen others thought to be involved in the attack. Many of the suspects are believed to belong to international Islamic militant groups. Al-Harazi, one of the three suspects, has been identified as the person behind the attack overall, and reports that authorities are close to capturing him have arisen lately.

Tribal Clashes: 3 Killed

Three tribesmen were killed in a tribal revenge confrontation between Abu Qashah and Al-Usaimat tribes in Amran governorate. The clash that has been taking place for three days claimed the lives of Hamad Mohamed Saleh, 35, Hussein Ali Naji Qashah from Abu Qashah tribe and Abu Saeed Al-Usaimi from Al-Usaimat tribe. The Ministry of Interior sent around 2,000 soldiers to control the situation but failed to do so as things got out of hand due to continuous firing between the two tribes. Sources at the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) told Yemen Times that the clashes stopped the pre-election process in constituency no 226 as the tribe of Abu Qashah prevented the candidacy of anyone from both tribes, causing a halt in the pre-election procedures in the constituency composed of 8 electoral centers.

Police Arrest Gang of Kidnapping Girls

Four women were arrested in a house last week at the heart of Sana'a city and they were accused, along with a group of people, of abducting and hiding girls and forcing them to have illicit relationships. The whereabouts of the kidnappers was identified after a report filed by a father whose 13 year-old daughter was snatched and tortured by the same group. Sources revealed that the girl was found near Sana'a airport with scars on her body. Two suspect women were arrested in the same place and the police is still tracing the others. Sources at the Criminal Department stated that police arrested an Iraqi lady called Ursa Saleh Mahdi, 25, for carrying the HIV virus. She was deported from the UAE for the same reason and the Yemeni Embassy in the UAE informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Iraqi woman has AIDS. She was arrested in Sana'a and it was found that she is carrying the deadly disease. Some people who were in contact with her were also arrested and it was found that they were not infected. However, they are to be subject to medical examinations every three months for 2 years.

Great News from the Yemen German Hospital

The Yemen German Hospital announces the arrival of a Medical Delegation headed by **Dr. Dusan Maric** a postgraduate of the University of Heidelberg - Germany, who is a world renowned anesthesiologist (EU unit), with more than 80,000 successful procedures and a specialist in PAINLESS DELIVERY and PAIN THERAPY. Dr. Dusan has previously operated for 25 years in many European cities and universities, including Mainz, Giessen, and Munich in Germany, Paris, Bordeaux, and Strasbourg in France, Vienna in Austria, and Goteburg in Sweden. The German Medical Group will be offering clinics for pain therapy to the Yemeni public for cases of painless delivery and pain therapy starting from this week. The delegation also includes **Mr. Heiko Horlebeck** (from Gera in Germany), a physiotherapist, who will be operating in the hospital, and **Mr. Joerg Hornug** Head Nurse (Hamburg - Germany) along with German staff members specialized in neuro-surgery, ortho-surgery, internal medical therapy, and Gynecology and Obstetrics. The Yemen German Hospital welcomes all Yemeni patients interested in the medical service provided by the pain therapists' clinic to seize this opportunity and contact the hospital for reservations.

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See brief Interview with Dr. Dusan Maric on Page 2..

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Words of Wisdom

The problem with all our institutions is that the top person becomes larger than the institution, or even worse, he becomes the institution. We cannot tolerate this in a democracy, and especially not in the presumed citadel of democracy

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



Our Opinion

Local Elections and Constitutional Amendments: TOTAL CHAOS!

The exciting and informative discussion convention that we held in Yemen Times last week in coordination with the Future Studies Center and the Al-Bayan daily newspaper of the UAE, has revealed a lot of information to those in attendance and to me personally (see p15).

What I discovered was that the procedures that took place regarding the elections and the amendments were astonishingly confusing and I wouldn't be surprised if I was told that they are illegal. Here, I take the opportunity to reveal to you, our reader, the main objections and points of the debate that took place last week.

1) The constitutional amendments do have a link with the local elections. Despite the general belief that the two processes are not linked, the truth is that they are. One example is the election of the governor and the head of province. The current constitution (without amendments) openly states that elections are to take place for all posts regarding local authority. It doesn't state that the governor or heads of provinces are exceptions. It stated that it is a violation to do otherwise. However, the local elections only include elections of council members and not the governor or the heads of provinces. The amendments here come to change the article so as to say that governors and heads of provinces should be 'appointed' not elected, which has a direct implication on the local elections. In other words, if the amendments are not approved then how can the governors or head of province be appointed while the constitution says otherwise?

2) Opportunities are not given to all parties equally. The TV and radio channels are openly endorsing the constitutional amendments, and consider voting "YES" to be a must and a national duty. To put it in another way, whoever votes "NO" is going against the national interest. This is also the justification for tearing down the posters that urge the public to say "NO" to the amendments. In this case, why hold the referendum anyway? What is its use? Why does the government instruct the public to say "YES" while it claims to hold a democratic referendum?

3) Where are the buildings, structures, and financial budgets for the councils? Did anyone realize that the councils would require well-defined budgets, equipped buildings and offices? Or will all of these issues be sorted out after the elections? I just cannot imagine the situation of these members after the elections.

4) Tens of candidates in every electoral center, how will the poor illiterate voters know whom to vote for? Won't this result in a low turnout at the polls? Most of the population don't have a clue about the elections due to the poor awareness campaign and time shortage. If I, an educated Yemeni, can barely understand the process of electing council members in governorates and provinces, how will a poor illiterate villager deal with this mess?

5) There is a lawsuit raised against the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) for violations in preparing lists of candidates, etc. The lawsuit demands that the elections be cancelled as they are not well prepared, as well as that there are a tremendously high number of violations that affect the democratic voting process. The lawyers that filed the lawsuit also demand that all the preparatory procedures of the elections be withdrawn. Assuming for once that the judicial system was totally independent and based on the provided evidence ruled against the SEC, what will happen next? Where will the elected members go? How on earth will we deal with such a chaotic situation?

These were only a few questions I could not refrain from asking. It is my country as well as the PGC's and YSP's. It is our country and we need to make sure that things don't turn into a crisis. However, it is clear that these elections and the referendum are among the most controversial issues witnessed in the republic. All I could say is it will truly be a confusing and chaotic situation. I only pray that it will not lead to any sort of disorganization, catastrophe or political crisis. Amen.

Election-Related

Security May Increase

Heated debate and competition between candidates running for local elections on February 20th is accelerating at the moment. They kicked off their propaganda campaigns last Monday amid some problems and security breakdowns in different parts of Yemen. We shall here focus on the main incidents that took place last week.

A group of armed men broke into the office of the election committee in constituency No. 252 in Jehanah, Khowlan. They tore out all the election propaganda materials of candidates. They even threatened to take all the voting boxes. The attacking tribesmen demanded reconsidering the division of Khowlan and dividing it into three districts according to the orders of the President Ali Abdullah Saleh. They threatened to close down the electoral center in the area if their demands were not met.

In Al-Dal'e governorate, some explosions took place during the last few weeks. This has put the governor Saleh Al-Junaid in a fix and made him ask for more military supplies in order to provide more protective measures. He also asked for finance to cover their expenses. In Al-Shagherah area, Hajjah, a candidate murdered his father-in-law in a dispute over who will win the election. The candidate Ali shu'ee Maki, a member of the National Front Party was agitated by Shu'ee Ali Amar, PGC member, who betted that Maki would lose the election as he belongs to a small party which is like a puppet in the hands of the PGC.

In Marib, two were killed and three injured last Wednesday in an ambush by tribesmen owing to tribal revenge between Al-Fukara and Azwamilah tribes. The car of the Al-Fukara tribesmen was considerably damaged too. The tribesmen used different kinds of weapons in the clashes.

Sources at the Supreme Election Committee

(SEC) told Yemen Times this clash might stop voting in the area if the government did not stop the confrontation. Not only this, it is reported that no candidates will run for election in around six electoral centers, as tribesmen in these centers and others decided to boycott the election owing to some tribal retaliation problems. This made the SEC extend the period of accepting applications from candidates in an attempt to avoid the disruption of the election in some centers in Sadah, Al-Jawf, Amran, Al-Baidah, Al-Mahrah, Sanaa, Ibb, and Shabwah.

On Friday, a group of armed tribesmen belonging to Al-Jurmuzi clan in the governorate of Sanaa, constituency No. 256 intimidated the election committee in the area. As a result, security men with heavy weapons were sent to the area to free the marooned people but the tribesmen exchanged fire with them and the number of victims is still unknown. The tribesmen demanded the acceptance of

their nominated candidate who was rejected by the SEC as he is illiterate. But, the tribesmen could not understand this and clung to their demand.

Last Saturday, demonstrations were staged in Malah in Lahj in protest against their MP, Ahmad Al-Hanshi, a PGC member, as he pressurized candidates- also PGC members - in the area to withdraw. He wanted them to be replaced with candidates from his tribe. They, moreover, fired against each other. Political observers think this will affect the unity of PGC in Lahj and reduce its share of winning candidates.

Amid such chaos and security lapses, the political parties are launching media barrages against each other making the competition soar high. It is feared that more security problems and incidents between voters having different political and tribal affiliations will emerge in the coming few days, prior to voting.

Yemeni & German Women Exchange Experiences

In cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the Women's Research & Training Forum organized a meeting for Yemeni and German women to exchange their different experiences last Saturday in Taiz.

Ms. Suad Al-Qadasi was chairperson of the forum aimed at improving Yemeni women's competence in the field of human rights and other issues.

Representing the Stiftung organization, Ms. Catrin Fuchs highlighted the development of the

German women and their participation in social as well as political life and how Yemeni women could benefit from their experiences.

A number of working papers were also presented by Ms. Misk Al-Junaid, Ms. Fikra Mahmoud, Advocate Ishraq Al-Maqtary, Ms. Shafiqah Al-Qadasi, Ms. Ulfat Al-Dobae and Dr. Abdullah Al-Dheifani who discussed human rights in Islam, women and the judiciary and other issues related to women.

The meeting was attended by a number of women who work in the human rights field, university professors and journalists.

Authors Union Elects 4 Women

Four women were recently elected as members of the administrative committee of the Yemeni Authors Union. These were Dr. Amat Al-Khaleq, chairwoman of the Union office in Dhamar, Ms. Huda Al-Attas in Aden, Ms. Bushra Al-Maqtary in Taiz and Ms. Nadia Marai in Sana'a. The elections proceeded the Union's General Conference.

Polish Scientists in Yemen

A group of four Polish scientists is visiting Yemen from the 1st to 12th of this month. Professors from Warsaw University came within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between Universities in Sana'a and in Warsaw, signed in 1988.

The Cooperation Agreement between the two Universities stipulates establishing mutual collaboration, exchange of staff and students, granting undergraduate and graduate scholarships, exchange of publications, organizing scientific research seminars, conferences etc. Based on the above-mentioned agreement, four Polish scientists (a geographer, an anthropologist, an economist and a historian) have prepared a very interesting research project called "Transformation of Rural Space Under Modernization Processes- A Case of Yemen". Together with their colleagues from Sana'a University they spent nearly one week in Saada province, analyzing the structure of land cultivation, ways and means of agriculture production, agrarian and settlement structures.

Yemen, France Sign Aid Protocol

Planning and Development minister Ahmed Soufan and the French ambassador to Yemen signed in Sana'a on February 5, a protocol on the mechanism of spending funds of the French food aid offered to Yemen. The amount of this year's assistance is estimated at YR 140 million allocated for financing a number of agricultural development projects.

The majority of the projects agreed upon by both the Yemeni ministry of planning and development and the French embassy are related to the irrigation sector. They are specified for building dams and reservoirs for the purpose of irrigating planted areas. Part of the aid fund is allotted for supporting production of Yemeni coffee.

Every year since 1983 France has been offering food assistance to Yemen consisting of fine wheat flour. Since 1992 40,000 tons of flour has been offered and 2500 tons of this amount has been distributed free of charge in Socotra island.

Basurrah Meets French Cooperation Attaché

Dr. Saleh Ali Basurrah, Chairman of Aden University, met with the French Cooperation Attaché yesterday at the university meeting Diwan. During the meeting means of enhancing scientific and educational cooperation between Aden university and French Universities was discussed. The meeting was attended by Dr. Abdulrahman Sabri, who is Head of the international relations department at the university.

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Dr. Dusan of Yemen German Hospital to YT:

"I can confidently say that using these therapies, there will be no pain anymore"

Q: What is your main point of attraction in Sanaa City?

A: I admire the history, the architecture and the free flying eagles over the city. This is not something we witness a lot in Germany.

Q: Is there anything you do not like in Sanaa?

A: I only criticize the disorganized driving of Yemenis and the pedestrians that cause confusion to traffic some times.

Q: What do you have to say about pain therapy?

A: First of all, it is important to prevent disease through education, a hygienic life, careful urbanization and sports. In the case of disease, it is the duty of every physician to work on relieving the pain of the patients. My job is to block pain before, during, and after operations, and to also treat acute and chronic pain and provide painless delivery.

Q: What is the process involved in chronic pain therapy?

A: 40% medical therapy, 30% pain blockage (original anasthesia), 15% physiotherapy, 10% hygienic life, 10% surgical therapy. I can confi-



dently say that using these therapies, there will be no pain anymore.

Q: What are the timings of your services at the hospital?

A: Because this is the first such medical serv-

ice in this field in Yemen, I will be able to work in universities as well as in the hospital. I need four hours daily for sleep, and the rest of my time will be dedicated to the Yemeni people.

Q: Who are the best staff members in the Yemen German Hospital?

A: Dr. Yahya Al-Thawr, General Manager, and Chief of the neuro-surgical department (20 years experience of German skills) because he has a double job as a manager and as the chief of the neuro-surgical department. He is a man with great capacity.

Finally, Dr. Dusan stated that the Yemen German Hospital Staff will be able to answer any medical questions from the public in similar interviews to be published in Yemen Times in the future.

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Mr. Brigadier general Ali al-Shamiri to YT:

“Statistics reveal that there was a marked decrease in crimes reported in year 2000 as compared to those of the year 1999.”

It is commonly believed that there is a crisis of trust between the people on the one hand and the security forces on the other. This crisis is getting more complicated as time passes. In reality it can be attributed to many things including the social, political, and economic situation in Yemen. This crisis has been aggravated in the past few years and is now pervasive in all Yemen. The remarkable increase in security lapses in terms of bombing, explosions, killing, kidnapping, thefts, etc. have raised the specter of citizens looking for ways to ensure their safety. The proliferation and carrying of weapons was a direct result of the current security situation. Observers take the view that the country is moving towards a hazardous situation if things are not turned around before it is too late.

Should the government not address the situation properly through improving the security apparatus, improving the living conditions of its employees, it is certain that things will worsen. The people hear a lot about well-drawn security plans to tackle the situation. However, this completely clashes with the reality. It has become of heightened importance to improve and develop security plans. Transparency and credibility have also become a pre-requisite within the security apparatus to rectify the problem.

YT met with Brigadier general Ali Mansoor al-Shamiri, public relations chairman and first guiding and information officer in the Interior Ministry. Mr. Ali was born in 1955, Makbanah, Shamir, Taiz governorate. He graduated from the Police Faculty in 1977 and finished his higher studies in 1992. Mr. al-Shamiri is also the chief editor of al-Hurass, mouth-piece of the Interior Ministry. A YT reporter discussed with him many issues of major public concern.

Q: What are the reasons behind the security lapses? How can the situation be rectified? What plans does the Ministry have to correct the situation?

A: I do not agree with the idea that there is a wide-scale security lapse in the country. If that was the case, it would mean that people would leave the country and wouldn't stay here. The fact is that people's worries and fears increase, with partisan and national media exaggerations blowing things up out of all proportions. Obviously it is difficult to stop these

newspapers from doing so. Nobody can claim that crime does not exist. It's a social phenomenon to be found in all countries and in all societies. It's not only restricted to our community. In fact, we can safely say that the crime rate in our community is the lowest in all the world.

There are indirect reasons for the epidemic of crime in our society. Changes taking place in the social structure of the community due to economic changes that happened during the 1990s have something to do with the increase of crime as they led to manifold negative economic and social phenomena among some sections of the society.

The realization of classes in society and the fading away of the middle class has also given rise to this phenomenon which may grow and become bigger. The proliferation of weapons among Yemenis is another reason behind the increase in crime.

Q: What restrains the Ministry of Interior from taking serious and strict measures to ban the proliferation of arms at least in the main cities?

A: The Ministry has applied theoretical and practical plans to ban the carrying of arms in the main cities. To some extent they were successful. Besides, this is not a one-sided issue that can be controlled by the Ministry alone. This needs the cooperation and understanding of all. Private guards are a part of this phenomenon and give the impression that arms are frequently carried inside main cities.

Q: What are the statistics of crimes reported for the year 2000 in comparison with those for the year 1999?

A: Statistics reveal that there was a marked decrease in crimes reported in year 2000 as compared to those of the year 1999. The total number of crimes reported in 2000 was 10264 while in 1999 it was 11316. In the capital secretariat alone there were 3263 crimes at a rate of 31.79%. The number of accidents reported was 6771 and there were 45858 traffic violations. In 1999 the number of crimes, accidents and breaches of traffic laws reached 48655.

Q: How do you view the rampant corruption in police stations and the ever-increasing incidence of bribes?

A: Corruption is rampant and is attributed to the poor living conditions of security men. The Interior Ministry

can not deal with this alone. Rather this should be dealt with by a comprehensive plan put forward by the government.

If any person is mistreated by any security officer in any police station, he has the right to have him tried by submitting a letter of complaint to the Monitoring and Inspection Department in the Interior Ministry, or by filing a case against him in the courts. Violations exist and no one can deny them. However, the violators are punished for their crimes. National newspapers bear testimony to the fact that this actually happens.

Q: How do you explain the ineffectiveness of the Ministry's media operations in raising people's awareness of laws and regulations?

A: Let me in the first place note that the people actually reading newspapers and listening to the radio in our society are a tiny minority. Citizens are not aware of many of their rights and duties and this ignorance is the reason behind many problems. It is not easy to overcome this situation in the short term. We are counting a lot on the educated next generation to lead the move for change in this country.

The Ministry is doing its best through its available media organs to promote and develop the security and cultural awareness of its employees. This has actually borne fruit and the man in the street certainly feels the difference between today and yesterday. We do keep following things up and check public opinion on security matters and on many other issues. We also launch awareness promotion programs in many official newspapers and in ministerial institutions. Positive and negative features that we came across are all reported to the departments concerned in the Ministry so as to prevent their occurrence.

Q: How can trust between the people on the one hand and security men and security apparatus on the other hand be regained?

A: This crisis of trust is an issue that can never be generalized. This is very much associated with people's background. The more their awareness is developed, the more they become aware of their rights and duties. This will also take a lot of time. However, I am quite optimistic about the future.

Q: How do you explain the inefficiency of the fire brigade?

A: The fire brigade should be an independent institution not affiliated to the Ministry of Interior. I believe that this body should be reconstituted so as to work more effectively. Its resources now are very limited and thus, the fire brigade's role at the moment is restricted to extinguishing fires. The problem facing the fire brigade in the capital, for instance, is that streets are not numbered and there are not specific names known to all people. If such things were available then we could prepare a map of the capital through which we would be able to pinpoint the location of any fire. This does not mean that there are not positive things in this body. However, as is always the case, negative phenomena are more dominant in people's minds.

Q: What is the role of patrols and night check points?

A: Patrols have a role of prime importance, if they carry out their duties according to the law. Their job is to respond to any call for help or to check any report of problems or violations.

Check points at nights are also important to ensure citizen's security. There is nothing better than to feel that there are other people who are taking care of your security. Besides, these check points are to limit the carrying of weapons and to arrest outlaws.

Q: It is widely reported that putting off judiciary verdicts for too long



has led to an increase in the crime level. How do you perceive that?

A: Putting off judiciary verdicts leads some people to disrespect the courts. Consequently, they are sometimes not restrained from doing wrong as they feel that punishment is very unlikely. However, this matter is not the concern of the security forces alone but also that of the judicial system.

Q: What is the future of recruiting women to the security forces?

A: I am quite optimistic. I pin high hopes on the government supporting this project with more facilities such as accommodation, proper environment and other guarantees, so as to avoid any setbacks.

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Continued from Last page:

ACROSS THE LINES

Exhibition by George Gittoes

It may be worthwhile to mention that an artists' main job is to capture beauty. This is true, but some go beyond this, making their works records of history. George Gittoes is one of those contemporary artists who travel to places that devils dare not tread and encounter tragedies of life in all credible and incredible forms. With a pencil and a brush, you are not only given a photo but a full story that makes viewers see a complete, live picture of brave struggle and strife.

Having heard about Yemen as the first Arab country to sign a treaty banning anti-personnel land mines, and being invited by the Minister of Cabinet Affairs when they met once in Geneva, he thought it would be wonderful to come to Yemen, a country about whose ancient culture he had read a lot. At the time of invitation "I was holding an exhibition to support the banning of land-mines. So I thought it would be wonderful to come to Yemen and show my support," said George.

"All my life I have studied Islamic culture. I have been fascinated by Yemen and its long-written history and architecture. I have always wanted to come to this oldest part of Islam," he added.

George said that he came to Yemen in order to gather stories about land-mine victims to include them in the International Touring Exhibition which was set up to gain support for de mining.

George's last works have been devoted to humanity and tell the stories of

land-mine victims. "In many ways I see my art as being an advocate to the case of the voiceless victims of land-mines," he said.

Whenever George collects a story he tries to give it the kind of a spiritual twist which you get in Islamic literature. Although a non-Moslem, George has read the Holy Quran and loves Islamic culture. This motivates him to act as a bridge between the Islamic world and the rest of the world. "I feel that there is a terrible misunderstanding at the moment between Muslims and the world. There are many countries, specially America, which don't understand the intellectual history, spirituality and culture of the Islamic world," he said.

A huge body of his works aims at creating a bridge between Islam and the rest of the world. Most of the pieces earmarked for his current exhibition in Sana'a were examples of the artist's travels throughout the Islamic world.

Like brave journalists crossing the lines, George has witnessed the bloodiest conflicts of our time: Vietnam, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, the Western Sahara, Palestine, South Lebanon, South Africa, Bosnia, etc.

However, he emphasizes that artists are absolutely different from journalists. He said: "As an artist you have to sit down with people to know them. The closer you become to them, the more you become involved. What you can produce in a drawing or a painting is more than

what a camera can do. You are often expressing something quite abstract and spiritual which you can never do with a camera.

To draw someone takes a long time and you create a bond between you and him/her. But a photographer can go and take photos and never get to know them or even their names. And in minutes they are out of the scene and away from it, they do not even come close to it. But as an artist you get very close to them. You stay with the person long enough to know their story.

You can not walk away from him and say good-bye, I will never see you again. They also see what you do, but with a photographer they never know. So this exhibition is showing how there is still an edge for the artist to work with humanity."

"One of the problems, particularly in reports on Islam in the west, is that photographs can be interpreted in a way different than the truth. I under-



Mirrow & Awliya, Somalia 1994



To Young to Understand Yet, Pakistan 1999

stand that a lot of people become suspicious of journalists because they know that photographs can be changed. But when you are doing the drawing, I can sit down and see what you have done. I know what you do. I can say that you are misrepresenting me but I can't see what is in a camera," he added.

Another interesting thing about the artist is that what he publishes motivates him to go back to the same sources. He has got the courage to go back and sit down with the people he draws and hear them requesting more copies. "We love it. We want to give it to our relatives," they say. They love to read the stories because



Eye Witness, Kibeho Camp, Rwanda, April 1995

they know they are telling the truth. "I am happy to go back to Hebron, Capol, Herat, etc., and take the stories back, whereas a lot of journalists who distort the truth will never be a welcome back. It is a different process," said George.

From Yemen, George is heading for South Africa, a place he recognizes well for he covered many terrible events there. "Whenever a country passes through trouble, years later, they feel glad that I did what I did because it documents the struggle that they don't want forgotten," he concluded.

As a painter, filmmaker, printmaker, photographer and performance artist, George Gittoes has produced work in a wide range of styles and contexts but he has always remained true to his vision. Gittoes is an artist who has refused to follow fashion and yet has found considerable popular acclaim. Like all artists

who push hard at the boundaries, he has had mixed critical success, at times in the headlines and at others working in the background. Tough, pugnacious and idealistic, he is an

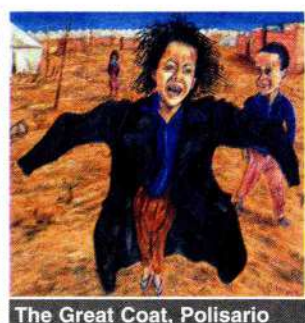
articulate and enthusiastic promoter of his ideas; never hampered by a lack of ambition, he has been able to gain support and patronage, often from areas quite removed from the artistic mainstream. He has been awarded the Blake Prize for Religious Art on two occasions and has won the Art Gallery of New South Wales' prestigious Wynne Prize for landscape. In 1996, he was made a member of the Order

of Australia for his contribution to Australian art and international relations.

Report: Hisham Al-Qubati, Yemen Times



Commenting on 'The Yellow Room'



The Great Coat, Polisario Refugee Camp, Algeria 1994



105 year-old woman, Southern Lebanon, March 1994

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Yemen's Press Freedom in Jeopardy



Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi
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The question of human rights has become one of the world's most pressing issues, of concern to everybody wherever they are. There are several international NGOs working in this field, reporting the pros and cons and ups and downs of the human rights records of various countries and of course, their role in spotlighting human rights abuses and violations is of great importance. They work like watchdogs and exercise pressure on government so as to stop such violations. In other words, the question of human rights has become a global issue that matters to everybody and governments need understand this clearly.

In Yemen, the file of human rights is not free from abuses and violations

Reporters Sans Frontiers' 2000 Report on Yemen

Faced with serious tensions such as the kidnapping of tourists by clans and attacks by Islamist groups, the government reacts by pressurizing journalists not to mention such subjects. The methods used include tapped telephones, constant surveillance, intercepted mail, attacks by unknown assailants, insults and threats. The trials of kidnappers and presumed Islamist terrorists are held under strict police surveillance. Seven cases against journalists from the independent press have been brought this year, which amounts to effective legal harassment aimed at forcing journalists to practice self-censorship. The state retains its monopoly on all radio stations and television channels.

Journalists jailed

On 2 March Abdel-Latif Kutubi

that have been observed by several international human rights NGOs. The following year 2000 human rights report from Reporters Sans Frontiers highlights some of the abuses and harassments-both legal and illegal- that press people in Yemen are going through.

It seems that the problems faced by the press in Yemen will go on for good as independent and opposition journalists are harassed ruthlessly, looked down upon and considered enemies of and agents against the "national interests of their country". They are to be badmouthed and grouped together under various bad descriptions.

At the moment there are some newspapers being harassed and put on trial. These trials have really become a pain in the neck for editors and journalists, haunting them with the ghost and curse of self-censorship. The Al-Shumu Weekly has been recently suspended for a month and its editor fined. He is now striving to rally journalists and human rights activists to

support him in overturning the verdict. He has even decided to go on hunger strike if the court does not reconsider the verdict.

The editors of Al-Umah Weekly, mouthpiece of Al-Haq Party, Al-Hikmah cultural magazine and Al-Sahwah Weekly, mouthpiece of the Islah Party, are being tried on charges related to articles and reports published in their newspapers. Al-Ayyam's trial will be resumed soon after delays because of the editor's health condition.

In fact, press freedom in Yemen is in jeopardy but our government officials never stop praising the "great achievements of our democracy". They should understand that freedom of expression and the press are the main pillars of a true democracy. Democracy means having the right to be well informed and to express one's views freely without censorship. That is to say, democracy in such a situation is mere talk that exists only in the air. In short, democracy means practice on the ground, doesn't it?

Omar, editor-in-chief of the weekly *Al-Haq*, mouthpiece of the Opposition Children of Yemen League, was arrested for publishing an article on military cooperation between Yemen and the United States under the agreement signed in 1998 between the two countries. Abdel-Latif Kutubi Omar, also deputy secretary of the party, was released after four day's questioning. The weekly was suspended for one month on 7 October and the journalist sentenced to a fine of 40,000 rials (300 euros).

Hisham Basharaheel, Editor-in-Chief of the independent daily *Al-Ayyam*, received a suspended six-month jail sentence and Haitham Ali Al-Ghareeb, author of an offending article, a suspended ten-month sentence. They were accused of publishing an article "affecting national unity", in which the system of local authorities was criticized. H. Al-Ghareeb had

Journalists arrested

Kaid Saif Noman, editor-in-chief of the weekly *Al-Shoura*, published by the opposition Union of Popular Forces, was arrested on 23 February and released the next day without any explanation. The information minister ordered the suspension of the weekly under the pretext that another newspaper with the same title had appeared, thus contravening the press law. According to the editorial staff, the incident was staged by the authorities to enable them to ban the newspaper. After a first trial opened in May, the appeal court definitively suspended the weekly on 16 September.

Jamal Amer, a journalist with the opposition weekly *Al-Wahdawi*, was arrested on 12 August for writing a story about the ruling family in Riyadh which was considered "harmful" to relations with Saudi Arabia. The journalist was released two days later. His trial, in which the editor-in-chief of the weekly, Abdul Aziz al-Mansub, was also charged, opened on 28 October. Following a complaint by the Information Ministry, the prosecutor accused them of a "breach of journalistic ethics by publishing false information and undermining the interests of Yemen". Yemen and Saudi Arabia have in fact signed an agreement prohibiting their respective media from "offending a neighboring country". On 1 January 2001 the case was still under way.

Journalists attacked

Saif Al-Hadheri, editor-in-chief of the independent weekly *Al-Shumu'a*, was severely beaten up at his home on 10 May by four masked men. He had to be taken to hospital. Saif Al-Hadheri is known for his criticism of certain members of the government.

Pressure and obstruction

The 27 February issue of the Arabic-language daily *As-Sharq Al-Awsat* published in London, containing several articles on the secret sale of weapons by Russia to Yemen, was banned throughout the country. In early March the information ministry definitively banned importation of the newspaper. In May it was back on sale.

The trial of the English-language weekly *The Yemen Times*, accused of "publishing false information" in an article criticizing public finances, opened on 1 June. After the death of editor-in-chief Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf in a road accident on 2 June, the charges against the newspaper were withdrawn.

Elections & Corrupting The Electorates



Imad Al-Saqqaf
Taiz Bureau Chief
Yemen Times

Only one week remains before Yemenis go to the polls to choose members of the much-debated local councils. Yemenis have already experienced two parliamentary elections in 1993 and 1997 and the presidential elections in 1999, in which the PGC triumphed over all its political rivals. Many people felt doubtful about the seriousness and honesty of these elections, attributing the success of the PGC to the electorates' lack of awareness which in turn made them easy to corrupt.

The result of this lack of awareness is clearly seen in the present parliament. Most MPs can only read and write while only a few hold university degrees. For this reason, most legislations outlined have failed and hence, there is no need to extend the parliamentary period to 6 years instead of 4.

The government claims that this is a way to make cut-backs in its expenditure but in fact, it is a means to play

havoc with the democratic rights people enjoy, while the present parliament is unable to cope with new changes or produce legislations which agree with people's situations. More than 50% of Yemenis are illiterate, and these people hardly know their rights. When elections come they vote to please a well-known social or tribal figure disregarding their qualifications. Many qualified MPs failed in the 1997 elections and in return, Sheikhs, traders, etc. were elected.

Lack of awareness will also undermine the seriousness of local council elections and signs of this have already appeared. The PGC has started launching campaigns and seminars for its candidates most of which are held at the government universities.

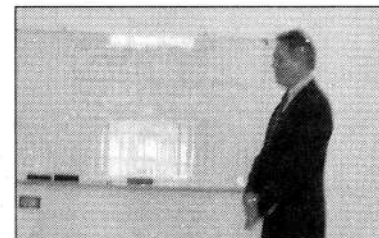
It is a pity that public property, government universities and the official media are used to spread the thoughts of the ruling party and its followers, while other candidates have no more than a few black and white posters. For free and credible elections, neutrality of public property, governmental institutions and the media must be achieved.

Fulbright Alumni Association Holds a Lecture on Democracy in the USA

Dr. Chris Eccal, Cultural Attache of the US Embassy, gave a lecture last Monday, February 6th, at the AMIDEAST office in Sanaa on the presidential elections in the USA.

The lecture was organized by the Fulbright Alumni Association (FAA) to focus on the democratic electoral procedures used to elect the president of the United States.

Dr. Eccal explained how the electoral process in the USA takes place regarding the electoral college and popular votes. "Is the presidential election process in the USA democratic?" was a question raised during the lecture in regards to the fact that many Americans, as well as foreign-



ers, believe that the electoral college vote is not democratic.

The lecture also focused on the USA's experience in administrative issues including constitutional amendments, which coincides with our constitutional amendments on which a referendum will be held in one week's time.

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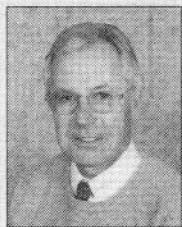
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Saving, Investment and Economic Growth - PART 3/3

By: Dr. Alexander Bohrisch



Dr. Alexander Bohrisch is currently with GTZ (German Technical Cooperation), Sana'a Office until June 2001. Before, he has been a senior staff member of the United Nations Conference on Trade

and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva, Switzerland. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of GTZ.

Composition of Key Assets of Commercial Banks in 1999 (in millions of YR)

Reserves with Central Bank:	41.471
Assets at banks abroad:	66.726
Loans to Government:	39.972
Loans to private sector:	51.816

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

This low share takes on an even more critical importance when the distribution of loans across sectors and the duration and type of loans is taken into account. In 1999, almost 42% of loans to the private sector were used for import/export and domestic trade financing, which were largely short term loans and advances. Some 20% of loans went to industry, construction and agriculture, about half of which was in the form of short term loans and advances. A mere 12% were medium and long term credits for financing investment projects in industry, construction and agriculture. In addition, only a few larger firms benefit from bank financing while the large number of smaller companies have only limited access to bank credits. In this connection it has to be noted that investments in raw material exploration projects are almost entirely financed through foreign direct investment and not by national savings.

Loans and Advances of Commercial Banks to Private Sector in 1999 (in millions of YR)

Total:	51.816
Short term loans and advances:	33.647
Medium and long term loans:	4.725
Investments (Islamic Banks):	13.444

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

The above findings have important implications for the development prospects of the country in general and for the growth of the small and medium sized industry in particular (including the success of technical assistance projects in the widest sense provided directly or indirectly to this sector of the economy). The availability of credits at competitive terms is one crucial factor for the development of industry given its low capital basis. To the extent that credits for private investments are only available in a very limited way, the development of industry will be negatively affected which is confirmed by the modest growth rate of the manufacturing

industry during the last years.

Regarding the structure of deposits the high share of foreign currency deposits in M2 (dollarization ratio) has to be noted. It shows that many Yemeni savers still have little trust in their own currency.

Key Deposits of Commercial Banks in 1999 (in millions of YR)

Total:	160.166
Time deposits:	30.427
Saving deposits:	25.681
Earmarked deposits:	4.185
Foreign currency deposits:	99.873

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

In 1997, real interest rates on YR deposit accounts turned positive for the first time in years. During the years when real interest rates on YR deposit accounts were positive, they were, for most periods, also higher than real interest rates on foreign currency deposit accounts. In spite of this, many Yemenis saved in foreign currency deposit accounts, obviously because of the lingering risk of a higher than expected depreciation of the YR vis-à-vis the US\$ than covered by the interest rate differential between domestic currency and foreign currency deposits.

Depreciation of YR vis-à-vis the US\$ (%) and Real Interest Rates on YR Saving Deposit Account (%)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
1995:	50.0	25.9	-37.2
1996:	5.9	0.0	-7.2
1997:	0.0	2.8	3.9
1998:	5.1	8.6	3.1
1999:	14.6	12.3	7.8

- (1) depreciation based on yearly average exchange rate
- (2) depreciation based on end of month (December) exchange rate
- (3) real interest rate end of year (nominal interest rate minus inflation) on YR saving deposit account

Source: Central Bank of Yemen and own calculation

The dollarization ratio in Yemen has been 29.4 % in 1999 as compared to 22.4 % in 1995. Although it has been increasing over the last 5 years, the pace of dollarization seems to have weakened in 1999. Dollarization occurs at times of high and volatile

inflation and when there is a risk of a depreciation of the currency. Experience shows that success in containing inflation and/or in stabilizing the exchange rate is not rapidly rewarded by a full shift from foreign currency into local currency assets.

Dollarization has the positive result that citizens dispose of a reliable store of value and that it may halt the outflow of capital. Also, agents tend to hold deposits in the banking system and financial deepening is strengthened. On the other hand, strong dollarization may expose a country to the risk in financial and foreign exchange markets and may hinder monetary policies if the foreign currency component of the money supply cannot be controlled by the monetary authority.

Inflation (%) and Nominal Interest Rates (%)

	Inflation*	Interest rate**	Interest rate***
1995	57.2	20.00	20.00
1996	27.2	20.00	23.58
1997	7.1	11.00	15.28
1998	11.9	15.00	11.05
1999	10.2	18.00	17.67

* end of December

** end of year on Yemeni rial saving deposit account

*** yearly weighted average on Yemeni rial saving deposit account

Source: Central Bank of Yemen and own calculation

The World Bank and the IMF have stressed i.a. the urgent need for improving financial intermediation. In recent years, Yemen has been successful in improving its macroeconomic policies by containing inflation, reducing the budget deficit and striving to stabilize the exchange rate; but in order to fully reap the fruits of these efforts, it is of basic importance that the banking sector plays its proper role in the matching mechanism between saving and investment and that the judiciary system provides adequate security for banks in the provision of credit to the private sector. By and large, it is less foreign grants but principally private investment - whether domestic or foreign - which is the engine for diversifying exports away from oil and thus helping to stimulate economic growth, reduce unemployment and put development on a broader basis. (End)

Capital Pirates PART I

Dr. Najat Mohamed Juma'an



Who are the capital pirates? What are their goals? How did they emerge? What is their effect on Yemen's national economy? These are the questions that I will try to answer in this article concerning one of the most significant challenges to investment, capital pirates.

First of all, there are two kinds of capital. The first is the capital of Yemeni expatriates in exile. The second is capital sent from Yemen to other countries overseas, while its owner stays in Yemen and exerts a lot of effort to build up wealth and assets but sends most of it - if not all of it - abroad and starts investing it out of the country. Unfortunately, neither kind of capital is being used to invest locally in Yemen.

Asset pirates emerged recently as a number of influential multi-millionaire individuals, representing international banks that have offices all over the world and in our region especially in Dubai and the Gulf countries. These pirates look after the capital of businessmen in developing countries and encourage them to invest their assets in their gigantic banks. These banks have many different ways of investing this capital and one of these ways is the traditional investment technique of putting these assets into already successfully run investments in other countries, which provide an attractive return of profit for the banks.

These pirates flex their muscles by showing their huge shares of stocks in worldwide markets. These stocks are mainly created by depositing in foreign countries (deposits under demand), buying shares for international companies, and investing in financial reserves constructed by these banks to ensure a certain level of profit and with a reasonable risk. These capital pirates or banks have reached a tremendously high level of creativity despite the fact that they started as normal traditional banks. A good example of the intelligence of these pirates is their approach to conservative Islamic investors. They used Islamic investment methods accepted by our traditional Islamic society to attract the capital of businessmen in Islamic countries to invest in these supposedly Islamic investments.

This unique and distinguished method of financial administration enabled these pirates to collect assets and send them to other countries, which in turn serve as a fertile environment for the growth and prosperity of these national assets. At the same time, this costs the national economy part of its capital, which could have been used locally in national investments with reasonable benefit for the economy in terms of providing job opportunities etc., and could also have provided considerable financial profit.

Coming to the bright side, there were shiny examples of national projects that were built using national capital that pirates failed to attract and take out of the country. Many Yemeni companies grew and developed in recent decades on Yemeni soil, challenging the various attractions of these pirates. But when we look at the picture from a different angle, we realize that the companies that resisted the attractions of the pirates and decided to use their capital in local projects got more revenues and profit than those that decided to use their capital in the international banks. In fact, it is no surprise that in the early years of their operations, these pirates actually gained a great deal of profit from their investments or partnerships with successful companies operating in developing countries.

In page 51 of the book by Ramzi Zaki, "Despotic Liberalism" published in 1993, it is mentioned that many international companies started investing in developing countries and gained profits that were 150% more than what they used to get in developed countries. According to the book, many international companies gain an incredible profit of almost 40% of total capital per year.

However, just as these pirates started investing in developed countries, they caused severe damage to developing countries. The undeniable fact that more investments exist in developed countries is truly a disadvantage for developing countries, and that the pirates we are talking about use most of their shares and stocks operating in developing countries. This means that if Yemeni businessmen decide to send their capital to these pirates, they are certainly depriving their country from revenues that could have been gained if the capital had been used in national investments.

In other words, when investors of developing countries invest in developed countries they actually benefit these rich countries in terms of providing working opportunities, cash flow, reducing inflation, and increasing productivity level. Obviously this leads on the other hand to the increase in inflation, unemployment, and reduction of cash flow in developing countries, which is in fact the source of the capital in the first place.

Next Week in Part II: Identifying and solving the problem

Handicraft Development Enhances Poor Families' Income and Decreases Unemployment Rate

Mahyoub Al-Kamali

In pursuit of job opportunities to provide good incomes for their poor families so as to mitigate their difficult living conditions, and bearing in mind the migration of labor from the countryside to the big cities, those who are skilled in handicraft production find it a secure way to earn a living.

In response to a report published by Yemen Times on popular crafts and the importance of the development and preservation of these inherited skills, a young man, Ali Mohamed Al-Razihi, inside the folk-market at Bab Al Yeman said: "manual industries

help us to face unemployment, and daily wages support the maintenance of our families in a country where job opportunities are nil and illiteracy dominates. Handicraft skills help us to search for free or private occupations," he added: "Handicrafts represent a source of income for thousands of families who depend on the income they get from selling their own products, a fact that justifies Yemenis as active, hard working people."

Those interested in Yemen's economic affairs estimate that handicraft industries absorb 19% of the capable work force. Those observers also estimate that the industry is highly concentrated in the Old market of Sana'a

and the rural area of Sana'a governorate, which accounts for a total share of 40% of the industry, while Taiz Old market and the surrounding rural areas of the city account for 10%, Aden 10%, Hadramout 10% with 25% concentrated in other regions of Yemen.

Various multi-crafts in Old Sana'a

In the unique market located in Old Sana'a, handicraft industries are distinct manifestations of the skill and the wide activities of the workers. Hung on entrances and inside the small shops which are attractively found in the narrow streets, visitors to the market can see multi-colored handicraft products which promise good financial returns for their sellers.

Ironsmith Workshops

The owner of a small ironsmith workshop told us: "The preparation and use of iron is an ancient skill in Yemen; and though some iron-made products are imported from abroad, our traditional workshop manufactures farmer's tools, builders' requirements as well as prisoners' fetters." Mr. Mansour Ghailan, an ironsmith added: "The soaring prices of imported iron-bars which we re-shape, cause problems for our small workshops and negatively affect our sales figures."

Silver Smithery

At one of the silver workshops in Old Sana'a, artisans make distinctive silver products and display them for sale.

Products are of various sizes with symbolic features, with some representing ancient times and kings who had ruled Yemen at the time of the ancient civilizations. Others are women's requirements or men's accessories used in weddings, religious occasions and at week-ends.

Smith Amin Mohamed Asabri spoke to us: "The highest sales which are reported are of those components which are put on daggers, which are white arms carried by males as a traditional belt very common among Yemeni tribes." He added: "about 10% of our silver artefacts are bought by Arab and foreign tourists who visit this market regularly."

Types of Yemeni Daggers

"Janabi" or Yemeni daggers, are of different types, all available in this market. Daggers are classified as Sana'ani or Hadrami. But as Yahia Nasser Almisouri told us, the white dagger is considered the most expensive. It's hilt is made out of rhinoceros horns that are smuggled from Africa. He added that this industry makes good moneys for those working in it. One white dagger may vary in price between YR 150,000 to 1,000,000. The quality of the dagger's hilt and the silver added to its edges, in addition to the type of the necessary holding belt, decide the price.

Here, there are some smiths whose jobs are to sharpen these white-daggers to enable carriers to protect themselves against any attack. Sharpening



a single white-dagger may cost YR1500.

Economical Feminine Handicrafts

Women have a distinguished share in making artefacts sold at this market. However, rural women's products represent the biggest share of the exhibits. These women spend most of their time weaving folk costumes and making various other craft products from palm fronds.

Sellers here acknowledge that women's products are accepted in the market. The products are souvenirs, frankincense containers, house decorations, shopping-sacks or head-covers that protect against sun-stroke. All these hand-made products make good money for these low-waged people.

Handicraft Show-room

For the sake of handicraft preservation, the Yemeni government has established a "Samsara" or an old building used as a show-room, located

in the center of Old Sana'a. Handicraft skills are promoted through training courses, especially in the following four fields: acquiring skills in silver smithery, wood carving, leather products and textile products.

A training course here starts with drawing on paper for a month, where trainees are given the basics and this is followed by field or on-job training for 15 days after which the third stage includes making decorative works for another 15 days.

After a visit to this market, most visitors are convinced that the development of the handicraft industry really helps the unemployed to obtain jobs and thereby diminishes the unemployment figure in Yemen which is estimated, according to non-official estimates, at 35%.

Finally, visitors can be clearly aware of how Yemenis are hard-workers, proficient in all sorts of manual skills, ready to face the soaring prices of food, supplies and services.

Al-Rushah Restaurant

مطعم الروشة السياحي

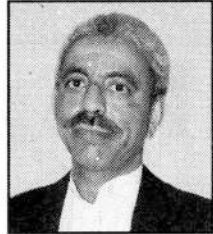
مطعم مرخص من الهيئة العامة للإستثمار "درجة سياحي ممتاز" جميع التجهيزات جديدة، يعمل صحن اليوم والشوارما الشامية وجميع المشاوي، وداخل المطعم فرن للخبز العربي. المطعم يتكون من طابقين مع ديكور درجة أولى. المطعم معروض للبيع - موقعه في حدة قبل جامع الرحمن على الشارع الرئيسي بجانب مكتب السلاحي للعقارات. المراجعة مع ت: ٩-٤٨٠٠٤٢ أو ٧٩٠٦٥٩٨

ملاحظة: لا تقبل اتصال الوسطاء

COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

From Israel, the Message is Clear



Quite a lot of people, it seems, are surprised by the "spectacular" win of the Prime Minister's job in Israel and quite a few were ready to suggest that, for all practical purposes that the peace process was shelved for now. Surely, the demagogues of the Zionist dream of Israel from the "Euphrates to the Nile" have cause to celebrate. This is not so much because Ariel Sharon, a classic butcher from the School of Zionist Arrogance and Contempt for All Human Values has become the Head of State of Israel, but because the war of nerves that parallels the more vehement physical confrontation between the stone throwers and their far better equipped adversaries with every with every killing tool on the books in the possession of the Israeli "Defense and Security Forces and, and because the confrontation has taken on a more obvious manifestation of how the line up should appear. Moreover, the election has clearly shown where the course of the conflict could be heading towards as dogmatic Zionists openly express their option for the violent confrontation over the peace alternative which the United States has been trying unsuccessfully to engineer.

Why the surprise? It should have been clear and obvious to any careful

observer of the Middle East arena that when Ariel Sharon made that devious trek into Al-Haram Al-Sharif with a show of force of some 3,000 elite Israeli troops, that the Zionist kitchen was cooking up a kitchen was cooking up a strategic move that was to effect the course of events in the area for some time to come, and to assure the world that as far as the Zionist movement was concerned, there is no desire or haste in achieving any peace. Such Zionist tactical moves supercede any political or partisan considerations as far as the Israelis are concerned and are meant to outdo the more than 10 years of "hard work" that lead to nowhere of Dennis Ross and the other diplomatic engineers in the Department of State, where the Zionist lobby has made considerable inroads, especially since the Dr. Henry Kissinger took over as a leading mastermind of American foreign policy with hanging influence even to this day. As much as one is bound to concur that there is quite a lot of genius in Dr. Kissinger's perspectives of the global international relations scene, one is also bound to think that there is there is a usual temptation of human beings to yield to sentiment, not just for sentiment's sake, but to also it would seem the right thing to do, either in gratitude for smoothing the way in the climb of Mr. Kissinger to

the most important diplomatic post in the world, or in anticipation of further bolstering the personal achievement of the flamboyant Dr. Kissinger in the social sphere. In any case, since Mr. Kissinger's reign in the State Department, it was obvious to the keen observer that the image of the State Department and its inclinations have significantly changed and diplomatic engineers of the likes of Dennis Ross have been able to keep the peace process on tortoise speed, in view of the awesome difficulties of not knowing how to use the tools of persuasion that the United States possesses in the area, except to convince our naïve Arab rulers that they should understand the sentimental implications of the conflict and the political considerations involved in Israel and the United States. One should never underestimate the phenomenal capabilities and very influential position of the international Zionist establishment and the intricacies of planning, operations and unbending commitment to the Zionist cause to which all the various international, regional and national Zionist institutions, that fall under this Zionist umbrella are characterized by, not to mention the precision in the coordination of their tactics and modus operandi.

So what if Ariel Sharon is the Prime Minister of the dogmatic state of Israel? Has anything really changed? How can people be so gullible? Mr. Ehud Barak fully was aware of what the motives behind Ariel Sharon's feat of mischief over four months ago were, and what needs to be done as far as the Zionist establishment was concerned. Not only was Ehud Barak fully aware of the intentions of Sharon, but also blessed the intrusion into the Al-Haram Al-Sharif by ordering the safe completion of Sharon's insult to Islamic sanctity, not so much

because Mr. Sharon was a Jew, who should not be allowed to Islamic houses of worship, which is not the issue here, but because Mr. Sharon, unlike all his predecessor's is openly proud of his blood stained record. Had Barak wanted to prevent Sharon's feat of real manifested Zionist pride, he could have. However, that would be overstepping his role, as far as the Zionist establishment has defined this role and laid out the scenario for the short-lived short-term premiership of the wily Barak. In this context, local politics and partisan persuasions take on secondary importance, even if it means "resigning" from the Prime Minister's job for no apparent political reason and if there was no threat of "no confidence" facing the Prime Minister, and even if Mr. Barak has not been unflinching in sticking to the Zionist philosophy that the only good Arab is a dead Arab, even if they were Israeli citizens. Incidentally, this observer felt that the many apologists and expert analysts rushed to blame the Israeli Arabs for helping to make the Sharon victory and killing the chances for "peace". It would be rather insulting if the Israeli Palestinians were to let bygones be bygones and accept "Barak's apology" for killing and persecuting so many Arabs, who have no illusions about where they stand in the Zionist dream and the contempt they have to live with from both their Arab brethren and the obvious hatred they have to undergo because the Israelis have no desire of sharing their 'Promised Land' with people of other persuasions. There is an obvious conclusion to be drawn from all this that at least for now, one truly sees where the mentality of the Israelis is really pointed at, after having remained the coloring that the Arab Israeli vote used to bring into Israeli politics, where it was believed that the Arab vote played a pivotal role in strengthening the "dovish" inclinations of many Israelis. Now, it appears that nothing could be further than the truth. Anyone prepared to make the adventure to the Holy Land under the Zionist banner must surely understand that Sharon is the true manifestation of the way of thinking of all the demagogues that make up the overwhelming majority of the citizenry of the State of Israel. Therefore, it is clear here that there is really nothing to be surprised about. On the other hand, when your role has been played out, you must be prepared to step aside and let someone else be the henchman for the Zionist establishment and there is no second thinking involved or personal implications to stand in the way of proceeding forward with the Zionist designs, as visualized by the Zionist long-range planners and short-term tacticians.

Common Sense has suggested on numerous occasions that there can be no inclination for the Zionist establishment to interrupt their drive for the Promised Land and the execution of God's will (forgive me Lord, if I mistakenly associated your mercy and idea of justice with these demagogues), as they see it, in its entirety. In the minds of such mystical fairy tale minds and arrogant illusions there is no desire for a "permanent peace" yet, nor is one needed, since after all the war has been obviously going their way and there is progress every time one Palestinian is killed and one kibbutz erected, even if it means driving out helpless unarmed families from their homes, as Ben Wederman of CNN noted in an account he gave of how the Palestinians are systematically being uprooted to make room for the execution of "God's will" Furthermore, this column has always insisted that the role players in the Israeli political theater must fully understand what they have to do and when, whether in the "local" political theater of Israel or in the places, where Zionist influence rules supreme, and there should be no illusions that Ehud Barak's dovish image was any attempt by Barak to deviate from this line. Notwithstanding the obvious tone in the election of Sharon to the job of Prime Minister of Israel as far as the Palestinians were concerned, but one wonders also that if the United States were also expected to understand that there is also a message in this Israeli election for them also. That will be learned very shortly.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

By Sharif Akram

Why We Need & Why We Should Achieve Democracy in Yemen?

Democracy so far has proved itself to be one of the most progressive and efficient state systems of the World. Most of the developed countries and the ones which are trying to develop, apply this system. As Yemenis, we also need democracy. We need to be treated as equals among the other nations in the world. When we look to the world at a glance, what we will see is that only the countries governed by the forms of democracy are rich...not only in economic sense, but in arts, culture, society, etc., as well. These countries do not all have important resources to exploit, no! They have earned their wealth by working hard, and respecting each other.

They have the power to say what they like and make themselves listened to by others. They are the ones that are respected not only because they are militarily strong, but because their societies are strong. The rest of the crowd of nations, who constitute the periphery, basically just try to defend the undemocratic ways that they are ruled with or obey the core and be servants of it.

We need democracy in Yemen, because we need to be strong, we need a strong society to be able to compete with the rest of the world including our neighbors. Only a strongly cultured and educated Yemeni society in a democratic environment could compete and challenge our rich and arrogant neighbors.

We need democracy to respect others and to be respected by others. Only in this way can we achieve our national goals of getting rid of poverty and developing into a richer country.

Through democracy, we can form a transparent society, which will form a block against corruption, falsification and the other illnesses that are slowly killing our society. We need democracy to be equal. To treat our people equally, including the women. The women are the mothers of our new generations. They need to be equal and educated, so that our children will learn at home to be equal and respect others. Women, if permitted, will play a major role in bringing Yemen into a new era of material development, scientific advancement and socio-political liberation. We cannot hope to catch up, let alone keep pace with the advanced world as long as we deprive ourselves of the talents and energies of half of our population.

We need democracy to be educated and to let all our people have access to basic education. In this way, illiteracy will not be a problem any more... Educated people will be able to educate the coming

generations and we will be able to have a high standard of education which will finally lead us to a point where we don't need people to tell us what to do any more. We will be teaching them what to do.

We need democracy to give equal opportunities to our children. Thus, they will get into higher posts and positions in the government and private sector because of their talents and education.

This will make them respected not only in our country, but in the outside world as well. They will be proud to say that they are Yemenis, because their fathers gave them the chance to be equal.

We need democracy, because we deserve it. We have fought hard for our independence, we have fought hard for our republic, we have fought hard for our unity, we have made sacrifices for every inch of this country of ours.

How can we achieve democracy? Because we have the deep roots of democracy in our culture, but we just cannot see how to use it...We have the roots of democracy in our tribal system, it may not be complete, but it still exists. In the tribal system every member of the tribe is treated as equal and has a right to voice his opinion. Tribal customs and laws allow negotiation and compromise usually in a peaceful way by a negotiator.

In parliamentary democracy the negotiator is the President and we can roughly name the political parties as tribes as well. Rival parties struggle for victory without violent conflict. All sides are equal. They all respect each other, observe the same rules, share certain principles and culture, just like tribal policies. Both competing parties accept victory and defeat with grace, because they both know that victory can never be total nor defeat be final.

Fundamentalism or totalitarianism does not have the proper cultural background in Yemen. Throughout history, no totalitarian regime would have been able to control all of Yemen altogether. Yemen and Yemenis were always free and sovereign.

But today, fundamentalism and totalitarianism are being inserted into Yemeni society by certain political powers backed by certain foreign forces who are trying to change the social structure of the country, because they are afraid of a strong Yemen.

We should never forget that only democracies may negotiate and compromise with each other on equal basis, the rest of the world will only be the followers of the leaders.

So let us be a leader country as well, let us be among the equals...Our past and traditions give us hope for the continuance of our nation and statehood.

Vacancy Announcement

A German development agency in Sana'a is seeking an office assistant (part-time). Applicants must have excellent knowledge of Arabic and English, both written and spoken. Those who also know German will be given priority. The individual will be responsible for dealing with Yemeni governmental agencies (ministries, customs, post, etc.), doing translations, participating in project evaluations as an interpreter, etc. If you are interested, please send your application within ten days after publication of this announcement by fax to (01) 266424 and include your phone number.

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The Islamic Movements Series will be resumed next week with Part III

Yemen: Origin of all Arabs

By: Luay Ahmed Masood

The following is an excerpt from a book that won 1st place in 'seerah' of the Prophet (saw) from the board of scholars in Mecca, Ar-Raheeq Al-Makhtum (The Sealed Nectar): A biography of the Prophet (saw)

Arab Tribes:

Arab kinfolks have been divided according to lineage into three groups:

1. Perishing Arabs: The ancient Arabs, of whose history little is known, and among whom were the Ad, Thamud, Tasam, Jadis, Emlaq and others.

2. Pure Arabs: Who originated from the progeny of Ya'rub bin Yashjub bin Qahtan. They were also called Qahtanian Arabs.

3. Arabized Arabs: Who originated from the progeny of Ishmael. They were also called 'Adnanian Arabs.

The pure Arabs - the people of Qahtan - originally lived and came from Yemen and comprised many tribes, two of which were very famous:

1. Kahlan: The most famous of whose groups were Hamdan, Anmar, Tai', Mudhij, Kinda, Lakhm, Judham, Azd, Aws, Khazraj and the descendants of Jafna - the kings of old Syria.

2. Himyar: The most famous of whose groups were Zaid Al-Jamhur, Quda'a and Sakasic.

Kahlan groups emigrated from Yemen to dwell in different parts of the Arabian Peninsula prior to the Great Flood (Sail Al-'Arim of Ma'rib Dam), due to the failure of trade owing to Roman control of both sea and land trade routes following the Roman occupation of Egypt and Syria.

Naturally enough, the competition between the Kahlan and the Himyar led to the evacuation of the first and the settlement of the second in Yemen.

The emigrating groups of the Kanlan can be divided into four groups:

1. Azd: Who, under the leadership of 'Imran bin 'Amr Muzaiqba', wandered in Yemen, sent pioneers and finally headed northwards. Details of their emigration can be summed up as follows:

Tha'labah bin 'Amr left his tribe Al-Azd for Hijaz and dwelt between Tha'labiyah and Dhi Qar. When he gained strength, he headed for Madinah where he stayed. Of his descendants are Aws and Khazraj, sons of Haritha bin Tha'labah.

Haritha bin 'Amr, known as Khuza'a, wandered with his people in Hijaz until they came to Mar Az-Zahrn. Later, they conquered the Haram, and settled in Makkah after having driven away its people, the tribe of Jurhum.

'Imran bin 'Amr and his folks went to 'Oman where they established the tribe of Azd whose children inhabited Tihama and were known as Azd-of-Shanu'a.

Jafna bin 'Amr and his family, headed for Syria where he settled and set up the kingdom of Ghassan who was so named after a spring of water in Hijaz, where they stopped on their way to Syria.

2. Lakhm and Judham: Who included Nasr bin Rabi'a, father of Manadhira, Kings of Heerah.

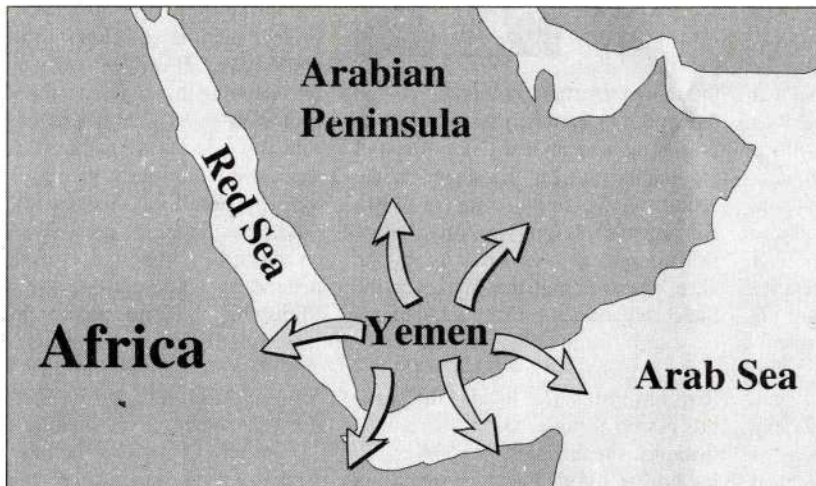
3. Banu Tai': Who also emigrated northwards to settle by the so-called Aja and Salma Mountains which were consequently re-named the Tai' Mountains.

4. Kinda: Who dwelt in Bahrain but were expelled to Hadramout and Najd where they instituted a powerful government but not for long, for the whole tribe soon faded away.

Another tribe of Himyar, known as Quda'a, also left Yemen and dwelt in the Samawa semi-desert on the borders of Iraq.

Another Yemeni tribe - Jurhum the Second - came and lived in Makkah upon Hagar's (as) permission, after being said to have lived in the valleys around Makkah.

When Ishmael (as) became a young man, he learned Arabic at the behest of the tribe of Jurhum, who loved him with great admiration and gave him one of their women as a wife. Ishmael's (as) descendants became known as "Arabized Arabs" for his father Abraham (as) was a non Arab from Ar Iraq near Kufa and his mother Hagar (as) was the daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt of that era. Of the descendants of Ishmael (as) was a man named 'Adnan whose descendants are known as "Adnanian Arabs" of whom our Prophet Muhammad (sww) is the 21st grandson.



[as a side note to the reader..this means that Ishmael (as) married a Yemeni woman and their child married a Yemeni and in turn most likely their children married a Yemeni all the way until the 21st generation Muhammad (sww). So, this means Muhammad (sww)'s blood was very much Yemeni, yet we always take our name and lineage from our fathers and his forefather was a non-Arab, Abraham (as)]

When talking about the Arabs we deem it necessary to draw a mini-picture of the history of the rulership of the Arabs.

The people of Sheba (who were mentioned in the Qur'an) were one of the oldest nations of the pure Arabs who lived in Yemen. Excavations at "Or" brought to light their existence during 25 centuries B.C. Their civilization flourished, and their domain spread for eleven centuries B.C.

1. For centuries before 650 B.C., their kings were called Makrib Sheba. Their capital was Sarwah, also known as Khriba, whose ruins lie at a spot a day's walk from the western side of Ma'rib. During this period, they started building the Dam of Ma'rib which had great importance in the history of Yemen. Sheba was also said to have had so great a domain that they had colonies inside and outside Arabia.

2. From 650 B.C. until 115 B.C. During this era, they gave up the name Makrib and assumed the designation as Kings of Sheba. They also made Ma'rib their capital instead of Sarwah. The ruins of Ma'rib lie at a distance of sixty miles to the east

of San'a.

3. From 115 B.C. until 300 A.D. During this period, the tribe of Himyar conquered the kingdom of Sheba and made Redan their capital instead of Ma'rib. Later on, Redan was called Zifar. Its ruins still lie on Mudawwar Mountain near the town of Yarim. During this period, they began to decline and fall. Their trade failed to a very great extent, firstly, because of Nabatean domination over the north of Hijaz, secondly, because of Roman superiority over the naval trade routes after the Roman conquest of Egypt, Syria and the north of Hijaz, and thirdly, because of inter-tribal warfare. Thanks to the three above-mentioned factors, families of Qahtan were disunited and scattered around the region.

4. From 300 A.D. until Islam dawned on Yemen. This period witnessed a lot of disorder and turmoil. The many civil wars rendered the people of Yemen liable to foreign subjection marked by constant intra-tribal conflict between the Hamdan and the Himyar. In 523, Dhu Nawas, a Jew, organized a great campaign against the Christians of Najran in order to force them to convert into Judaism. Having refused to do so, they were thrown alive into a big ditch where a great fire had been set. The Qur'an referred to this event [85:4]. After the "Elephant" incident, the people of Yemen, under the leadership of Ma'dikarib bin Saif Dhu Yazan Al-Himyari, revolted against the Abyssinian invaders, restored independence and appointed this man, known simply as Dhu Yazan, as their king.

Yemeni Writers and Literary Men's Union

3 Decades of Strife and Perseverance

Report by:

Mohammed Al Hakimi

Yemen Times, Taiz

Distinguished as the major and most prominent non-governmental organization, the Yemen Writers and Literary Men's Union came into being in 1971 to call for one Yemen. The most significant factor leading to its founding was the need for Yemen to raise its voice against those calling for separation and war between the two parts of Yemen at that time. It represented an axis connecting people from the two parts, working in favor of the unification of Yemen in general. Furthermore, its initial form as a unified organization has played a significant role in successfully spreading an awareness about what Yemen means to intellectuals and vice versa; defending the homeland's heritage, creating a cultural liveliness and strongly defending freedom of creativity. It mainly aims at the following:

- spreading literature and literary pursuits and undertaking and promoting literary production;
- defending all intellectual ownership rights;
- defending literary figures, their freedom and their work;
- defending democratic freedom and human rights;
- fighting sectarianism, separatism, racism, tribalism, and all tribal tendencies and trends;
- adopting and patronizing Yemeni talents and potentials, and helping them develop;
- importing Arabic literature and intellectual properties from abroad into Yemen, and helping the Yemeni intellectual recognize their significance;
- promoting literature and thoughts that express the issues of freedom, democracy and progress;
- strengthening the relationship between Yemeni and Arabic culture; and
- cultivating cultural, human and literary relations with the Arab unions across the Arab world.

In the seventies and eighties, its role was mainly concentrated around political life rather than cultural life and the reason for this is quite clear. At that time, the partition of Yemen used up most of the energy of the union as it promoted the idea of unity. However, its role changed afterwards. In fact, that role didn't come to an end, but the Union started the more difficult task of creating a solid intellectual groundwork for confronting the problems and difficulties of the future.

In spite of the fact that the Union is very popular among the Yemeni people, its relationship with the authorities has been quite strange. It used to receive some insignificant support from the Ministry of Finance during the seventies and eighties but it doesn't do so now. The only way the Union can now get support is for the sake of publishing - once a year - a magazine or a pamphlet. However, it has maintained its independent status.

Recently, the Union witnessed with concern a noticeable stagnancy in cultural and political life. On account of this, the Union found it urgent to hold its seventh general conference through which they can have serious critical deliberations which are believed to be able to save the Union from the recent recession.

Credit Agricole Indosuez Launches New Branch in Aden



Credit Agricole Indosuez Bank is a distinguished bank which has, through 26 years, been able to gain the trust and confidence of its clients based on its excellent banking services. Recently,

to expand the range of its services, the bank inaugurated a branch on February 5 in Al-Maala, Aden.

The inauguration was attended by the Governor of Aden Mr. Taha Ahmad Ghanem, General Manager of the Yemeni Central Bank (YCB), Mr. Abdullah Al-Sanabani, Vice Chairman of the Free Zone, Mr. Ahmad Handhal and a number of businessmen and journalists.

Mr. Taha was received in the bank, located in the Ikhwana Thabet's building, by Mr. A. Bardot, head of the Mideast office in Paris and Mr. F. Rivier, regional director of the bank in Sana'a. Following the inauguration,

Mr. F. Rivier briefed the attendants on the history of the bank and the development process it has gone through.

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"We are devoted to developing our services. We are planning to connect bank branches with a network based on the Swift system to make services even faster and better," said Mr. Abdu Abdullah, Director of the newly established branch of Credit Agricole Indosuez Bank in Aden, to Yemen Times.

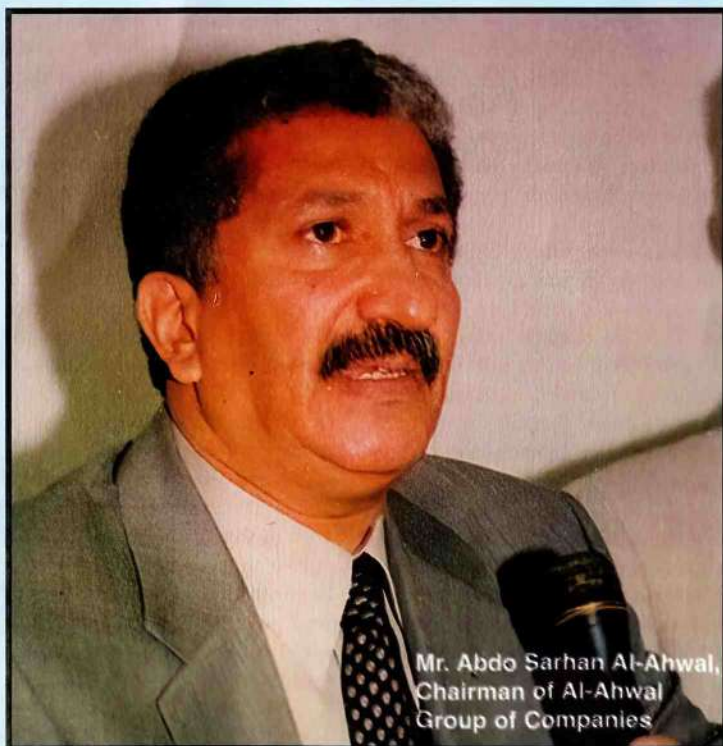
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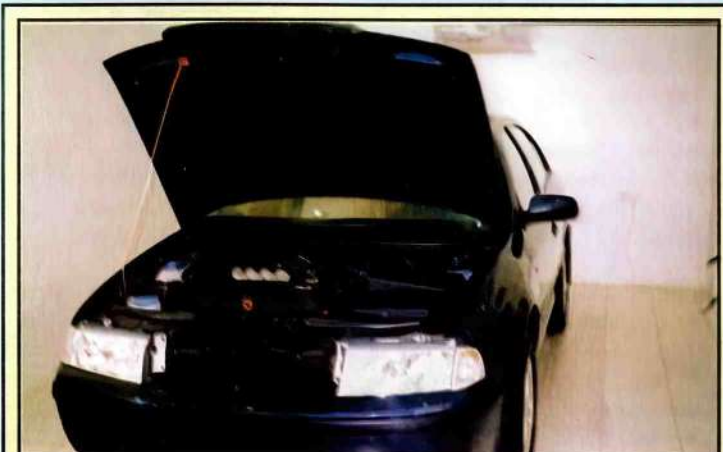
☐ Sana'a, Zubair Street (Head Office)	Tel: 274361	Fax: 274367	☐ Sana'a, Al-Kasr	Tel: 272820	Fax: 274161
☐ Hodeidah	Tel: 03-217144	Fax: 03-211531	☐ Taiz	Tel: 04-210568	Fax: 04-212 336
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Mr. Abdo Sarhan Al-Ahwal,
Chairman of Al-Ahwal
Group of Companies



On Monday 5th of February 2001, an showroom for Skoda vehicles was inaugurated to signal the launching of the new model of Skoda Fabia. The showroom was organized by the Al-Ahwal for Trade, the official Skoda Agent in Yemen. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Czech Ambassador to Yemen, and the General Manager of Skoda Auto, and the Chairman of Al-Ahwal Group of Companies. In the press conference held before the inauguration ceremony, the Sales General Manager of Skoda Company, Dr. D. Prager stated that Skoda has joined the German

our agent in Yemen; Al-Ahwal for Trade has achieved tremendous sales success in the country," he added.

The General Manager of Skoda also highlighted the facilities given by Skoda to its customers in providing the most recent technology in the latest various car models, and in the future plans in manufacturing vehicles with extremely high safety features in the future.

On the other hand, Mr. Abdo Sarhan Al-Ahwal, Agent of Skoda in Yemen said that the company achieved tremendous success in sales in the Republic of Yemen. He stressed on the fact that Al-Ahwal for Trade worked on selecting the most professional workers and provided them with excellent

training in maintenance for Skoda cars, as well as providing a complete mobile workshop that could be operational to anywhere in the country. He continued to emphasize the distinguished smooth service to customers, and also the fact that the agency provides facilitated payment methods as well.

The Chargé d' affaires of the Czech Embassy to Yemen expressed his delight with the distinguished trade relationship between



Volkswagen Company, and has become the number brand that hold number (4) in the company. "Some of the products of Skoda have gained the first place in Europe, such as Fabia. It is also remarkable to note that

Yemen and Czech, noting that the showroom marks a solid example of the increasing bilateral cooperation in trade and commerce between the two countries.

Following the press conference, H.E. Libor



Dr. D. Prager

Janous, the Czech ambassador to Yemen officially inaugurated by cutting the tape and signaling the opening of the showroom, which was attended by a large number of diplomats, businessmen, officials, and other prominent individuals.

Left to right:

Mr. Nabil Yasain, Mr. Al-Ahwal, Mr. Janous, Dr. Prager, Mr. Wilhelm



Flash of Insight Into a Unique Spiritual Journey: Hadramaut's Ziyara Al Nebi Hud Festival

By: Karen Dabrowska
Yemen Times

Peter Sanders is the first man to photograph the annual Ziyara Al Nebi Hud Festival in a remote part of Hadramaut. But this humble, unassuming convert to Islam, who has taken over 100,000 photographs in 22 countries, is not interested in international acclaim: his life is centered around a spiritual journey of discovery. 'I wanted to go to this festival, which is like a mini hajj, for about five years', Sanders told The Yemen Times. His dream came true in 1998 when he combined a trip to the Prophet Hud's burial place with an assignment for Aramco World about gamariyas, characterized by round windows, glazed with very thinly cut alabaster panels used instead of glass.

'It is a five-day event in a place, which is only inhabited at the time of the festival. I was impressed by the behavior of the people. They were very devout and sincere and there is something very beautiful about the place. You feel that the stars are so close you can touch them'.

Hud was a pre-Islamic prophet. He lived among the people of Ad, who inhabited an area between Yemen and Oman. They were renowned for their craftsmanship, especially the construction of tall buildings with lofty towers. Political power was in the hands of unjust rulers against whom no one dared raise a voice.

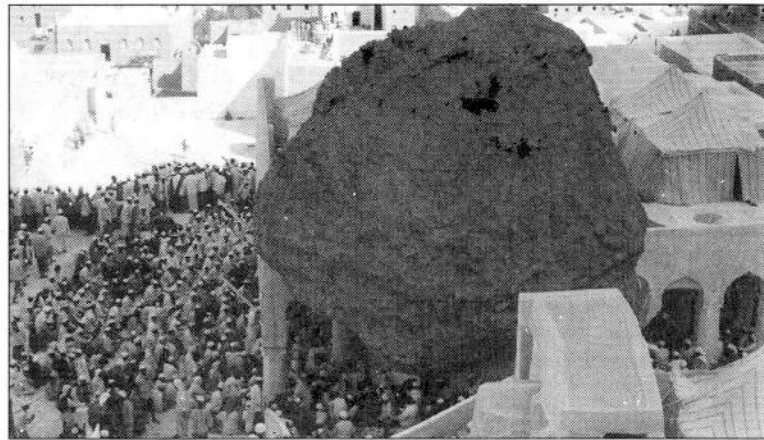
According to the Bible and the Quran, God wanted to guide and discipline these people. So he sent them a prophet, Hud, who undertook his mission with great resoluteness and tolerance.

Some traditions claim that Hud was the first person who spoke Arabic but this has also been attributed to Noah and Adam.

Hud condemned idol worship: 'My people! what is the benefit of these stones that you carve with your own hands and worship? In reality it is an insult to the intellect. There is only one deity worthy of worship and that is Allah. Worship of Him and Him alone is compulsory'.

The people mocked Hud, but he affirmed his dependence on Allah, realizing that the non-believers would be punished.

First came drought and then the weather



er changed suddenly from burning dry and hot to stinging cold. Hud's people started to flee. The Quran tells us that: 'As for Ad, they were destroyed by a furious violent wind, which Allah imposed on them for seven nights and eight days in succession, so that you could see men lying as if they were the hollow trunks of palm trees'.

The violent gale did not stop until the entire region was reduced to ruins and its wicked people destroyed, swallowed by the sands of the desert. Only Hud and his followers remained unharmed. They migrated to Hadramaut and lived there in peace, worshipping Allah. But Hud's luck did not last long. He was persecuted once again and forced to flee. As his enemies were about to catch and kill him an enormous rock opened up and swallowed him. The rock is a place of pilgrimage where the festival has been held for centuries.

Sanders' introduction to Yemen came from the people he met in Saudi Arabia. During the 1970s he took some of the first photographs of the hajj. 'I met many Yemenis, was drawn to the people and wanted to visit their country: the Yemenis are wonderful people, generous to a fault'. Sanders is now

planning a book about the Ziyara Al Nebi Hud Festival. It will be his second publication. The first 'In the Shade of the Tree' a collection of his work, is about to go to press. In the Shade of the Tree was also the name of his most recent exhibition held last month at London University's Brunei Gallery. From the city of the Dead to the city of Light from two million pilgrims on the hajj to the no-man's land of the Empty Quarter, from the anguish of starving refugees to the industrial boom of Saudi Arabia, 'Sanders' photography opens the door to the unique, exotic lands of the Middle East, Africa, India, Central Asia and the vast lands of Islam.

The photographer has received many requests for the exhibition to be held at different venues, some as far afield as Singapore.

Reflecting on his career as a photographer, which started in the mid 1960s covering London's seminal rock and roll scene, Sanders considers himself very fortunate to have been given permission to take pictures of spiritual figures who have never been photographed. 'It's partly because I am a Muslim, but people trust me as they sense I don't want to exploit them. I just want to show the beauty of the sacred and capture a quality of innocence that seems to be disappearing'.

In 1970, Peter Sanders spent seven months travelling around India. 'I grew up in London during the 60s. It was a time of rejecting the materialistic values of the Victorian period and searching for spiritual ways and paths to counter materialism. I travelled to India, studied all the religions and felt guided to Islam'.

Saudi Arabia was the next stop after India. Sanders' photographs of the hajj were sold world-wide and appeared in The Sunday Times, The Observer, Paris Match, Stern and Europa Magazine. His next trip took him to Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Libya and Spain and there was also a 'West to East' trip across America. In 1988 Sanders was commissioned by a large aid agency to travel to West Africa, Senegal, Mauritania and Mali. He established the Peter Sanders Photographic Library, specializing in the Islamic World. His clients now include many international publishers, among them Longmans, Heinemann, Cambridge and Oxford University Press, Harper Collins, Readers Digest, Hodder & Stoughton and Encyclopedia Britannica. His most recent trip was to China, including inner Mongolia, to document Muslims in the eastern region.

Sanders is equally at home in the East and in the West. His house in Amersham, on the outskirts of London resembles a Yemeni house. Cushions on the floor have replaced sofas, the decor is oriental and a sophisticated computer is on hand to show his best photos.

'My photography has always been an extension of my life', Sanders explains when introducing his latest exhibition. 'Photography is a wonderful process - a gift from God - that has allowed me to learn so much about myself and the world around me. It's like chasing a moment, trying to capture a beautiful bird in flight'.

The Japanese art critic, Tsuyoshi Kawasoe, said Sanders photos are extremely, extraordinarily beautiful. 'He captures the spiritual beauty of creation itself'.

Back to basics: Hadrami Charity Supports Health and Education

The saying: 'The people who get on are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want and if they do not find them, make them,' seems to have been written for the Mukalla-based National Society for Supporting Health and Educational Institutions in Hadramaut.

The British-educated Omar Mohammad, who spent most of his working life in Saudi Arabia, decided something had to be done in Hadramaut to improve the services provided by the government hospitals and schools which serve 90% of the population.

'Children were sitting on the floor, there was no furniture in schools, some schools did not even have electricity and 50 to 60 children were crowded into one classroom because there was no money to build or expand the schools. Fathers' councils carried out a lot of the routine maintenance and renovations', Mohammed recalls.

He discussed the problems with his colleagues in the medical and health sector and it was decided to form a society with a closed membership of doctors and educationalists who would offer their services and experience to assist the public health and education sectors. The president of the society, Dr Mohammed Abdullah bin Tha'alab, emphasized that providing essential equipment is the top priority. The list of requirements is long: tables and chairs, audio-visual equipment and additional buildings for schools, linoleum floors for hospitals and essential equipment such as blood pressure monitors.

With the assistance of the Social Development Fund set up by the World Bank in conjunction with the Yemeni government, the society managed to commission three carpenters to make 2000 new blackboards for schools throughout Hadramaut, Yemen's largest and poorest governorate. Six classrooms have been added to the school in Adhud, a Bedouin village in Mukalla district. The Dutch Embassy has made it possible for solar energy panels to be installed for electricity generation in two schools for Bedouin children near Doan, on Hadramaut's southern plateau. The German Embassy has donated 8000 riyals for medical equipment including blood pressure monitors and stethoscopes. The society's honorary president based in Riyadh, Saleh bin Yumain, contacted Yemeni expats who financed X-ray machines in Qatn hospital, fully equipped a delivery room and paid the salaries of specialist Russian doctors and midwives.

According to Dr bin Tha'alab, Dean of the Girls College in Hadramaut University and lecturer in Geography who specializes in migration and development, the schools are in greater need of assistance than hospitals. 'The health service has solved many of its problems because people have to pay for their health care. But, apart from 150 riyals per year for primary education and 200 riyals a year for secondary education, no one pays for schooling.

Dr Tha'alab has submitted detailed proposals for the funding of education to the governor of Mukalla emphasizing that expatriates should assist in supporting welfare services in Yemen.

'Some laws are needed in the educational sector or no one will pay for education. The people are poor and they feel the government should provide everything. They will pay for health but they are not ready to pay for education'.

While Dr Tha'alab admits that the poor can make a limited financial contribution, he believes that legislation should be introduced to make sure the rich pay their fair share. 'These proposals are being discussed

with the governor of Mukalla and we are hoping to come up with ideas which will benefit the whole country', he said optimistically.

Mukalla has also benefitted from the assistance of Arab governments: the Kuwaiti government built the Ibn Sina Hospital and the Libyan government built an education college.

But the south of Yemen faces its own problems. During the days of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, PDYR schools were set up in nationalized houses. Many of these houses are now being returned to their previous owners and the schools have to find alternative premises.

The country's population is growing at the rate of 3.7% and greater pressures will be placed on health and educational resources in the years to come.

The World Bank estimates that adult literacy in Yemen is just 38%, the lowest for any country in the Middle East region. The statistics are even starker when broken down by sex: only 8% of women are thought to be literate.

This situation is unlikely to change much over the next generation as school enrollment shows a strong bias towards boys.

World Bank figures for 1996 indicated that the enrollment rates for girls were 25% compared with 55% for boys. Even in comparison with other developing countries, Yemen's record on female education is abysmal. The bank estimates that the average enrollment rate for girls in primary school in Yemen is half the average for developing countries.

In part the low overall literacy rate is a result of Yemen's relatively late embrace of modern education. This was virtually non-existent in the northern Yemen Republic until 1970 when the government brought in teachers from Egypt and the Sudan in large numbers. The shortage of qualified Yemeni teaching staff in the north continues today, particularly at higher levels where the proportion of foreign staff is greater.

From early in the twentieth century chiefs and urban business elites in the south sent their sons to the UK to receive modern education through to university level. After independence scholarships throughout the Soviet bloc made tertiary education available.

In Yemen, the shortage of essential hospital services is clearly illustrated by the lack of ambulances, blood banks or burns units.

Infant mortality in the country is almost double the average for low income countries. Foreigners and wealthy Yemenis and senior politicians leave the country for medical care.

The National Society for Supporting Health and Educational Institutions in Hadramaut is building bridges of cooperation between government agencies, NGOs, foreign embassies and Yemenis abroad to help the people help themselves. The local community is expected to cover five to ten percent of the cost of projects. Through their small grants schemes the World Bank and the British Council have also indicated funds which may be forthcoming this year.

Ahmed Saeed, the secretary of the society, emphasized that at present providing essential equipment for schools and hospitals is a top priority. But he looks forward to a time when hospitals in Hadramaut can exchange expertise and researchers with institutions in the West.

The society's aims are ambitious, but it is also aware of its limitations and is eager to ensure that its 'back to basics' approach will lay a firm foundation for the development of health and educational services in Hadramaut.

CANADIAN
nexen

Vacancy

MECHANICAL TECHNICIANS

Qualified Mechanical Technicians are required at our Masila Block Operation and Terminal Marine Operation, Hadramout Govt, Yemen. This job will be based on rotational schedule (28 days on / 28 days off) or (14 days on / 7 days off).

Work Performed:

- Overhaul diesel engines. Includes overhauling Caterpillar and other types of diesel generators, and commissioning same.
- Services generators and carry out daily inspections of solar turbines and generators.
- Repair and carry out major overhauls on mechanical pumps.
- Carry out planned maintenance in plant and on equipment.
- Carry out alignment or process equipment, rim & face/ crossdial method.
- Valve overhaul, Ball & Gate valves.
- Reciprocating or Rotary screw compressors.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of Technical education (mechanical trades) and 6-8 years of related experience.
- Experience of providing on-the-job training to others.
- Good knowledge of Technical English.
- Able to understand parts and repair manuals.
- Valid Yemen driving license.

If you satisfy the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address not later than February 26, 2001.

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen
Human Resources

P. O. Box 15137

Sana'a Republic of Yemen

Fax No. 01-269899

Attention: Senior Supervisor, Human Resources

- Please provide a direct contact No. where you can be reached.
- We will contact you if you are chosen for the test and interview.

Improve Your English



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet

I. What to say

Hobbies and Interests

- Ismail:** Good afternoon, Muneer.
Muneer: Good afternoon, Ismail. Welcome to my little world of herbs and shrubs. I mean, my little garden.
Ismail: I usually find you in your garden at this hour. You seem to have a fascination for flowers.
Muneer: Yes. That's right. I am a lover of natural beauty. Greenery gives me a lot of pleasure. I'm in love with the green landscape of Taiz. This little garden is my modest contribution to the natural treasure trove of Taiz.
Ismail: Excellent. Shall I, then, call you the Wordsworth of Taiz?
Muneer: (laughs) Well. You may. By the way, what is your hobby and interest, Ismail?
Ismail: I play football. I enjoy painting. In my free time I watch the TV.
Muneer: That's very nice. So you have varied interests. I didn't know that you are an artist as well.
Ismail: I cultivated an interest in painting from my early childhood. You'll be glad to know that I have participated in quite a few painting competitions at school and college levels. I've won some prizes also. I'm planning to hold an exhibition of my paintings in near future.
Muneer: I'm, indeed, very glad to hear that. Hobbies are not only a pastime. They help us to make creative use of our free time and express our inner thoughts and feelings.
Ismail: That's very true. Instead of whiling away our free time in useless gossip or things like that, it is far more rewarding to channelize our energy in creative pursuits. We can get both profit and pleasure out of it.
Muneer: I wish all of us, particularly the younger people, realized this and chose a hobby according to their interest and aptitude.
Ismail: Insha Allah. Time to say 'good bye' to you.
Muneer: Bye.

II. How to say it correctly?

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

1. He either is a fool or a scoundrel.
2. My car is superior and more expensive than yours.
3. Not only he is honest but sincere.
4. This is the reason our football team suffered a defeat.
5. It is really surprising that he did not behave like he should have behaved.

Answers to last week's questions

1. No other country **than** Yemen has the most ancient civilization.
 2. He behaves as if he **were** mad.
 3. I have seen **neither** him **nor** his brother.
 4. Do you know **where** he lives?
 5. He did not speak loudly or clearly.
- Note:** If a negative word is used in a sentence, the conjunction **or** must be used instead of **and**.

III. How to express it in one word

1. Smallest unit of one element that can take part in a chemical reaction.
2. Person who is attached to the staff of one ambassador.
3. Room within the roof of a house.
4. Person with legal authority to act for another in business or law.
5. Public sale at which goods are sold to the highest bidder.

Answers to last week's questions.

1. Science of the chemical and physical conditions of the stars: **Astrophysics**
2. Place where mad people are cared for: **asylum**
3. Persons trained for competing in outdoor games like running, boxing, etc.: **athlete**
4. Book of maps: **atlas**
5. Mixture of gases surrounding the earth: **atmosphere**

IV. Use 'never', 'always', 'sometimes', or 'often' in the blanks below.

1. Faiz likes to go for a walk everyday.
Faiz — goes for a walk.
2. Abdullah enjoys watching films at weekends.
Abdullah — watches films.
3. Ameer works in his garden and rides his bicycle in his free time.
Ameer — works in his garden.
4. Sadiq hates to play cricket.
Sadiq — plays cricket.

Answers to last week's questions

1. The bell **had rung** when I **reached** the college.
2. The letter **came** after he **had left** for the office.
3. He **lent** me the book after he **had finished** reading it.
4. When he **left** service he **had not saved** enough money.
5. I **had** just **started** eating supper when the phone rang.

V. Words of Wisdom

"As we advance in life we learn the limits of our abilities"
— J. A. Froude

'A Walking or A Non-walking-Dictionary'



Mr. Abdul Ammer
(Lecturer)
College of Education
Mahweet

The term 'non-walking-dictionary' does not arouse any doubt in the reader while the term 'walking-dictionary' does, the reason being that obviously a dictionary cannot walk. But how can a dictionary walk as the latter term implies? A dictionary can walk since the term 'walking-dictionary' refers to you – the reader or the speaker of language. You, indeed, are a walking-dictionary.

The similarity between a 'walking-dictionary' and a 'non-walking-dictionary' is that both dictionaries are full of words with their meanings; but while a 'non-walking-dictionary' has its words with their meanings in a

book, a 'walking-dictionary' has its content in the head of each human being who speaks the language.

But what about the differences between these two types of dictionaries? One of the differences, perhaps the basic one, is that the content of a 'walking-dictionary' is invisible because it is stored in the cell of the brain unlike a 'non-walking-dictionary' whose content is visible because it is printed on paper. The other difference, which is not less important than the first one, is that although a 'walking-dictionary' knows all the words listed in a 'non-walking-dictionary' still a 'walking-dictionary' knows more about the words found in any 'non-walking-dictionary', especially the syntactic information.

Moreover, a 'walking-dictionary', is more innovative than a 'non-walking-dictionary'; this means that a 'walking-dictionary' can add new words, almost everyday, to its repertoire while a 'non-walking-dictionary' can-

not do it in the same way – at least within a year or until the next edition. However, the storage capacity of a 'walking-dictionary' is less limited than that of a 'non-walking-dictionary'. This implies that a 'walking-dictionary' forgets and cannot always remember some words when needed, while a 'non-walking-dictionary' does not forget. So, it is obvious how seriously a 'walking-dictionary' needs to consult a 'non-walking-dictionary' in order to recall a word or some words and also to find out about both its/their usage as well as meaning(s). Above all, the life span of a 'walking-dictionary' is much shorter when compared with that of a 'non-walking-dictionary'. A 'walking-dictionary' may not live for more than sixty or seventy years, while a 'non-walking-dictionary' can remain for centuries. It is only fair that a 'walking-dictionary' acknowledges how indispensable a 'non-walking-dictionary' is to him like a sincere friend.



YOUTH FORUM



A Tooth's Pain

In pain we sometimes gain



It was nine o'clock when he felt annoyed. One hour he spent sitting on the chair. There was a date with S1 at 8:30. She must have left and felt

angry with him. The dentist noticed that but he continued his work saying:

- "There are just several minutes left for tonight and we will finish tomorrow."

- Tomorrow?! Have not we finished yet?! It is the second or third time for nothing, but a tooth.

- Gold is bigger and the nerve is still sensitive, but it may accept the golden piece tomorrow.

- Can't we finish it today with a palliative?

- I will try on condition that you bear its pain.

He again opened his mouth, allowing the dentist to put many tools and instruments inside. These rounded tools and instruments were used for repairing this tiny thing, his tooth. He sympathized with the dentist who was working seriously, digging, cleaning, measuring and again digging. He also used an instrument one after another without taking rest.

When the dentist put the golden piece in the hole he had made, a sharp pain run through his tooth to his head. So he cried, withdrawing his head away. The dentist said, "We should wait till tomorrow".

He has never experienced such a pain before. He was surprised at these tiny creatures causing this pain. He did not feel or think about them because he indulged in great things. He, as usual, was among his friends who were young men and young women, cultured and educated, and among them there were poets, journalists and teachers. They were discussing great topics and enjoying themselves at the same time.

That night they were talking about the first landing of man on the moon. They were admiring man's ability and his achievements. But A2 was annoyed because of the fact that an American was the one who reached

the moon. N, on the contrary, praised both human intelligence and America. When A2 and N started debating, S1 stopped them by talking about her new book entitled *Time Never Comes Backward*. E objected saying that such a book lacked religious identity while N went on advocating in support of S1's book. Unusually, he, whom A2 and E considered as their teacher, was only silent and confused.

Suddenly, he felt a sharp tooth pain, which then made him leave for home. It was too late to find a dentist. So he spent a sleepless painful night.

In the morning it was the first thing for him to visit a dentist. His delightful face seemed tired, his eyes were dim, his broad smile disappeared, and his fluent tongue swarmed and was unable to utter any word. Everything turned to be a kind of torture. It was hard for him to believe that all this was caused by a tooth. He went helplessly to the clinic. While the dentist's hands were working inside his mouth, he felt a pain that seemed to him to be caused by the strongest thing in the world. He could not eat, drink, stir his tongue or even keep silent. Silence itself became hard to be maintained by him.

He was taken out from his ideas by a painful cry he produced when the dentist again tried to put the golden piece:

- No, doctor. I can not bear it.

- O. K. I will leave it for another day.

On his way home, he remembered that he had dated S2, but the time has already gone and she must have left. He then felt relaxed because he needed to talk with no one, but himself. He was shocked when he discovered that he could not find his own 'self'. He felt it is as mysterious as the darkness of the fountain's water before him.

His legs brought him to his university, which he left one year ago. The trees, which knew him, were still green. There was no kind of change, yet new students appeared here and there. The sky was calm and serene. The fresh breeze inspired the birds to sing.

At this point, he remembered his answer to his classmates, particularly A2 and E when they told him, "We do not have time to look back". He said, "We should not look at the past, but we must look inside ourselves, around us, at the sky and the darkness of this fountain's water, and at our hearts."

Tomorrow, he will join his friends in spite of the pain caused by his tooth. He realized that he had found his 'self'. He decides to advocate A2 and E, and tell N, S1 and S2 that the past, present and future are inseparable.

Ali Kaheli

Gratitude

The word "thanks" seems simple and consists of merely few letters, but it is the most precious thing human beings have. This small word carries so many meanings. For example, appreciation, respect, gratitude, honor, etc. Human beings use this expression to express some of their deep and sincere feelings.

It is, however, not easy to use it for any one except for the most faithful and the deserving ones. One of the few people that richly deserve the word 'thanks' is the head of English Department of Arhab Education College, Dr. Ahmed Al-Khadasi. His honesty, modesty and hard work have qualified him for this compliment. All his students unanimously want me to convey their word of thanks to him through our dear newspaper, Yemen Times. I know that he is not in need of our praise, though it is a must and must be said. So, I take this opportunity to tender our sincerest gratitude to him. At the same time, we pledge upon our word of honor to be of any service for such people as Dr. Ahmad, regardless of whoever or wherever they are.

We do promise to stand by you and do our best whatever circumstances are, so as to be Al-Khadasi's in future. Our best wishes and felicitations not only for our doctors, but for every loyal individual serving this country sincerely.

Fadl Ahmed Abbas Al-Mohsen
Arhab Education College
English Dept – Level 4

The Romantic Ancient Capital

Sivadasan,
Department of English,
Ibb University-Ibb

Jibla is a few kilometers away from Ibb. The beautiful hilly green arable land, surrounding a small city with more rain than the neighboring areas, cannot fail to attract you if you care for beauty in its pure sense.

The big mosque at Jibla, built by Queen Arwa, is a marvel of ancient Yemeni architecture. The entire construction is suffused with an austere beauty, and the minaret towering over the mosque for many centuries is severely pristine in its appearance and function. The dome still keeps the prestige and glory of the kingdom as it was in the days of the elegant queen. The thick compound walls and the cellar-like passages and corridors of the mosque take you straight back to the

days of the queen, and you feel as if you were in the corridors of history itself. You feel like getting in touch with the very Yemeni soul. The spirited words of the people in charge of the mosque to express their brotherhood to visitors were exhilarating. The bathrooms with running water from the natural hot-spring and the different temperature in different rooms make us feel wonder about the unique construction of the ancient mosque.

The paved way leading to the mosque premises tells you the stories of ages that witnessed the cultural heritage and how the forefathers kept it for the posterity. The ancient residential area in the vicinity testifies the glory and manners the earlier generation had in the old capital. The palace with 360 bedrooms for the queen to sleep in, and the romantic idea of her changing the bedroom everyday for safety or fancy tickles our fancy. Doesn't it suggest the

touch of an environment in one of the stories of 'The Arabian Nights'? However, the sad look of the dilapidated palace reminds us of the lost glory of the small old capital city of Yemen. It is rather a grand old grandma who is reluctant to accept the changes that take place around her. Maybe she is too infatuated with the glory of the past to get on with the technological developments that illuminate the other cities which shot up in the later days. Jibla is still in the trance of the past glory.

The museum near the palace with all the traditional items used by the people and the queen in those days shows rich cultural background of the city. Everyone you meet there including the young children who accompany the visitors seems to have imbibed the proud heritage of the ancient city. Everything was active, alert and live except the dry field in the outskirts in the off-season.



ألف مبروك

أزكى التهاني وأرق الأمنيات نرفها للشباب الخلاق/

رضوان محمد صالح با نافع

بمناسبة زفافه الميمون

فالف مبروك وعقبى للباركي

المهنؤون،

كافة موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز - فرع عدن
وموظفي وعمال الرحاب للخطوط

تهانينا

أجمل التهاني وأصدق التبريكات مكللة بأريج الفل والورود والياسمين نهديتها

للأستاذ/ طه علي المسني

بمناسبة زواجه من

الأستاذة الشاعرة/ هدى أبلان

متمنين لهم حياة زوجية سعيدة

المهنؤون،

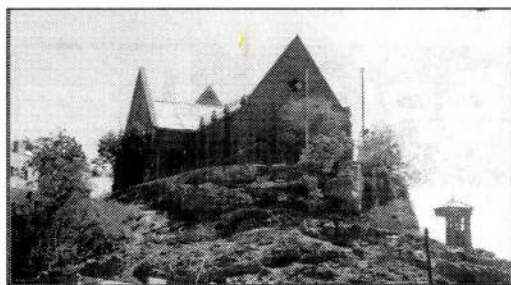
لببيب عبد الرحمن صلاح المسني
وليد سعيد البهري

Remembering Aden During (1839 - 1967)

In his history book titled "Tarikh Thaghrat Aden, historian Bin Makhramah describes ancient Aden by saying that "Upon killing his brother Abel, Cain was fearing his father Adam so he escaped from India to Aden and settled down in Seira mountain. When he felt desolate due to his banishment from the settled country, the Satan showed up, trying to entertain him with some entertainment tools. It is said that there was no sea separating Aden and Socotra. They were both as one land until Dhul-Qarnain came on board a ship to the place and dug up a gulf in the sea and stood on the Bab al-Mandab mountain and Aden was surrounded by water.

Britons' Control over Aden:

When Aden was captured by the Britons, the British government had set out to tighten its grip over Aden for 15 years, ruling out the possibilities of any attacks



from any neighboring tribes. Captain Hans was the first political resident in Aden.

In 1848, trade, construction drive and economy started to boom in Aden. The British government started creating job opportunities for the Britons residing in Aden. The focus was on the town itself and the neighboring areas.

In 1855, a truce was announced between the Sultan al-Fadli and the British government. In 1857, there was a clear development in relations between the Britons on the one hand and the Abadel on the other, to the extent that Sultan Fadl bin Muhsen al-Abdali requested the British government to protect him from the Turks when the latter captured some

of his lands in 1873.

In July 1874 Sultan Fadl bin Muhsen passed away he was succeeded by his nephew Fadl bin Ali. In February 6 1882, a treaty was signed between the political resident Francis Lock and Sultan Fadl bin Ali, Abadel Sultan. The treaty testified selling 35 square miles of lands attached to Sheikh Othman area, "al-Mamlah", for YR 25000. The treaty also defined 1641 riyal as a monthly salary for the Sultans of Lahj, as long as they remained in allegiance to the British government. The treaty was endorsed on March 7, 1882 by British India ruler at the time as Aden was affiliated with the British Administration in India. The British government was very much concerned with measures to ensure all the facilities needed for the British garrison, including water and residence.

In March 1867, an agreement was signed between the political resident in Aden Mr. Asidoliam and Fadl bin Muhsen, Sultan of Lahj, to dig up a channel supplying Aden city with water from wells in Sheikh Othman, that is, from the North to the South as far as a camp located nearby Hadid

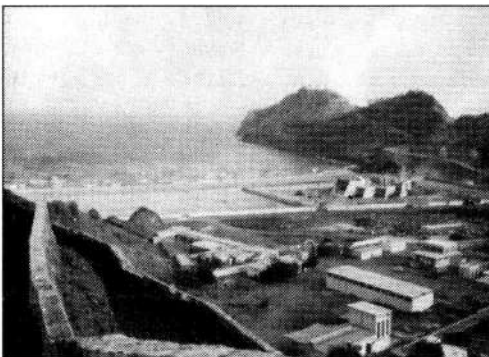
mountain. The channel still exists until the present time. The channel was dug by the Britons and protected by the Sultan in exchange for some money he used to receive on a regular basis. Water used to flow to large water containers for the British camps use.

During 1863-1867 and when colonel Meitroyders, political resident, was on Aden, military barracks increased visibly. A lighthouse to show directions for ships and colony secretariat were also established. A military bridge was also built above Aden gate.

The British Policy in Aden:

Controlling Aden was not the end of the

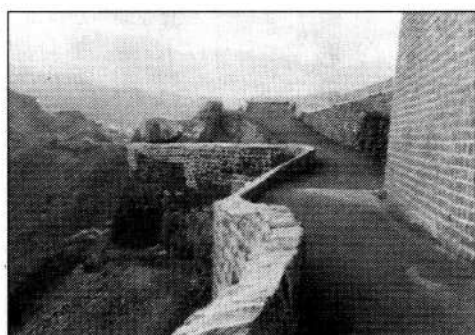
British greed in the south of Arab Peninsula. Their control of Aden was the starting point of an expanding campaign to ensure their control over the East African Horn. Building up a strong army to protect it from any attacks by Arabs surrounding it, was also given a top priority at the time. The invasion of Aden cost the British government a lot; 1000 riyals on a daily basis used to be spent for protection, another 1,000 riyals were spent on other issues, 7800 riyals were



spent on salaries for nine Emirs and their men when every Emir used to receive 400 riyals except for the Sultan of Lahj who used to receive much more.

Aden city after Suez Canal Inauguration:

After the inauguration of al-Swiss canal, the trade drive boosted in al-Tawahi port.



The port was then expanded to provide ships with coal and other provisions. A good number of new companies and rich families maintained direct contacts and strong relations with British officials.

Such atmosphere enticed many employees from the neighboring areas to come and work there. It also buoyed up the transferring of goods from the port of Aden to other ports and vice versa. Coffee and gum trade was of the most outstanding goods, after being transferred from Makka Port to Aden port.

Population Growth in Aden:

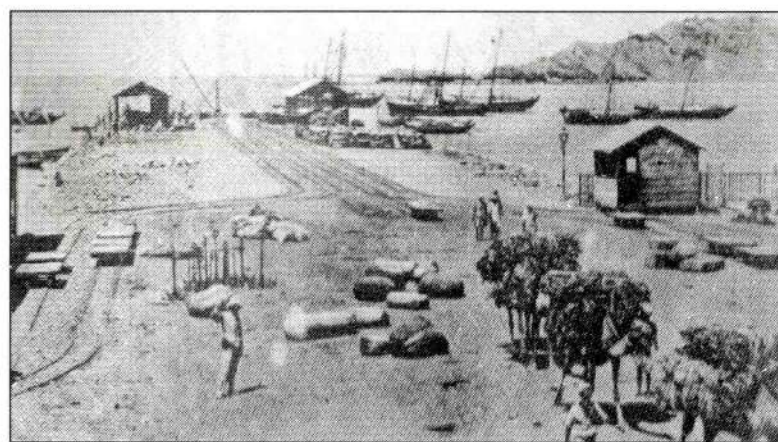
After the British colonization, Mr. Hans carried out a census of those living in

Aden and found that they were not exceeding 600: 250 Jews, 40 Indians, and some from Africa. Soon, it was found out that the census was quite inaccurate as it was conducted immediately after the colonization when majority of the people were afraid of the British garrison.

Five months later, another census was conducted making them 2855. In 1850, the number of people living in Aden reached 9800. This was a testimony of the rapid population growth. In 1891, the population run to 40,926. This rapid growth was not approved by the British government at the time. As a result the "deportation policy" was applied by the British government. Many Arabs and many residents of al-Mua'ala and al-Tawahi were driven out to Sheikh Othman.

Aden During the First World War:

During 1839-1914, Aden witnessed many political as well as social changes. The British government pulled all stops to have a tight grip and firm control over the area in a way that served its expansion plans in the South and East of Yemen. It signed many treaties and protection agreements with many tribes' sheikhs. It also supported some development projects in some areas. In 1905, it supported a railway project connecting Aden to Lahj. It helped Sultans to estab-



lish local forces for protection. In 1906, the British government ceased its support for the railway, marking a new turn in its policy.

After defining the demarcation between Turks and the Britons in Aden, the 1st world war broke out on 15. November 1914. Turkish forces supported Germany and waged war on Britain and France, specially after attacking the Ottoman fleet in the red sea which made this place a conflicting area for the two sides. The British forces were in danger, especially as Aden was close to the Ottoman garisons in Yemen.

When the war started, it was bound that the two forces would clash in the Yemeni land. However, war between these forces in the Yemeni lands did not last for long. During the war Aden residents used to sympathize with the Ottoman forces as they were Muslims fighting against disbelievers. With the cooperation of some Sheikhs of tribes, Turks were able to capture some British protectorates and controlled Lahj. Then, these forces advanced towards al-Dale'e and Yafe'e. They reached Sheikh Othman. However they pulled back and Sheikh Othman used to separate the two forces. British felt the bitterness of the defeat in Yemen. The political resident in Aden was dismissed as a result. Since then, the British government in London was in charge of handling issues in Aden.

Aden and the Indian Style:

Since 1937 the Indian style was dominating Aden, especially during the period when Aden was affiliate to the British administration in India. The Indian style

was visible in constructions, food and ways of life in general. This had made people raise the motto "Aden is an Arab City" and that the future of its people was with Arabs and not with Indians. They called for demolishing the Indian life style in the city and to restore Islamic and Arab style. They exercised pressure on the British government in religious ceremonies and festivals taking place. This has made the social, racial discriminations appear visibly between Yemeni, Arabs and Indian residents. Clashes between them were also predestined to happen and was supported by the British government. Indians started to have a clear awareness that they were taken advantage by the Britons, especially when Aden was connected with the British colonies instead of the Indian administration in 1937. The Indian currency continued to be used though until 1951 when the shilling, the African currency, replaced it. Ever since Aden was affiliated with the British Crown. It had its own legal position and its own ruler appointed by the British government. It was prepared as a marine site and a connection point with the Eastern and western protectorates.

Life started to change and trade boomed dramatically in 1942, especially when the port of Aden became a major port to supply ships with oils instead of coal.

The first electric power station was established in Hujaf to provide more facilities for the port. Water was connected through pipes to special containers to provide ships with water. Roads were paved as cars started to be used for transportation instead of carts.



Shumaila Hari

Monthly Program

February, 2001

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Every Saturday and Wednesday at 03:30 - 05:30
Bring bill/receipt with total amount YR1.000
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February 10 - February 15, 2001
- BABY COMPETITION**
February 16, 2001
- CANDY & BISCUIT FESTIVAL**
February 16 - February 23, 2001
- CHILDREN FASHION COMPETITION**
February 23, 2001

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Crystals

by Mohamed Kadri

He Raped, She was Sentenced to Death!

Wait a minute! I have a true story to tell. I assure you that it will whiten your hair. This is just one story from among many other similar ones that are not often published, but rather kept in closed drawers, ignored, left behind, in the hope that no one would reveal them to the public. But here comes my chance to do so, to you!

There was a woman who had been known in the neighborhood since her very early childhood as pretty. She had lived in a suburb near Taiz City. She was a happily married lady, with nothing but a clean and good record as a citizen and a wife.

One day, her husband had to stay out at work for the night, leaving her alone all by herself in her small house. Just a few minutes past midnight, a drunken military officer, full of lust and dirty desires knocked the door of the house. Once she realized it was not her husband's voice, she obviously did not open the door, but her wise decision was not enough to avoid a catastrophe. The officer broke into the house carrying his alcoholic drink and immediately tried to rape the poor woman. For a minute, she was able to escape the man who followed her into the kitchen to satisfy his lust. Thinking about her lost pride and feeling the frustration, pain and anger, the woman grabbed a knife from the kitchen, and stabbed the man to death.

In a few days, the woman found herself being accused of manslaughter. However, the court realized that she was only defending herself, and hence she was acquitted.

Despite the fact that all evidence was in favor of the woman's innocence, the relatives of the military officer appealed the verdict and reopened the file of the woman. Behind the scenes, the relatives saw little hope in winning the case, so they offered two million rials to the judge to rule in their favor. The judge smiled and simply said, "Your amount is not enough for a single plunge into hellfire." The relatives had to raise the bribe to eight millions until the judge was finally satisfied. Miraculously, with the use of money, the case was turned upside down, and the woman was finally sentenced to death!

Then came the moment when she was about to be executed, by gunfire in a public area. She swore to her husband and the gathering crowd that she was innocent. Her voice filled the sky, just moments before her blood filled the grassy ground.

Nothing could be done, no one knew her real story, and no one felt sympathy towards her; But no doubt, the truth that was concealed that day will eventually be known. Indeed, judgement day will clarify everything!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to inform you that I have been one of the main, active readers for years beyond comparison of the 1st placed English language newspaper in Yemen since the founder Prof. Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf issued the first editions.

For myself, the majority of the Yemeni English language newspapers readers could not forget a single word of founder Prof. Abdulaziz' words of wisdom.

But among us who work with foreign donor agencies in the remote, rural areas a question has to be raised. Why did YT stipulate in its green advertisement leaflet, in the small free-form scripts advertisement, a deadline one week or less for these to be sent to you? Dear Sir, For we receive Yemen times late! and are unable to send these forms in due time.. so please be kind enough to reconsider this dead line and make it more flexible?

So that we could witness yet more wisdom from the son of the founder "an exceptional condition" to accept scripts at a later date for people who live in rural areas. I am on leave in Aden and found the chance to send my scripts to you. But my work is in Shabwa Basic Dev Proj. about 400 km from Aden.

AL-Fadhli Abdulla Salem

Dear Editor,

I have read your article which was titled "That is Who We Are!" and I honestly and totally agree with you. We are not going to hide our mistakes from others just to seem nice in their eyes and when they come here they get shocked by unexpected things. Moreover, how can we tell them "later" that the things had really changed and encourage them to see the differences when they are seeing the same style of reports either today or ten years before. If we are ashamed of our actions, then we have to find some way to prevent them.

It is obvious that your newspaper has credibility because it always says the truth no matter how bad it is. If you chose to post the positive news only in your newspaper, then you might not get the trust and the popularity that you have now among a huge number of

readers. I really don't think that we need the good impressions as much as we need the right ones.

My best regards to you and to all the journalists in your newspaper and I wish you all good luck.

AL-Mufadhal
AL-Mufadhal@usa.net

Dear Editor,

I am very saddened after reading your article about the Jew Azar Ibrahim not being able to run for office. As a Jew of Yemeni origin, I would like to see Yemen rise to the occasion, let him run, and show the world there is no discrimination against Jews-"the people of the book".

Yisrael M. Safeek,
ysaf@aol.com
MD, USA

Dear Editor,

I am a pilot living in the U.S. now and was shocked to hear about the unprecedented hijacking of Yemenia. I would like to extend my best wishes and regards to my colleagues Cap. Anees Amer and First Officer Rosa Abdulkhalek and the rest of the crew for their bravery and the Captain's intelligent way and wisdom in dealing with the hijacker. In the end I wish Yemenia success and prosperity.

Malek Mohamed Seif
malekseif@hotmail.com

Dear Editor,

I am writing you this letter to inform you that as a Yemeni citizen here in the US, I am not happy with the relationships between the Arab world.

For nearly 4 centuries the Arab world has been violated by America and its allies. I feel sorry for the families of the sailors who died aboard the Cole but such things happen.

The bombing was the only way to tell America to stay off our land. Yemen is a nation that is fed up with America. The Arab nations should come together and show our foes (America, Israel) that we are not scared and that we will fight back. America gives its taxes in dollars to Israel, which was used to buy weapons to kill the children, women, and men of Palestine. The Cole attack took less than 20 lives while America helped Israel take more than 500 lives. The Americans have violated Iraq, Yemen, Saudi, and Palestine in the past. Instead of running away from these attacks lets work together and attack back.

Ghassan Amin Alsaadi
USA

Dear Editor,

Beyond our surprise at the piece of news in the article titled "Shiat.. Establishes Center in Nihm" issue#51 of last December 2000, we still believe that Yemen Times is almost the best medium to investigate and publish such a sensitive and complicated issue as the one in focus. Therefore, we would like to clarify some points which had been mentioned or implied in the referred article.

1- The legal permission for the center is under my direct personal responsibility and nobody should assume otherwise.

2- The previous residence building was not owned by Alkawther Center nor is the present, which is in the center of the capital city of Sana'a.

3- The center has not been shut down (per say), but in fact it has relocated to the present location, due to new circumstances, in which we still enjoy relative activities, and as worth mentioning, had celebrated significant religious occasions side by side with the scientific and social seminars organized, in particular in the holy month of Ramadan. Some of which were: birthday of Imam Al-Hassan (AS), victory of the battle of Badr, martyrdom of Imam Ali (AS), a one-day seminar on "Computer and Internet for All," and among others a special gathering intended to help the Palestinian cause in the "day of AlQuds". There is no need to mention that the invitation was for the general public.

4- As to the person who was blocked from entering the country, he had not acquired the necessary visa for entrance because his Indian passport required an advance visa.

5- The other person who was detained had been found guilty of violating and penetrating the limits of the airport boundary. As soon as I knew his situation, I bailed him out, explaining to the people in charge his honest intentions, as a humanitarian helper though he wasn't employed by the center.

6- Finally, it must be clear that we never try to prevent any people's activities or even to have any objection whatsoever toward others conducting similar activities, knowing that no one is allowed to use our name (The Cultural and Islamic Center of Alkawther) in his/her program of activities. Before rolling these words, I should point to both the importance and sensitivity of such matters. At the same time, we in the center invite all people from all regions and all backgrounds to give themselves the opportunity to see and understand, not only the tangible activities and achievements, which had been proved in the previous time by this center and it's volunteers, but also to experience and sense the basis of such contributions as the ones committed by the center and also to understand the cause that we have volunteered for.

Abdulkhaliq Almadani
Cultural and Islamic Alkawther Center

Accountant for

Basic Education Expansion Project

The Ministry of Education (MOE) - Credit Administration Unit (CAU) - Seeks applicants for the position of Accountant to assist the Financial officer in running the project financially.

Main Tasks:

The accountant would:

- Prepare the withdrawal applications, claims, and related governmental letters
- Record transactions in the computerized accounting system of the financial activities of the project:
 - Maintain the petty cash.
 - Make the necessary vouchers and receipts for all deposits and withdrawal to and from the credit, and record them in the predefined chart of accounts in the system.
 - Make a monthly replenishment of the S/A and maintain the necessary control registers for all procured civil works, goods, & technical assistance.
 - Follow-up with related ministries and the Central Bank of Yemen.
 - Make a monthly reconciliation of the special account and other current accounts (if any), make a necessary adjustments and monthly closing entries.
- Make sure that all bank statements, withdrawal applications, claims, correspondence are properly filed and easily accessible once required.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting.
- Minimum of 3 years of professional experience in accounting.
- Reasonable knowledge of International Accounting Standards, familiarity with the government's and IDA's requirement.
- Experience in the use of accounting softwares.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

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In the Following address:

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Third floor.
P. O. Box 16392

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الكلاء الوحيدين
للتفاصيل : صفحة التكنولوجيا في صحيفة الناس
وصفحة الإعلانات الممولة في صحيفة بيمه تايمز

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متنيين لغما السعادة الدائمة وبالرفاه والبنين

المهنيون
الشيخ / محمد أحمد المسمي
الحاج / عبد القادر إسماعيل المسمي
المهندس / محمد سعيد القرشي
الدكتور / مختار محمد عبده المسمي



Press Scanner

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Local authority elections and the referendum on the constitutional amendments are nowadays the hottest themes in Yemen's political arena, therefore all Yemeni press focuses on these two live topics. This edition of press scan-

ner is allocated to review various points of view on these crucially important issues as appeared in articles and commentaries published by some Yemeni newspapers. In addition there is a review of the main news stories in Yemeni press particularly on local issues.

Here is a review of the main news headlines front-paging Yemeni press this week tackling various local and world issues.

- Socialists Demand Membership Cancellation of Party Leaders Abroad
- Journalists Syndicate Demands End to Implementing Primary Verdicts Against Newspapers
- Parliamentary Elections Follow Immediately the Local Councils'
- Local Councils Greatly Serve Labor Sector
- In a Scientific Study: 54% Yemenis Poor, 20% Rich Control 49% of National Income
- USS Cole: Sa'afani Planned Attack, Khamiri one of Implementers
- Explosion in Dhalie Targeting Security Official
- A Final Court Sitting On Medical College Morgue Case
- Natural Gas Exportation Project Implementation Begins Before Second Half This Year
- Al-Jifri Analyzes RAY Stand, Discloses Negative & Positive Points in Constitutional Amendments
- RAY Weekly Website Comes Under Virus Kak Attack
- Flagrant Violations of Constitution, Law in Zidiya
- US-Russian Security Coordination in Yemen
- Observers: Opposition Faces Party Possessing Authority Capabilities
- Suspension of Shumou Newspaper, Denounced
- Parliamentarians: Sales Tax, a Blow to Economy
- An International Demand for Attacking Poverty in the World
- YSP Holds Elections Supreme Committee Responsible For Violations, Irresponsible Behavior
- Political Parties Trade Accusations Ahead of Elections
- Comprehensive Implementation of Privatization in Yemen

Review of articles, analyzes and commentaries published in this week's Yemeni Press concentrating mainly on the coming local councils elections and referendum on constitutional amendments depicting various viewpoints on these two vitally important events.



On the coming local council elections and constitutional amendments due on February 20, lawyer Abdulsalam As-Samawi wrote an article in **Al-Wahda weekly**, February 7, 2001 saying that the referendum on constitutional amendments and the local councils elections were two historic events in our country in order to complete the building of the modern state and lay the pillars of political stability. The author has further said that the two events come in response to urgent necessities dictated by variables at both local and international levels. They also form an important qualitative transfer in the process of political, economic and social national construction. The two events give opportunity for more democratic practice and stabilization of the people's ruling of themselves, a principle that has been a dream of the people for many long years. The people will then take part in drawing up and taking political, economic and social decisions in various fields of development, curbing financial and administrative centralization.



The constitutional amendments and conflicting stands taken by various political organizations towards them has been the theme of the editorial of **RAY weekly**, organ of Sons of Yemen League party in its 6 February 2001 issue. The RAY editorial says that though the issue is a nationwide one and an axis of its future, they have adopted extreme stands towards it. Some have taken extreme posi-

tion in favor of the issue of constitutional amendments and others have taken an attitude completely rejecting them thinking that they would be a big blow to the democratic experiment.

Thus the space of extremism in the political address has widened and overshadowed the stands. Also the space available for reaching the essential truth has narrowed. The circle of self-seclusion has been completed when the authority has insisted on putting the people in a position of naive comparison between the utter rejection and total imposition.

The weekly editorial comes to a conclusion that the scientific reading of domestic issues and looking at them with objectivity, away from whims and narrow-scope interests, is the sole outlet for all.



An-Nass weekly, February 5, 2001. On the local council elections Mr Abdulfattah Al-Batoul wrote an article saying that despite the shortcomings associating with the local elections and referendum on the constitution, all political parties are going to take part in them. They believe in the importance of participation for bringing success and to stabilize the democratic process which needs decades before democracy becomes a right not a gift, as well as one of the constants.

The most dangerous problems accompanying the electoral process, having a destructive impact and adverse results are represented by the partiality of the elections supreme committee and the ruling party's participation with all mechanism and capabilities of the government.

The importance of bringing the experiment to success and benefiting from it should be stressed. All must cooperate in this, especially the ruling party that bears the biggest share of responsibility. Participation of parties shows their desire for deepening the electoral experiment and consolidating the democratic process. The ball is in the ruling party's court. It has to run elections as a party not a state, and an organization not a government.

Continued from Page 1: Legal Dilemma

The deprivation of a community eligible segment affects the general outcome of electors will, as well as the rights of political parties' candidates. The statement maintained that all, including the president of the republic, are aware of this falsity. Tables of voters registration have been the object of many challenges on which binding rules have been issued calling for the complete cancellation of those tables. Moreover there is a proportion of those registered without having the right, repeated and false names and these represent around one fifth of registered voters.

مسابقة «يمن تايمز» الأسبوعية

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لمكتبك

- أجب عن السؤالين في الأسفل بعين بياناتك الشخصية كاملة مع بيانات المكتب أو الجهة التي اشترت منها النسخة.
- أن كان لديك اشتراكا مباشرا بالصحيفة، فيمكنك الاكتفاء بتعبئة بياناتك الشخصية وستتأكد الصحيفة من صحة اشتراكك قبل أن يتم السحب. وإذا لم تكن متأكدا من صحة اشتراكك فيمكنك الاتصال بقسم الاشتراكات لدينا.
- في حالة أنك لست مشتركا، سيحصل صاحب الجهة (المكتب، البقالة...) التي اشترت منه هذه النسخة على ١٠٪ من الجائزة (ألفي ريال)، وستحصل أنت على ٩٠٪ (١٨.٠٠٠ ريال) في حالة فوزك في المسابقة.
- لن تقبل أي استمارات لا تعبأ فيها معلومات المتسابق بخط واضح عليك أن تقص الكوبون وترسله إلى عنوان الصحيفة الرئيسي في صنعاء أو أحد فروع الصحيفة في عدن أو تعز. ويمكنك توصيل الكوبون بنفسك إلى الصندوق البريدي عند بوابة الصحيفة في الفرع الرئيسي. لن تقبل الإجابات من دون الكوبون.
- ملاحظة: الإجابات التي تصلنا بالفاكس غير مقبولة.
- سيتم اختيار الفائز من بين جميع المتقدمين بواسطة القرعة. وحتى يتسنى للقراء من المحافظات النائية والقرى إرسال الإجابات إلى بريد الصحيفة، فإن باب المشاركة سيظل مفتوحا لمدة أسبوعين من يوم الإصدار (أي بعد ١٢ يوما من الإصدار).
- بإمكان نفس الشخص إرسال أكثر من كوبون بإسمة للعدد الواحد ليترصد من احتمال فوزه بالمسابقة.
- سينشر إسم الفائز وإسم المكتب (أو الجهة البائعة) في العدد بعد القادم لاستلام جوائزهما النقدية.
- نرجو كتابة رقم عدد الصحيفة على مطروف الرسالة.
- حظاً موفقاً!

المسابقة رقم (١) - العدد (٧) ١٢ فبراير ٢٠٠١

سؤال ١: بحسب التعديلات الدستورية التي سيتم الاستفتاء عليها كم ستكون فترة رئاسة الجمهورية؟

الإجابة:

سؤال ٢: ما هو نوع سيارة الأسكودا الأخيرة التي تم الإعلان عنها في صحيفة يمن تايمز لهذا العدد؟

الإجابة:

الاسم: _____

رقم البطاقة: _____

التاريخ: _____

بيانات اضافية وضرورية لغير المشتركين في الصحيفة

اسم المكتب أو الجهة التي اشترت منها النسخة

اسم مسؤول المكتب: _____

المدينة/العزلة/المحافظة: _____

الختم (إن وجد) _____

The suitors have also demanded cancellation of the "Technical Guide" of field committees work that defines balloting and the time program included. They have also demanded forcing the Supreme Committee for Elections to revise and write voters' tables and registers and amend them, omitting names of the dead and those who are incompetent.

According to the press statement, the suitors have also demanded an immediate stop to measures pertaining to the elections of local councils and the referendum on constitutional amendments scheduled on February 20 until a future date allowing the tables to be corrected. The second suit pertains to canceling the statement of the elections supreme committee issued on 21 January.

The suit stipulates that the statement in question has put the number of those registered in tables of voters as a criterion for defining the size of local councils. And thus neglecting the principle of equal political, economic and social opportunities which the number of population determines. That has led to discrimination in representation of residential areas in a way that would not achieve participation in political life and development. It is to be considered as a violation of articles 40 and 41 of the constitution and article 60 of local authority law and article 25/A of elections law. The lawsuit has demanded stopping the implementation of the statement and abolishing the results it causes.



The Republic of Yemen University of Aden

Announcement of the Opening of Candidature for the University of Aden Award for the Promotion of Scientific Research

For the implementation of the university objectives to promote Scientific Research directed towards the service of the overall development problems and the advancement of culture and science, the University of Aden has the pleasure to announce:

"The University of Aden Award for the Promotion of Scientific Research, the Second Round for the year 2001."

On the basis the directive issued by the University President No. 191 for the year 1999, which the university provides for the annual awards in the following fields:

1. Engineering Science
2. Basic Sciences "Pure Sciences"
3. Agricultural Sciences
4. Medical and Health Sciences
5. Economic Sciences
6. Law Sciences
7. Social and Human Sciences
8. The best book edited during 2000/2001 in Social and Human Sciences
9. The best book edited during 2000/2001 in Natural and Applied Sciences

Consequently, the University of Aden has the pleasure to welcome the candidature for the awards listed above starting from the 1st of March 2001 to the 30th of June 2001.

Specification of the Scientific Material

The Scientific Material presented to obtain award must be: an original distinguished research work,

constituting a new contribution in the field of Specialization, related to the Yemeni environment and Yemeni Society and the development issues and not forming part of MSc or PHD theses research work which has already been submitted for scientific promotion.

Conditions of Candidature

1. A candidate is required to be a member of the teaching staff of University of Aden, of any other Yemeni university or of another working in scientific research in Yemen Centers of research.
2. The applications of candidature for the award shall be submitted personally by researchers to the Secretary of the award in the General Directorate of Scientific Research in University of Aden by completing the prescribed form clearly and precisely.
3. Five copies of the scientific material of the candidate and five copies of the other documents mentioned in the Application Form shall be submitted to the secretary of the Award in the General Directorate of Scientific Research not later than the 30 the April 2001.
4. The candidate shall delineate definitely the

scientific field of the award for which he has applied.

5. If the submitted scientific material was contributed by the candidate and other co-candidates, the submitter shall present what proves their approval for the application for the award.
6. A candidate submitting for this award should not submit the same scientific material which has already been submitted for an award in any other previous or current institution.
7. The submitted scientific material to the present award shall not be returned to the candidate in case of admission or otherwise.

Arbitration

1. The arbitration shall be undertaken by specialized committee of qualified and experienced professors competent and for recognized for their fair objectivity in evaluation and arbitration.
2. On the basis of recommendations of the subcommittees, the main jury has sole right to decide on conferring the award to individual winners, equally to co-partners or concealing it in

any field of specialization.

3. Decisions of the Main Jury are definitive and final shall not eligible for contestation.

The Winners and Distribution of Award

1. The results and names of winners will be announced in the second half of the August month of the same year of submission to the award.
2. The ceremony of the awards distribution will be announced in the various mass available.
3. The awards will be conferred upon the winners in a special ceremony held on the 10th of September the Foundation Day of Aden university.
4. Winners will enjoy a financial remuneration, in addition to the award medal and a certificate to the effect.

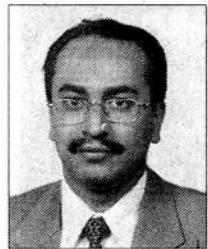
All correspondences are welcomed to:

The Secretary of the Award - General Directorate of Scientific Research,
The University of Aden Award for the Promotion of Scientific Research,
University of Aden
PO Box 5312, Khormakser,
Tel. 234420-234428, Fax: 234426-234430

In the Symposium Organized by the Future Studies Center, Al-Bayan and Yemen Times:

HEATED DEBATE ON LOCAL ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS RAISE CONTROVERSY

The Future Studies Center, with the coordination of Yemen Times, and Al-Bayan Newspaper of the UAE, organized a symposium last Wednesday, 7 February 2001 entitled, "Local Council Elections and Constitutional Amendments." Representatives of major political parties, politicians, diplomats, intellectuals and media representatives attended the symposium, which aimed at shedding light on the different viewpoints of political parties regarding local elections and the referendum on constitutional amendments scheduled to take place on the 20th of February.



The symposium was run by Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Editor-in-Chief of Yemen Times along with Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the

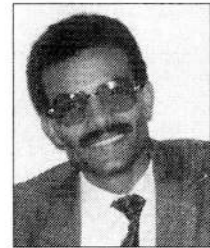
Future Studies Center, and included tense and heated debates and discussions between representatives from the ruling party, the People's General Congress and other opposition parties. The seminar started with a welcome speech by Walid Al-Saqqaf in which he stated that the objective of the event was to provide an opportunity for all parties to openly voice their stand regarding local elections and constitutional amendments. He stressed that Yemen Times was proud to sponsor and co-organize the seminar, which was in a transparent atmosphere that provided an opportunity to all parties to state their stand clearly and decisively, and it was also an opportunity for observers and interested diplomats and intellectuals to get a thorough idea of the viewpoints of the different parties. He concluded his speech by emphasizing that the seminar, with all its debatable points, no matter how diverse and different will be published in Yemen Times without any additions or omissions.



Then Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf gave his opening speech saying, "On the 20th of this month, the local council elections, along with the referendum on constitutional amendments, will be taking place all over the country. Local council elections could be considered the latest democratic election game after the parliamentary and presidential elections. These local elections have come up very late, especially given that the constitution of the unified Yemen of 1990 included these elections, and that local authority law has been modified several times. The points of difference were deep, and were initially resembled in the philosophy of ruling power. However, they later concentrated on the debate whether certain administrative posts should be elected or appointed. The debate also focused on the level of authority of the local councils and how they will be financed. Now, 10 years later, the country was surprised to see that a political decision to hold local council elections was taken. The overall view is that the authorities decided to hold the elections along with the referendum on constitutional amendments to prevent a low turnout in the referendum. The PGC was the first to demand the holding of the elections and referendum at this particular time claiming that this is a vital step for the sake of the national interest of the country. But this surprise decision was not welcomed by all political parties, but they later diverged in their stands, some in favor of, and some against the stand of PGC. What is the stand and viewpoint of the different political parties regarding local elections and constitutional amendments? How well are the different parties prepared for the elections? Are there equal opportunities for the different political parties? Why are some parties taking part? Why are others boycotting? How will these two steps push our dem-

ocratic process forward? These are some of the questions asked in this debate to seek the truth behind the local elections and the amendments, and to predict the future of the country given the current circumstances. The debate will take place among all political parties and authorities involved except for the Islah party and the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) representatives, who had been invited but didn't come for unknown reasons."

The first speech was given by the ruling PGC party, represented by Yunis Haza, a member of the political circle of the PGC, and he explained the party's views on why it is essential to hold the local council elections along with the constitutional elections. In his speech he said, "PGC has been continuously working on holding local council elections, but because of the first, second, and third coalitions that ruled the country since then, it was not possible to hold them until today. PGC's domination of the political scene in the parliament has enabled it to go forward in preparing for the elections. As for why they are to be held along with the constitutional amendments, is to facilitate the referendum process, and there is no other reason other than that."



Ahmed Al-Sufi, Secretary of the Yemeni National Institute for Developing Democracy interrupted Haza's speech by saying, "I believe that the only reason that constitutional amendments are being proposed is to give more authority to the President of the Republic. Is the president in competition with a presidential candidate so as to see himself in great need for the constitutional amendments? I think that the extra authority to be given will have a negative effect on democracy."

Yunis Haza responded by saying, "First of all, there seem to be some who think that when we talk about the president, then that means Ali Abdullah Saleh. The issue is not related to the president himself. If we are talking about constitutional amendments, then we are talking about any individual who will one day become president of Yemen. Unfortunately, some in the opposition see the constitution from a narrow perspective, as if they are only related to the president of the republic, even though the truth is the opposite. With the constitutional amendments, the president has abandoned many of his powers, especially that the amendments will no longer give authority to the president to make decisions during the parliament's off-duty days, or between parliamentary sessions.

In relation to the extension of the presidential ruling period, then that is related to preserving the environment and maintaining cleanliness, which are also two important points in the constitutional amendments, which I believe the opposition should focus on as they have positive reflections. Many of the amendments help develop the electoral and referendum processes, and some limit the monopoly of some authorities, hence helping the democracy progress and gradually moving toward the two-chamber system. All of these are important issues that should be thought of before thinking about the extension of the periods of the president or parliamentarians."

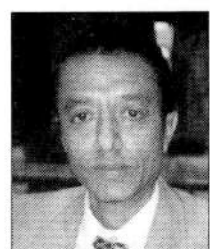
Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf asked, "Mr. Ahmed Al-Kibsi, member of the permanent committee of the PGC. Why does the PGC say that the local council elections along with constitutional amendments are of vital importance for the national interest of our country? In other words, what are the true justifications for the amendments?"

Ahmed Al-Kibsi replies, "First of all, constitutional amendments mean removing, adding, or modifying articles within the constitution. They are amendments that are seen as necessary due to

the political experiences of the country. Whoever looks at the US constitutional amendments will notice that there are 26 amendments, and all were needed for the sake of the nation's interest. As we are facing the challenges of globalization, we feel that there is significant importance in protecting the environment from pollution. Hence, we saw great importance in approving constitutional amendments related to the environment and the cleanliness of our country. If we don't concentrate on this issue, we will be facing devastating effects in the future. These amendments are of great essence as they push the development of the political system and the emergence of a Shoura Council with specialized individuals, which in turn, will support the legislative authorities. But our problem in the third world is that we worship manuscripts and don't want to change them. I believe that the current situation gives us no choice and forces us to change certain articles. The ones who are against the extension of the parliamentarians' period are the parties that have no representation in the parliament. Hence, they hope to hold elections as soon as possible so as to secure seats in the parliament. The amendments are developed by humans, and so are the articles of the constitution.

As for the appointment of the governor, I believe it is best to select the person with the best expertise and knowledge to run this sensitive post as the people will not be able to select the most appropriate person.

We also support the amendments that give parliament the power that it has, not more. The parliament cannot carry out any executive action, hence it is not possible to state that it has the power for action, but it has the power for drafting and approving laws only. So it is in the best interests of the parliament to remove the phrase that says that the parliament has the power for action while the truth is that it has not as it only has the power to approve."



Dr. Mohamed Al-Mikhlafi, a prominent lawyer and a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) political office voiced his party's opinion by saying, "I want to talk about the constitutional amendments related to the local council elections so as to link the two issues. It is obvious that article 143 of the constitution says that the heads of all administrative units, i.e., governor and province administrators, should be elected as they would be the heads of the local councils. Article 144 states that the local council is to be elected as a whole and not have some of its members elected and others appointed. This comes from a major article of the constitution, specifically article 4 that states the people's sovereignty over the administrative affairs of the country. This sovereignty is represented by electing all the members of these councils so as to found a balance among the legislative and executive authorities due to the undeniable fact - you know well - that whoever is appointed by the authorities remains loyal to them. Hence, it is obvious that one of the constitutional amendments robs the people of Yemen of their right to elect the heads of the local councils and gives the right of appointing the governors to the executive authority. This is a strange case in which a council is being elected while the person in charge of it is appointed. This results in an imbalance between the legislative and executive authorities. In fact, the executive authority has dominated the situation from top to bottom. Hence, it is no surprise to see that the constitutional amendments came to justify the local council elections, which has caused chaos and confusion among many political parties. In my view, the objective of all of this is to found elections with no democratic basis, which will eventually lead to non-democratic traditions when electing local councils. Here, I will focus on some of the measures taken so far. The election law's arti-

cle 15 openly states that any electoral process should be preceded by the construction and review of the tables of the candidates and electors. The review of the tables is being done by the same constructor of the tables, which is a clear violation of the elections law and does not serve the purpose of the review. Hence, I believe that any community that does not respect laws will definitely not respect democracy or improve it. Another point is that articles 40 and 62 of the constitution give equal rights to all Yemenis, including political rights and the right to be represented in numbers relative to the size of population. This is the very thing that is not being fully implemented by the SEC. Here I would like to give two examples. The first is that the province of Sanhan - the hometown of president Ali Abdullah Saleh - had its share raised so as to have 6 more council members, while the province of Mansoura in Aden had its share lowered by 8 representatives. What the SEC has done is allocate representatives to provinces according to the number of registered electors in the election tables not according to population sizes. Hence, provinces were not divided into organized divisions but rather into electoral centers, which gave the parties that had previously forged lists of electors the right to take control of local councils by using imaginary names. It is therefore not surprising to find that some centers have 15 representatives, while others, which are mostly in southern governorates, have only one representative. Despite all the black indications I mentioned, we as the YSP, will participate in the elections."

The consultant of the Eritrean Embassy asked the PGC members during the debate an important question about the true grounds on which the decision to have the constitutional amendments was taken.

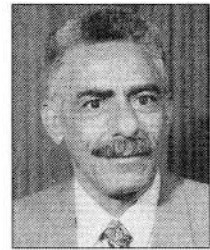
Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf replied by saying that the PGC members had implicitly explained the reasons that 'they think' are enough to justify the national need for the amendments. He said, "the PGC representatives clearly justified the need for the amendments in the global challenges and changes in the political picture, etc."



Lawyer Ahmed Al-Wadi'i, member of the Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate said in his speech, "Yemen has had 4 constitutions since unification. These were the constitution of the unified Yemen, the 92 constitution, the postwar constitution, and finally the constitution we are debating, which will transform the political system from a multi-ruling entity system to a single-ruling entity system. The latest amendments will no doubt cause a major change in the political reality in Yemen. The amendments we are talking about are amendments to 17 articles, which is a huge change in number and in nature. Most of the amendments are changes related to legislative and executive authorities, which is the core of the constitution. Yemen, before unification and the emergence of the multi-party system went for more than 20 years without

changing the constitution despite the succession of different authorities."

The PGC then replied to the allegation in the speech of Dr. Najeeb Al-Awaj, Member of the Permanent Committee of the PGC who said, "The reasons behind the quick decision to hold the elections, is that parties during the last few years called for local elections, and when the PGC saw that it was possible to hold them, it approved them. In regard to the amendments, we are not enforcing anyone to say 'YES' to them, and everyone has the right to reject them in the referendum."



Mr. Jarallah Omar, Deputy General Secretary of the YSP gave a long and comprehensive analysis of the stand of the YSP regarding

both the local elections and amendments by saying, "The local authority law is an artificial law that is of no use. According to international experts who refused to consider the local authority law a true measure for local authority. A prominent international consultant from South Africa who worked as consultant for the UN for local affairs of South Asia, once said, 'This law is no local authority or administration, but rather rationing centralization.' He also said that local councils according to the law are only consultation councils as they don't decide anything, cannot give anything and cannot prevent anything. They only agree upon and support the central authority's decisions. Hence, we are not dealing with local authorities, or even regular municipalities in Asian or African countries with emerging democracies. In fact, we hope that we could reach the level of democracy in these countries. This law gives us no authority, but rather the local councils, according to the law, are under the continuous threat of being dissolved if they do not abide by the instructions of the central authority. Hence, these local councils become entities in fear, not being feared as they are under total control and domination by the central authorities in terms of power and funds.

Coming to the financial side, as we know, there are no sections within the current 2001 budget allocated for the local councils. We, as the YSP, will still participate despite all this because we want to change this experience through our hard work and not through propaganda and statements. As for those in the PGC and the ones who justify the reason why governors are being appointed and not elected by saying that we are still a developing nation and the people cannot select the people to represent them efficiently in this post, I would like to ask a question. Is this nation qualified or not? If not, how can you give the nation the right to select the president of the republic and members of parliament, and not give it the right to select the governors or heads of administrative units. This only makes us conclude that the previously held elections were not serious at all. This also indicates that the traditional social system of today is the same outdated system as during the Ottoman Rule. As opposition, we will oppose this system and work to change it and bring true local administration to the country.

As for the constitutional amendments, no one from the PGC gave us a reasonable justification for them. Mr. Al-Kibsi of the PGC, who is one of the grandchildren of one of the constitution's martyrs, Ahmed Al-Kibsi, did not provide us with a convincing justification for the amendments. Why the amendments? What are the articles that have been examined, seen to have failed, and chosen to be altered? What are the social groups that demanded the amendments? Who has been consulted in the amendments? Who discussed them? I am confident that many of the PGC members were surprised to hear about the amendments in the first place. I don't want to put fellow friends at the PGC in a difficult situation, but I know many of them defended the amendments as a partisan duty. But in their special informal individual sessions they were asking themselves about the reasons and objectives for these amendments that they see no use for. Here, I demand that PGC be a political party, at least when the PGC becomes a true political party, democracy in Yemen will start making its first steps. But if the PGC stays as a cover for another authority, then our democracy will continue to deteriorate.

I repeat by asking, who was consulted and who was invited to discuss the constitutional amendments in the first place? If the PGC itself did not participate in the discussions, how in earth will other parties participate? The Islah party announced that it did not participate, and we had no idea about the amendments until they reached the parliament. Those who say that the political groups not represented in the parliament have no right to object as they boycotted the elections of 1997 may be partially correct. However, I know that there were parliamentarians with different viewpoints when the amendments were presented to the parliament, but they were not able to discuss them, and eventually the amendments were passed and approved the old Arab way in two or two and half hours only.

Can anyone of the present guests and listeners say that what I am saying is wrong? There is no doubt that the authorities were able to push the amendments into parliament and have them endorsed, but why are they preventing the people from expressing their views about them? Why are the authorities tearing all the posters that call upon the public to say "NO" to the amendments, while encouraging the posting of posters saying "YES"? Why are the national TV channels only supporting the viewpoint of "YES" to the elections while ignoring the other viewpoint, even though we are paying taxes for the channel?

Coming to those who claim that the USA itself made 26 constitutional amendments, I say, these amendments were given so as to promote human rights and freedom of expression. They were added to enhance the democratic process, and the first amendment itself alone is enough to refute the PGC's allegations as it has given the media and press an almost unlimited freedom. We all know that one of the main reasons behind the resignation of Dr. Faraj bin Ghanem was because he demanded that local authorities have more control over the resources services and funds of their respective provinces."

More Shocking Statements in Part II on next week's issue..

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شارع صغرة: ٢٠٨٨٠٥ فاكس: ٢١٨٧٩٦
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■ Abdrabu Al-Baradony, a university student with good experience in (web page designing, e-mail, commercial correspondence, computer diploma...etc)+English language. Contact: A_ALBARADONY@HOTMAIL.COM
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■ Teachers of English and Science. Call: Mohammad. Mobile: 7904230
■ Hassan Al-Zubaidi, a highly qualified accountant and auditor with experience at international firms looks for a job. 12-years as an accountant and finance manager, 8 years as an auditor. Tel: 205201.
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ACROSS:
1- Religious man (5)
8- Regular cycle (8)
9- Fervour (5)
10- Daughter's husband (3-2-3)
14- Allow (3)
16- Water part by Moses (3, 3)
17- Required (6)
18- Postman from Greendale (3)
20- Cereal (5)
24- Carry out investigation (8)
25- Capital of Morocco (5)
26- Robbie Singer (8)
27- Lustre (5)

DOWN:
1- Support (5)
2- Amazes (5)
3- Place in an upright position (5)
4- Consolation (6)
6- Joined together again (8)
7- Aardvark, eg (8)
12- British politician (3,5)
13- Mischievous adventure (8)
14- Track circuit (3)
15- Dynamite (initis)
19- Aviator, ... Earhart (6)
21- Matthew, TV celebrity (5)
22- Massive (5)
23- Pursue (5)

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