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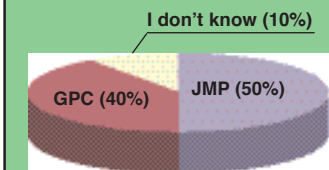
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Inside:

- 5** Price increases: More burden upon citizens
- 6** Photo Essay: Halfway to the Polls
- 12** Tariq Abdulwase'e: "We will introduce Medial Insurance soon."

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
 Competition over the presidency is heating up daily, with the majority speculating an overwhelming President Ali Abdullah Saleh victory. Who do you think will be able to win the majority of local council seats?



This edition's question:

Do you think that the various election monitoring bodies will be given a chance to actually monitor the electoral process?

- Only international monitors
- Yes, all monitoring bodies will be given the chance
- No, the monitoring is superficial
- I don't know

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Saleh attacks opposition as campaigning reaches climax

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Sept. 6 — The electoral campaigns of ruling General People's Congress and Joint Meeting Parties candidates, Ali Abdullah Saleh and Faisal Bin Shamlan respectively, reached a climax this week in the run-up to competitive elections, the first of the kind in Yemeni history.

The days preceding the election are witnessing increasing propaganda, pictures and slogans of both presidential candidates as the event draws nearer and Yemeni citizens nationwide seem to be extremely engaged in such propaganda.

This week witnessed the strongest campaigns yet for both candidates, which found Saleh harshly attacking the JMP during campaign rallies in Hajja and Raima governorates. He declared that opposition parties are struggling to return Yemen to the Imamate regime and that such opposition is the other face of the Imamate and the socialist regime.

Addressing supporters at a rally in Hajja governorate, Saleh accused the JMP of planning to control the Ministry of Oil and Minerals and petroleum companies, as well as the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology, and described JMP leaders as "symbols of corruption."

At another rally in Raima governorate Wednesday, Saleh accused opposition leaders of being secessionists and having a disappointing past.

"The secessionists and dissidents came together because they all have the same gloomy history," Saleh reacted. "They [opposition leaders] were partners with the authority, but they conspired against national unity and so paid the price. They want to drive the wheels of development backward. This is the primary reason for their gathering."

The second reason, he added, is that the forces are believed to be an alternative to the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), which was a partner with the national unity. "These conspirers want

to replace the YPC in various corners of the nation. They occupied posts, but they failed to do their jobs when they turned out to be corrupt officials," Saleh continued.

He blamed the YSP and Islamic Brotherhood movement for plotting a coup against the regime. "They want to make Yemen like Iraq and Somalia but they can't," he added.

On the opposing side, JMP leaders held a large campaign rally involving hundreds of thousands of Bin Shamlan supporters in Amran governorate, which stunned the GPC.

At the rally, Bin Shamlan emphasized the necessity of a fair judiciary to settle all revenge issues, while prominent opposition leader Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar affirmed that supporters seek change to rescue Yemenis from the nation's dire situations. He urged the crowd to back Bin Shamlan.

According to Al-Ahmar, Amran locals' support for Bin Shamlan proves Yemenis' loyalty to stand for right and



Bin Shamlan rally in Amran.



Saleh rally in Hajjah.

liberate their fellow citizens from poverty and oppression. "Since the revolution 43 years ago, the situation remains similar to the pre-revolutionary period — there's been no change," he commented, "Liberating Yemenis today is easier and change can be achieved through the elections and democracy."

An official source within Bin Shamlan's campaign described the Amran rally as "huge" and considered it a genuine step toward real competition for Yemen's highest political post. The JMP confirmed in a press release that

the Amran rally involved the majority of Hashed and Bakil tribesmen, thus outnumbering Saleh's rally in the governorate.

The release indicated that Yemeni tribes reject the current totalitarian regime and opt for a peaceful transfer of power. According to the release, tribal support for Bin Shamlan stems from a genuine intent to establish a state of law and order. The tribe, which formerly was accused of backwardness, now backs democratic transformation.

Continued on page 2

EMT calls for free and fair elections

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Sept. 5 — Yemen needs to have free and fair elections. This topic led to a Tuesday symposium entitled, "For Free and Fair Elections" which sought to assist politicians, election observers and others interested in democracy learn about the most recent developments in the elections and exchange information about Yemen's Sept. 20 presidential and local elections.

The Election Monitoring Team and the Yemen Times organized the event.



EMT: free and fair elections inevitably will lead to a democratic regime, which is the genuine interpretation of citizens' wishes

YT PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

Senior EMT member Dr. Abdulbari Al-Qadasi confirmed his organization is enthusiastic about increasing Yemeni awareness about democratic culture and human rights. He said the EMT works to develop democratic aware-

ness among youths and support Yemeni women's participation as candidates and voters in the electoral process.

The symposium promoted joint efforts to pave the way for building state institutions and establishing the principle of peaceful transfer of power.

The EMT hopes to be an effective and sustainable organization, as well as exert efforts to boost democratic culture, electoral awareness and the current regime's mandate via research, training and various political and social activities.

According to the EMT, political and social activities help enhance the democratic move and improve relations between Yemeni society's different classes.

Al-Qadasi asserted that free and fair elections inevitably will lead to a democratic regime, which is the genuine interpretation of citizens' wishes.

"Elections monitoring reflects the authenticity of the democratic move and transparency of the electoral process and builds capacities in this area," he continued, "Election monitoring also deters voting fraud, whether intentional or unintentional."

Continued on page 2

Military munitions storage explosion causes three deaths

By: Yemen Times Staff

ADEN, September 6 — Two women and an old man were killed as a missile fell on a public transport bus they were taking in Crater. The missile was one of many sharpnells which were flying around because of an explosion of the Jabil Hadid munitions storage facility at the center of Aden yesterday evening. The explosion sparked an emergency situation, according to local security sources in Aden.

The mountain facility in Khour Maksar stores military weapons included rockets, guns and bombs and they were exploding and launching up to five kilometers in all directions for nearly five hours.

The initial explosion happened around five o'clock and it was under control

shortly after nine o'clock.

"There was a lot of smoke with visible flames and the mountain was literally on fire," said Adel Mahuob, a local resident near the mountain at the time of the explosion. "People were taking cover in the basements of their homes."

Additional to the three dead citizens, damages included the partial destruction of a nearby mosque and building in Al-Mua'ala west of the explosion and also a house north of Jabal Hadid in Khour Maksar. Until last night, the situation of the soldiers based inside the military munitions storage location in Jabal Hadid was still not known.

A military division with over 100 soldiers were within the facility, but rescue operations had difficulty reaching the

center of the explosion because the weapons continued to explode, according to security sources.

Into the evening shrapnel was still flying in the air around the facility and to protect nearby residents a curfew was imposed and all nearby roads were blocked.

Jabil Hadid is in the center of Aden and many people were blocked from reaching their homes — late into the day people were camping in local restaurants and public places until the roads re-opened.

It's unknown how the initial explosion occurred, but a security officer in the Aden local authority said it could be the friction between weapons and the heat from the sun, or possibly an electricity short cut.

Continued on page 2

"Independents for Political Change" declared, supports Bin Shamlan

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Sept. 6 — "Independents for Political Change," a committee composed of academics, journalists and Members of Parliament, announced itself Wednesday by supporting Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) presidential candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan.

The committee released a statement declaring that its goals are to support Bin Shamlan and exert joint efforts with all charitable forces in society — mainly the JMP — to ensure free and fair elections whose results reflect the wishes of Yemenis.

The group also seeks to attract voters to Bin Shamlan, considering him the best choice to lead Yemen in the upcoming presidential term. Group members are satisfied with Bin Shamlan's electoral platform, which they say includes clear mechanisms and solutions to problems hindering the nation's development.

"Independents for Political Change" intends to back strong national opposition to ensure restoring political balance, which was ousted by the 1994 Civil War, and defend rights and freedoms. Other objectives include enhancing democracy, equal citizenship and contributing to eradicating poverty and corruption.

The committee's founders say they'll employ various means to reach their goals, such as spreading awareness about Bin Shamlan's platform via statements, newspapers, symposiums and lectures in compliance with the law and Constitution.

The group plans to defend Bin Shamlan against oppressive campaigns the ruling party launches against him, thereby exploiting state facilities and violating election laws.

MP Ahmad Saif Hashed and a commit-



The group seeks to attract voters to Bin Shamlan, considering him the best choice to lead Yemen.

YT PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

tee founder confirmed that if there's significant desire for change, strenuous efforts must be made to eradicate the nationwide belief that Yemen has become a home for corruption and corrupt officials. Additionally, he criticized the ruling party for calling Bin Shamlan "a hired candidate," meaning he doesn't belong to the JMP.

Continued on page 2

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In brief

Hudaidah

Rainfall flowing into Tihama
Sept. 6 — As a result of recent rainfall, almost 20 million cubic meters of water is said to have flowed into Tihama valleys in Hudaidah governorate during the past four days. Mohammad Yihya Al-Ghashm, head of the general authority for developing Tihama, said this water flow is because of the recent rainfalls coming from the Mousterian areas in center and west Yemen.

Aden

Money for new schools

Sept. 6 — The new academic year started this month and it was enriched in Aden with the launching of 16 new schools with the total of 283 classrooms. The cost of preparing these schools totaled one billion Yemeni Riyals while another 35 million was dedicated to renovating bathrooms of existing schools in Aden.

Dhamar

Agricultural technical reports

Sept. 6 — Sixteen researchers from Dhamar were taught how to write technical agricultural reports and essays in a six-day course. The researchers are affiliated with the general authority of agricultural research around the country. The course was organized by the national agriculture-training center in coordination with the general authority of agricultural research.

Sana'a

Financial support for female candidates

Sept. 7 — At Yemen Times Headquarters the Home Coalition Group will distribute money for female candidates to support their electoral campaigns. The act is a reaction to the lack of support from the political parties for women candidates in Yemen, according to the group. All woman candidates in Sana'a, all group members and media are invited to attend the ceremony at Yemen Times. Raufa Hassan told Yemen Times, "The financial support will include all electoral campaigns for all independent woman candidates across the republic."

Indonesian Cultural Expo

Sept. 7 — Indonesian cultural will be on display tonight at the Yemen Cultural Center. The Indonesian Embassy and the Ministry of Culture organized the event as one of several events held in commemoration of the 61st anniversary of the Indonesian Independence day. Other events include a cultural and culinary night on Sept. 8 at the Movenpick Hotel.

GSM provider

Sept. 6 — Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology demanded that third GSM provider pay the \$30 million they owe in fees.

Unitel is the third company poised to operate GSM services in Yemen, but they need to settle their fees before commencing operation.

TAIZ

Awareness program for religious preachers and clerks

Sept. 6 — Awareness program for religious preachers and clerks was launched on Monday, Sep 4 at Al-Saeed Establishment for Science and Culture. The program, aimed at providing participants with computer skills, was organized by the National Organization for Developing Society (NODS) in collaboration with Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). The program also included teaching English Language, democracy principles and human rights.

Partial Lunar Eclipse TONIGHT

SANA'A, Sept. 7 — (SPACE.com) — Experienced eclipse observers will be able to watch the second half of a partial eclipse of the Moon after sunset on 7 September, people in Yemen will be able to witness the whole event starting from 16:42 GMT, 18:42 local time in Yemen.

Lunar eclipses take place when the full Moon is exactly in line with the Earth and Sun and it moves into the Earth's shadow. They can be seen wherever the Moon is above the horizon and so from a given spot on the Earth's surface are much more common than solar eclipses, although they are still unusual events.

North Americans will be completely shut out of this event, as it will be happening during the daytime when the Moon is below the horizon. This eclipse will be primarily visible from western Australia, central Asia, and the eastern half of Africa. Europe will see the Moon rise while in

eclipse, while eastern Australia and New Zealand will see the Moon set (for them it's the morning of September 8) while still in eclipse.

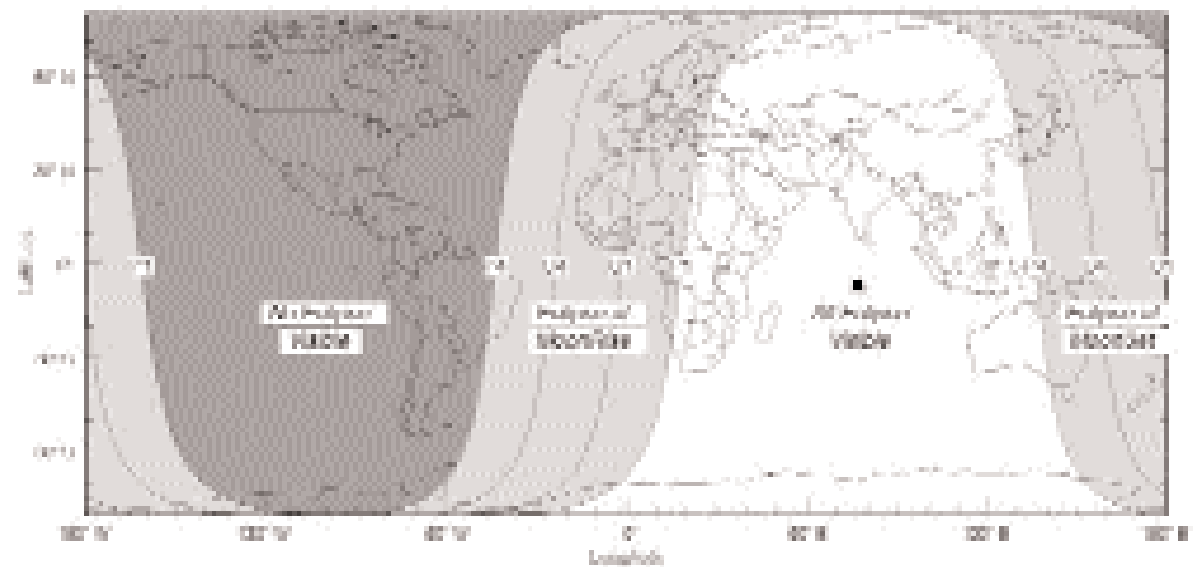
The dark umbral phase lasts just over 90 minutes and even at its maximum, the eclipse magnitude - that percentage of the Moon's diameter that will be within the Earth's umbral shadow - is only 19 percent. That dark shadow will create little more than a "bite" out of the Moon's upper rim.

The first event, at 16:42 GMT is the Moon entering the penumbra, the faint outer extremity of the Earth's shadow. But this shadow is so light that the Moon doesn't begin to change appearance until the Moon's diameter has penetrated it by at least 70 percent (17:40 GMT/ 19:40 local time). Around that time, look for a very slight shading or smudginess on the upper left portion of the Moon. As the minutes pass, the penumbra

becomes more obvious.

The next event to watch for is at 18:05 GMT (20:05 local time), as the Moon enters the umbra, the dark inner part of the Earth's shadow. This is the beginning of the partial eclipse. The umbra is much darker than the penumbra and fairly sharp-edged. The partial eclipse only lasts 1 hour 33 minutes. Maximum eclipse will come at 18:51 GMT (20:51 local time). After maximum eclipse, the Moon will soon exit the umbra at 19:38 GMT (21:38 local time). About 25 minutes later, the faint penumbral shading should gradually fade away.

The next lunar eclipse will be a total eclipse on March 3 of next year and will be visible from Europe, Africa and western Asia. That event will also be visible from the eastern half of North America; for many localities the eclipse will already be underway as the Moon rises.



Lunar eclipse map around the world.

NASA

Importance of election observation discussed

SANA'A, Sept. 5 — Keeping the polling station open and transparent is necessary for the democracy in Yemen, said an observer with the European Union Election Observation Mission.

Richard Chambers, Deputy Chief Observer with the European

observers was speaking about his group's role in observing polls in Yemen. The meeting was held by the executive board of Joint Meeting Parties held Tuesday a meeting on the importance of international election observation in Yemen.

Chambers explained the main

goals of the mission, which are boosting transparency of the polls, deterring vote-fraud, respecting human rights and contributing to resolution of conflict.

He clarified that the observers will monitor the legal framework and its implementation, the work of the election administration, campaign activities, the role of state institutions and civil society, the conduct of the media, voting, counting and tabulation, and the environment in which the election is being conducted.

At the meeting, Dr. Abduljalil Al-Sofi, Assistant Professor of Geography at Dhamar University, presented a work paper on the international observation and its importance. The paper recommended all political parties obey Yemeni election laws and insist on free and fair polls.

Al-Sofi stated that Yemeni people, General People Congress, JMP and other opposition parties welcomed the observers to ensure transparency of the electoral process.



Speakers at the opening ceremony.

PHOTO BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI

Health review coming

SANA'A, Sept. 6 — The health sector will undergo a review of their work over the past seven years.

The Ministry of Health and NGOs working in the health and population sector, was held yesterday in the ministry of health will conduct the health sector review over the next seven months.

"The necessary preparations have been done during the past couple of months, which lead to finalization of a proposal for the review by stakeholders," said Health Policy Unit Coordinator Jamal Nasher.

The proposal estimates a tentative budget over 30 million rials to cover the cost of the review.

The Ministry of Health and Population insisted on conducting a review of the health sector with they signed the "Joint statement for Harmonization and Alignment in the Health Sector" last December.

"There are several reasons for conducting the review at this moment of

time, one is the government's endorsement of the third five-year health development plan which constitutes the framework for health planning as well as containing policies and strategies for execution," remarked Nasher, referring to the government's five-year plan of all sectors.

Representatives from embassies and NGOs and the Ministry of Health agreed to hold another meeting to get feedback of the proposal.

"The ministry presents this proposal for the review to its development partners and ambitiously looks forward to them supporting this process, which will assist in achievement of joint aims and objectives," Nasher said.



The consultative meeting the held in Ministry of Health.

SCER, JMP fail to agree on poll committees

SANA'A, Sept. 6 — The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum and Joint Meeting Parties failed to reach an agreement on forming poll committees, as the latter was excused from submitting its list of the members appointed for these committees, said Abdu Al-Janadi, the Head of Media Awareness at the commission.

Under a previous agreement the JMP would make up 46 percent of the polling committee the remaining member from the General People Congress.

The JMP asked to postpone the meeting from last Tuesday to postpone submitting its members for poll committees, according to Al-Janadi.

The SCER and political parties signed an agreement in the presence of international organizations to create an electronic version of voters' register and also to receive parties lists of polling committees' heads and members.

Mohammed Al-Sabri, Head of the Political Office at the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization, a Yemeni political party, warned SCER of consequences of the failed meeting.

He denied that both sides agreed to hold a joint meeting on the coming Tuesday, pointing out that time must not be wasted on fruitless meetings and sessions.

Yemen number six in the global population growth rate

SANA'A, Sept. 6 - Yemen is predicted to rank sixth globally in 2006 in population growth rate, stated a United Nations Population representative in Yemen. "Although there has been a notable reduction in the last decades, Yemen is predicted to rank sixth globally in 2006 in population growth rate," said Hans Obdeijn, on a launch of the state of world population report 2006. He added that Yemen is characterized by one of the highest fertility rate in the world with 6.8 births per woman. "Nearly half of the Yemenis are younger than 15 years, which is a reflection of the high population growth rate," he added.

The report focused on the international migration, particularly female migration and there was a call for action to improve the situation of the 95 million women migrants over the world.

Regarding the migration in Yemen, Obdeijn pointed out Yemen is a country with a long history of internal and external migration and that "many Yemenis or Yemenis descendants, live and work around the globe. In more recent times, we also see an increased migration from rural to urban areas in Yemen." "Many young Yemeni people, mostly men, migrated to find employment opportunities or to better achieve their ambitions. Money sent home

by them is important source of income for the families they leave behind. But these same families and in particular the women and children also have to face the consequences of social change and the impact on the family functionality. Moreover, returning migrant workers have been identified as potential source of HIV/AIDS in Yemen," he explained.

Dr. Arwa Alrabee, deputy in the Ministry of Health and Population mentioned the negative impacts due to the internal migration saying such migration creates poor disruption of the population and consequently the services that offer to the citizens. Security General in the population national council, Ameen Marwf, said Yemen has no database regarding Yemeni external migrants in the last 20 years. He confirmed that Yemen only provided the fund with information of the internal migration in the governorates.

According to the report, which was released just days before a major United Nations meeting on migration and development, women are half of all international migrants, but their rights and concerns are largely ignored. The United Nations also released "Moving Young," a youth supplement to the report, featuring the stories of 10 young people whose lives have been shaped by migration.

Continued from page 1

Saleh attacks opposition campaigns

The JMP release also accused official media of partiality toward Saleh in covering the election campaigns, alleging that official media haven't given other candidates equal coverage opportunities.

The official source ascertained that the presence of the sons of Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar (currently seeking treatment in Saudi Arabia) and Sheikh Abdulmajid Al-

Zindani's son at Bin Shamlan's rally invalidates GPC media reports that the two sheikhs back Saleh's campaign.

Observers say the campaigning is becoming more tense as the election draws nearer and the GPC and the JMP exchange accusations, particularly after the latter charged the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) with disgracing its candidate.

Military explosion causes three deaths

A committee headed by Ahmed Al-Kuhlani, Governor of Aden, and including security instruments, an explosion expert and a forensic doctor is investigating the exact cause of the explosion and the casualties.

Jabal Hadid, meaning iron mountain, has stored weapons since the Second World War, but it has been under different control. A similar explosion took

place in 1994 following the civil war when the South forces gave up control of Jabal Hadid for the unified Yemen. That explosion was caused by heat in the facility and bad storage conditions.

According to military sources there is currently less ammunition in the Jabal Hadid then during the 1994 explosion when five soldiers suffered second-degree burns.

EMT calls for free and fair elections

Editor-in-Chief Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf noted that since its inception, the Yemen Times has cooperated with several organizations to encourage the democratic experience in Yemen and works hard to provide a good climate to enhance democracy.

"We're interested in the elections because they impact everyone. The elections must be free and fair," she added. Al-Sakkaf ascertained that conducting the elections with a high degree of transparency is a must and that media must exercise their role independently to help the democratic process succeed.

Al-Sakkaf is one of many pushing the ideals of democracy.

"The United States is very interested in democracy in Yemen, in the region and in the world," said Ann Marie Roubachewsky, public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy. "Democracy has existed in Yemen for some time. At the core of this election is preparation for the future

and this country needs strong leadership."

Strong was echoed by others at the symposium. "The dialogue we're seeing is great and the competition is very important," said Jamal Al-Awadhi, Chairman of the National Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development. "We don't need a revolution."

The EMT is a Yemeni non-governmental organization working to establish democratic culture by promoting democracy and good governance in Yemen. It endeavors to do this via research, training and various activities to strengthen transparency and government accountability.

The EMT seeks to be an active organization and fulfill its mission effectively toward establishing a democratic culture, rights and values, which are essential for good governance, and build public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process.

"Independents for Political Change"

Group members attribute their support for Bin Shamlan to his being a civic personality, alleging that citizens are fed up with military rule. Another reason given is that Bin

Shamlan abides by religious principles and fears Allah, while a third reason is that he's educated, knows the world and speaks several foreign languages.

Blair under pressure to name day

Pressure is building on Tony Blair to publicly say when he will resign, as a junior minister quit after calling on the prime minister to leave office.

Tom Watson, who was among 17 MPs to sign a letter urging Mr. Blair to go, said it was no longer in the country's interests for the PM to stay.

Close allies of Gordon Brown say claims Mr. Blair will quit by May next year are "not good enough".

The Sun says Mr. Blair will go on



Tony Blair has angered MPs by refusing to give a departure date.

31 May. Number 10 has refused to comment.

The resignation by defence minister Mr Watson will have all the more impact as he is known as a Blair loyalist, who has served as a government whip and was expected to rise through the ministerial ranks under the prime minister.

In his letter to Mr. Blair, Mr Watson

wrote: "It is with the greatest sadness that I have to say that I no longer believe that your remaining in office is in the interest of either the party or the country."

"How and why this situation has arisen no longer matters. I share the view of the overwhelming majority of the party and the country that the only way the party and the government can renew itself in office is urgently to renew its leadership."

Meanwhile, leading Brownites are calling for the prime minister to make a public declaration about when he will go, so that he cannot go back on it.

One of the chancellor's closest allies told the BBC News website: "From Gordon's point of view there has to be a public statement."

"Blair has to let it be known when he will go and there has to be a public declaration."

'Change wanted'

Ex-minister Doug Henderson, also a Brown supporter, says he cannot see what Mr. Blair will achieve in the next 12 months.

"There should be a new leader in place by the end of March," he said, in time for the local elections.

He said the timetable suggested by allies of Mr. Blair - that he would go in about 12 months time - seemed "the worst time to appoint a new leader".

"People in the country want a

change," he told the BBC News website.

But although he thought Mr Brown was "head and shoulders above any other candidate" he still thought there should be a proper leadership contest.

Letter

The Sun says that after stepping down as Labour leader on 31 May, Mr. Blair's time as prime minister would come to an end on 26 July 2007.

Speculation over Mr. Blair's departure date was reignited by a letter signed by 17 normally loyal Labour MPs urging the PM to quit to end uncertainty.

Former chief whip Hilary Armstrong, a prominent member of Mr. Blair's inner circle, echoing comments by Cabinet colleague David Miliband, said: "We expect that there will be a new leader in position for conference 2007."

Ex-Cabinet minister David Blunkett Mr Blunkett told the BBC that it was now "pretty clear that there is an understanding about a date next year - whether it's 31 May when he announces it is open to speculation".

Mr Blunkett conceded that there were "a handful of people who want the prime minister to go now".

"Whilst I respect their view, I think it's basically not on - it's tantamount to stabbing the prime minister in the back having won a third unique parliamentary term."

Work and Pensions Secretary John Hutton called for an end to the "obsession about dates and particularly forcing a date out of the prime minister".

Source: BBC

Gazans killed in multiple Israeli strikes

Five Palestinians, believed to be members of Hamas, have been killed in three airstrikes in southern Gaza.

The Israeli military said its first attack early on Wednesday in the village of Khuva, near Khan Yunus, had hit two armed men who were close to the border fence with Israel.

Witnesses said the explosion rocked the courtyard of a nearby house. Aljazeera reported that one Hamas activist was killed in the strike. Two other people were wounded.

Residents said Israeli troops had taken their raid further into the village

on Wednesday and had detained 10 people. It was unclear if they were fighters.

An Israeli military source said a force was in the area as part of ongoing operations there, and that some people in the village had been detained.

Rafah attacks

Hours earlier, four Palestinians were killed in two late-night airstrikes on cars in the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza.

Helicopter gunships fired on a vehicle carrying two members of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. The brigade is the armed wing of the ruling Hamas

faction.

The men were killed and residents said the blast caused a huge fire. Dozens of bystanders were hurt.

One witness, Salim Abu Jazer, said the initial blast was followed by two smaller explosions in the car.

An Israeli military spokeswoman said the secondary explosions indicated that there were explosives in the car.

Two people were later killed in a separate car explosion nearby, also an apparent airstrike, but the Israeli military made no immediate comment.

Source: Aljazeera

Calderon wins disputed Mexico vote

Defeated leftist candidate says he'll challenge results in court

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (CNN) — A final count gave conservative Felipe Calderon a razor-thin victory Thursday in Mexico's presidential election after four days of uncertainty.

Leftist rival Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador claimed that there were irregularities in the vote count and vowed to fight the results in court. He called for a demonstration by his supporters Saturday in Mexico City, where he was the popular mayor before seeking the presidency.

"There's no joy, certainly, because they know very well what they did," Lopez Obrador said of the rival camp. Both candidates had claimed victory after Sunday's vote.

After an around-the-clock review of local election officials' ballot tally sheets that began Wednesday morning, Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute issued final results Thursday afternoon.

Calderon, of the conservative National Action Party, won 35.89 percent of the vote compared with 35.31 percent for Lopez Obrador of the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

The difference between the two candidates was just 0.58 percent, or about 244,000 votes out of about 42 million cast, based on the institute's figures.

Meanwhile, the Institutional Revolutionary Party -- which ruled Mexico as a one-party fiefdom for 71 years before being pushed from power by President Vicente Fox in 2000 -- saw its fortunes continue to plunge.

PRI's presidential candidate, Roberto Madrazo, captured just 22 percent of the vote. The party lost its dominance in Congress in previous elections.

Lopez Obrador has four days to appeal Calderon's victory to the Federal Electoral Tribunal, which he has said he will do.

"We are always going to act in a responsible manner but, at the same time, we have to defend the citizens' will," Lopez Obrador said, according to The Associated Press.

"We are going to the Federal Electoral Tribunal with the same demand -- that the votes be counted -- because we cannot accept these results."

But Calderon, 43, was already contacting other parties to put together a "unity government," the AP reported.

The tribunal has until August 23 to review any challenge and until September 6 to certify a winner. The new president takes office in December.

George Grayson, a professor of Latin American politics at the College of William & Mary in Virginia, said he believes the certification will come before the deadline to minimize the "uncertainty" in economic markets.

"I think it's fair to say that Felipe Calderon is the president-elect of Mexico," he said. (CNN Access)

Calderon, a Harvard-educated economist, favors free market economics and free trade.

"I want to establish a very constructive relationship without bowing my head and lowering my eyes to the Americans," Calderon said in an interview with the news agency.

He served as president of the National Action Party -- known by its Spanish acronym, PAN -- and was energy minister in Fox's government before resigning to seek the presidency.

Calderon won PAN's presidential nomination over a rival candidate backed by Fox, who was constitutionally barred from seeking another term.

Sharp divisions revealed

If Calderon's victory is certified by the electoral tribunal, he will confront the same daunting obstacle Fox faced -- a Congress in which opposition parties hold a majority of seats.

However, as a result of Sunday's elections, PAN will now hold the largest number of seats in both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, an advantage Fox did not enjoy.

Lopez Obrador, 52, is a populist who favors more spending on social programs for the poor and was seen as less friendly toward the United States.

He was well ahead in polls as the campaign began. However, Calderon managed to chip away at Lopez Obrador's lead by likening him to another Latin American populist, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez -- a comparison rejected by Lopez Obrador.

The election illustrated some of the



Felipe Calderon got support from business leaders and the wealthy.

sharp economic divisions in Mexican society.

Calderon had strong support among business leaders and wealthier Mexicans. Lopez Obrador's base was among the country's poor, who rallied around him at his public appearances. Some of his ardent supporters wept Thursday when they learned Calderon had taken the lead.

A preliminary count after Sunday's vote showed Calderon slightly ahead, but the race was so close that election officials said they could not declare a winner until reviewing ballot tallies from across the country.

For most of the day Wednesday, as the recount progressed, Lopez Obrador held the lead. But when results started to come in from PAN strongholds in northern Mexico, his lead narrowed, and Calderon moved ahead for good early Thursday morning.

Regardless of the court challenge's outcome, Mexican-U.S. relations will be dominated, as in the recent past, by the issues of immigration, trade, drug trafficking, the war on terror and security along the 2,000-mile border separating the North American neighbors.

About 85 percent of the illegal immigrants streaming into the United States are from Mexico, which is America's third-largest trading partner.

Grayson, the professor, said "the real imperative" for the Calderon administration will be "starting to break the bottlenecks in their own economy."

"It is up to Mexico to do some trust busting so it can be more competitive," he said.

Germany says Iran can't be allowed to harm U.N

By: Louis Charbonneau

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany said on Wednesday Iran could not be allowed to harm the United Nations by pursuing its nuclear programme, but Russia said any economic sanctions must rule out the use of force against the Islamic Republic.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's comments are among the strongest from any European leader since Iran rejected a U.N. demand for it to halt uranium enrichment in exchange for an offer of economic and political incentives.

"Iran's response is not satisfactory.

We won't close the door to negotiations but we the international community won't stand by and watch as Iran harms the rules of the U.N. nuclear authorities," Merkel told German lawmakers in a speech.

Merkel made clear, however, that military action against Iran was not an option.

High-level EU-Iranian talks on Tehran's nuclear programme that were expected on Wednesday were postponed but could be held on Friday, a senior Iranian diplomat said.

Tehran, the world's fourth largest oil exporter, says its enrichment of uranium is a legal and peaceful programme to meet civilian energy needs. The United States says it is a front for perfecting technology designed to produce nuclear arms.

Growing impatient with Tehran's refusal to cease nuclear activities that could yield enriched uranium fuel for atomic weapons, Washington has been seeking support for tough economic sanctions.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said any sanctions would be governed by the United Nations charter which "states unequivocally that economic measures exclude the use of force".

"As to whether we use these (sanctions) or not still needs to be defined because any impact must be commensurate to the presence of a real threat to international security," Lavrov told reporters during a visit to South Africa.



German Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung (R) Labour Minister Franz Muentefering (C) and Chancellor Angela Merkel await a debate at the Bundestag in Berlin, September 6, 2006.

REUTERS

conference in Tehran.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said on Monday that Berlin and its allies would refer Tehran's nuclear dossier back to the Security Council if the EU does not persuade Tehran to change its behavior.

On Thursday, senior officials from the six countries that made the June incentives offer to Iran -- Germany, the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia -- are due to meet in Berlin to discuss Tehran's refusal to suspend nuclear fuel work and the possibility of imposing sanctions on Iran.

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معارض الشهر الكريم

للمجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم وشركاه

للفترة من ٧ - ٢٢ سبتمبر ٢٠٠٦ م
من ١٤ - ٢٩ شعبان ١٤٢٧ هـ

صنعا - مركز صنعا للمعارض الدولية - شميلة

إب - الصالة المغلقة - الاستاد الرياضي - منطقة الصلبة

المكلا - قاعة المؤسسة الاقتصادية اليمنية

تعز - قاعة السعيد للمعارض - عصيفرة

عدن - قاعة المجمع الاستهلاكي - المعلا

الحديدة - قاعة المؤسسة الاقتصادية اليمنية

فرصة التسوق الرمضاني



Price increases: More burden upon citizens

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

Yemeni markets these days have witnessed a rapid increase of primary commodities without any justification. Price increases not only involve imported commodities like sugar, flour, wheat and consumer goods, but also include Yemeni-produced commodities such as soup, oils, ghee, milk, juice, mineral water and sweets. Thus, Yemeni citizen are compelled to accept these price hikes and adapt themselves to such new developments.

The Yemeni government previously

warned merchants who are increasing and playing with prices in an Aug. 18 statement by Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal during a joint Parliament-Cabinet session.

"These unjustified price increases express the greediness of some merchants who look out for their own interests at the risk of the public's interest," Bajammal stated, "It's a risky thing when the private sector puts itself in this situation because it will incur citizens' anger and indignation."

Recent days have witnessed several meetings involving the government, represented by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and representatives of

official parties in public unions, such as chambers of commerce, the agricultural and fish cooperative council and the exporters' society, which approved that prices should remain as they were before the latest price hikes.

However, such official initiatives have been futile because prices still are increasing. "Over the past few days, commodity prices have witnessed increases one after another. Distributors now are offering their goods at 10 percent higher pricing," supermarket owner Ali Al-Tawili explained.

Most citizens are dissatisfied with the latest prices, considering them unjustified. "Price increases aren't

justifiable because there's no reason for such an increase. It's a ploy by big businessmen and producers to exploit the current situation and play with prices," Yahya Maudhah asserted.

"There should be a transparency in the market. The government should abide by its announcement regarding partnership with the private sector and the latter should respect its promises in this respect. Trade should be far removed from politics because citizens are the ultimate victims," Maudhah proposed.

Hussein Al-Qahm believes government is responsible for the latest price hikes and that low-income citizens are the most affected.

"The government is responsible for deterring those businessmen who play with

prices, but it seems careless about what's going on," Al-Qahm said. "We citizens, particularly low-income employees, are the most affected."

"I'm a teacher and my salary is YR 30,000. I rent a house, I must pay for transportation, electricity, water and, further, I have five children. You wouldn't believe me if I told you my salary doesn't last after the first 10 days, although I lead an ascetic life," he maintained.

According to Mutaheer Al-Juma'i, increased demand for eggs and chicken following the bird flu setback is responsible for increased chicken and egg prices.

"Price increases for chicken and eggs can be attributed to the recent bird flu, which afflicted many parts of the world, causing poultry farmers to kill millions of chickens," Al-Juma'i pointed out.

"The number of chickens witnessed a setback and the stock also decreased, particularly when farmers gave up raising chickens. Now, there's increased demand for chicken and eggs with less supply, so prices have risen," he explained.

Minister of Trade, Dr. Khalid Sheikh, disclosed that the price hikes are attributed to election season and some traders' attempts to play with prices.

"The Ministry of Trade has adopted many measures and poured commodities into the Yemeni market, upgrading provisional reserves from 200,000 tons to 1 million tons to meet any potential deficiency," Sheikh confirmed.

He added that field teams will control and observe prices and supplied goods



"Price increases for chicken and eggs can be attributed to the recent bird flu, which afflicted many parts of the world, causing poultry farmers to kill millions of chickens."

quantities to prohibit any deficiency, assuring that his ministry will take repressive action against violators.

For his part, Deputy Minister of Trade Abdullah Shaiban noted that the ministry has adopted numerous measures to control the Yemeni market and fix prices.

"The ministry has established a central operation office at the ministry and other offices in its governorate branches to observe prices. Further, field committees have been formed to control violators and those playing with prices," Shaiban explained.

He added that the central operations will study the impulses leading to price increases and report any increases to concerned authorities to deal with such cases.

The field committees' work involves registering any price increase and reporting it to concerned authorities in the capital and the governorates. They will work regularly to monitor pricing tendencies of basic and consumer goods. Price increases will be calculated according to the lowest prices as of July 30.

According to Salim Al-Mamari, the Ministry of Trade's general manager of internal trade, violators will be referred to specialized authorities.

"Within the past three weeks, the committees regularly followed up on pricing tendencies and reported the minutes of violators to the ministry. Across the republic, 350 businessmen were caught and referred to specialized prosecution," Al-Mamari added.



Price increases not only involve imported commodities like sugar, flour, wheat and consumer goods, but also include Yemeni-produced commodities such as soup, oils, ghee, milk, juice, mineral water and sweets.

Why do children like television?



Some psychologists think watching TV is a good sign indicating a child's intelligence.

By: Anwar Moghram

Television is an important media tool and an important source for knowledge. Further, it is an open window through which both young and old can follow the events around them, whether national, regional or international. Television's importance has increased due to people paying more attention to the TV set and it has become an influential media tool because it catches viewers' attention.

Television allows people to learn about and experience different places effortlessly and painlessly while remaining in their homes. Some view TV as children's 'fourth meal.' Though children can dispense with a meal or so, they can't

dispense with TV, which every family notices. So, what are the reasons children love and run after television?

In fact, there are many reasons and factors causing children to like television and grow fond of it. They begin watching TV when they are 2 years old, but their watching is unintentional, as they're attracted by pictures and movements on the screen. But children's awareness develops as they grow, which further attracts them to the screen. Additionally, amusing and funny programs, which children like the most, make them excited.

Some psychologists think watching TV is a good sign indicating a child's intelligence. Children find TV to be an entertaining and amusing tool, as watching involves neither pain nor

effort. Additionally, TV is a means of filling spare time and it allows them to tell their friends about the program they watched.

Children can resort to TV whenever they are nervously distressed or if they have low morale, thus forgetting about their problems and pain. Further, TV is a means by which they can entertain and amuse themselves via cartoon films and similar programs, from which they can imitate their favorite characters and learn new things.

TV can provide children with cultural norms and knowledge on different types of science. They also can learn about habits and customs, actions violating the law and the punishment afflicted upon violators, as well as their rights and duties in dealing with their families and those around them.

Children of migrant workers cause concern

By: Wu Jiao (China Daily)

The recent uncovering of an 11-member criminal gang of migrant teenagers in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, has drawn attention to the lack of proper education for many of these children.

According to the local public security bureau, the gang has been responsible for more than 30 thefts and robberies in the city since the beginning of June.

Some say the children of migrant workers are causing increasing problems, although others disagree.

Most gang members were teenagers, with the youngest member only 14 years old and the oldest 20. Policemen arrested all of them last month.

"They usually targeted young Internet users. They would stop the victims outside Internet cafs and drag them into a minibus they had hired," a policeman surnamed Sun, who was in charge of the case, told China Daily yesterday.

"They then forced the victims to hand over money or mobile phones with the threat or use of violence."

Sun claimed most teenage criminals came from rural areas of less developed regions, including Jiangsu and Anhui provinces.

They presently live with their parents, who work as migrant workers in Changzhou, an economic hub in the province.

But Sun said the children lacked parental care.

"My parents spend most of their time working in factories. They seldom pay attention to me. They didn't even know I stole," a member of the group surnamed Xiao was recorded by police as saying.

Statistics from the People's Procuratorate in Changzhou's Gaoxin District, an area densely populated with migrant workers, show criminal

activities by migrant teenagers is on the rise. As a percentage of all juvenile delinquency in the area, the figure has risen from 38 per cent in 2004 to 69 per cent in 2005 and 89 per cent in the first eight months of this year.

What is happening in Changzhou has also been occurring in other regions in the country.

A survey conducted by the Guangdong Provincial Prevention and Control of Juvenile Crime Organization across its 10 major cities found that migrant teenage criminal cases accounted for nearly 52 per cent of the province's juvenile crime last year.

Officials and experts attribute this rise to a lack of proper education and protection by families and schools, and a favourable environment for the increase in juvenile criminal activity.

"Due to the lack of access to public schools in cities and high fees, most migrant youngsters begin roaming the streets," Fu Bingyan, an expert in juvenile delinquency at Changzhou Xinbei District People's Procuratorate, told China Daily.

"Protecting legal rights of education and work is the fundamental way to ensure migrant youngsters have a pleasant childhood and prevents them from committing crimes," said Fu.

He called for government-run schools to give free access to the children of migrant workers.

At the same time, there is an even

larger group of so-called "leftover" children who stay in rural hometowns when their parents travel to the city to work.

"The long-term absence of parents will lead to problems in their studies and psychological problems, and even delinquency," according to Wu Yiming, dean of the sociology department at Nanjing Normal University.

Reports released this May looking at the millions of these kind of children in Hunan Province show that 57.14 per cent of left-at-home middle school students have psychological problems, compared with a 15 per cent national average.

Official statistics show China has more than 150 million migrant labourers and roughly 20 million children aged between six and 16 that have been left behind in their hometowns by their parents.

However, the leaders of schools set up especially for migrant children say problematic migrant teenagers are only a minority.

"The majority of the 730 students in my school behave," said Liang Liting, headmaster of the Hongshan School for Children of Migrant Workers in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu.

"They really cherish the chance to live with their parents and do well in their studies. There might be a few who behave badly, but that happens with people in every group or every social class."

Mention for the mistake of (Invitation for Bid) advertised

Marie Stopes International mentions the mistake that was on Monday 4-9-2006 advertisement of Invitation for Bid, and would like to correct the following

- (Deadline to request document: @17h00 GMT 11th September 2006 (Documents to be sent via email).
- Deadline for submission of bid to Marie Stopes International : @17h00 GMT. Wednesday 25th October 2006.



Providing regular indepth analysis, reporting and coverage of the Yemeni elections.

Halfway to the Polls

In just two weeks election campaigning has swept across the country. There are two weeks left until Yemen will select the president and local councilors, but the elections are already reaching a frenzied state.

The country is talking elections and not just at the large rallies for the presidential candidates, but everywhere. Walking the streets of Sana'a it's rare to be out-of-site of large President Saleh portraits and if you are then you're likely beside one of the walls covered with Faisal Bin Shamlan.



▲ In the competition for exposure, Faisal Bin Shamlan and President Saleh vie for the same space in the entrance at Al-Thawra Stadium. PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN



▲ Two weeks ago, President Saleh pictures appeared en masse and the president overtook Hassan Nasrallah as the most seen face in Sana'a. PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN



▲ Crowds gather to hear Bin Shamlan speak in Hadramout on the opening weekend of the campaigning. PHOTO BY SAEED AL-BATATI



▲ Light posts hold President Saleh above the crowds and above the people in Jibla, but the sign points out "the strong bond between the leader and the people." PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN



◀ Dr. Fathi Ahmed Al-Azab, independent candidate, won't allow all the attention to focus on the race between the JMP and GPC. PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN



▲ Local council elections cannot be left behind the presidential race as all elections are held on Sept. 20. PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYSI



▲ A Bin Shamlan supporter keeps his idol on his mind at the JMP rally at Al-Thawra Stadium. PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN



▲ A massive Saleh portrait looks down on Al-Sitteen Street (Haddah) dwarfing cars and buses beneath. PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYSI



2006 presidential candidate profiles

Ali Abdullah Saleh

- Born 1942 (age 64) in Beit Al-Ahmar village in Sana'a governorate's Sanhan district.
- Joined the armed forces in 1958.
- A member of the member Interim Presidential Council, he was elected military commander of Taiz governorate on June 24, 1978. He also was appointed Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.
- Elected General People's Congress (GPC) secretary-general on Aug. 30, 1982
- Elected president of the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) on Monday, July 17, 1987, with a 75-vote majority from members of the People's Assembly (established by Al-Ghashmi as an alternative to Parliament, which was dissolved by Al-Hamdi's June 13 movement)
- The Shoura Council re-elected Saleh to a third term on July 17, 1988.
- Elected Presidential Council chairman in 1990.
- Elected Presidential Council chairman in 1993.
- Yemen's first elected Parliament elected Saleh as the republic's first president on Oct. 1, 1994.
- Achieved Yemeni unity May 22, 1990, the dream of all Yemenis, thus ending the suffering of recession by raising the Yemeni Republic's flag and announcing Yemen's establishment
- Re-elected president of Yemen on Sept. 23, 1999, in the first competitive presidential elections.
- The most important achievements under his leadership are rebuilding the Great Dam of Marib, exploring oil and gas, developing education and agriculture, establishing Aden Free Zone and building a vast road network linking the nation's various parts and connecting Yemen with neighboring countries.
- Instituted numerous structural reforms that helped create variety in production fields and thus sup-



- port Yemen's economy.
- Succeeded in winning the democracy gamble and laid the foundation ensuring the establishment of real democracy.
- Worked on strengthening security and stability, defending human rights and guaranteeing general and individual freedoms.
- Followed reasonable and wise policies, thus saving Yemen from challenges and earning it national, Islamic, regional and international status. Further, he resolved border problems with Yemen's neighbors via peaceful means.
- Awarded a master's degree in military science from Leadership and Staff Faculty in 1989.
- Received an honorary political science doctorate from South Korea's Chowson University and another honorary political science doctorate from Al-Khartoum University in Sudan in 2002.
- Received numerous awards and honors from many countries in return for his efforts to enhance Yemen's relations with neighboring and friendly countries.
- In recognition of his outstanding role in civilizations dialogue and strengthening the culture of toleration and peaceful co-existence, he received Britain's Three-religion Forum Award and the Civilizations Dialogue Award from the Russian National Glory Center.

Authorities take steps to prevent pre-election violence

SANAA, 4 Sep 2006 (IRIN) - International election observers have expressed concerns over violent incidents in the run up to presidential and local elections on 20 September in Yemen. With a history of election-related killings, the country's authorities are taking steps to prevent any further confrontation.

"There is no place for violence in a democratic election and we condemn all violent acts without reservation," reads a European Union statement, quoting Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, the chief observer of the EU Electoral Observers in Yemen. The statement added that the EU called upon "all candidates, political parties and officials to respect the wishes of Yemeni voters for a peaceful election".

The EU statement was made in reference to the killing of election officials on 24 August in Yemen's Al-Jawf Governorate, north-east of Sana'a.

These murders have also prompted political parties, candidates, NGOs

and Yemen's Supreme Council for Elections and Referendum (SCER) to come together on 31 August to declare their commitment to an election without violence at a press conference at the Elections Media Centre.

The killings took place on the second day of the electoral campaign and led to the deaths of three persons, including an electoral candidate and two SCER employees, in a heavy gun battle. At least six more people were injured.

According to the EU, the shooting incident in Al-Jawf overshadowed an otherwise calm start to the election campaign.

However, Al-Jawf was not alone in witnessing pre-election violence. In the southern Lahj governorate, north of Aden, the nephew of independent presidential candidate Ahmed Abdullah Al-Majidi was murdered on 29 August, reports Almotamar.net.

This violence follows a familiar pattern in Yemeni elections. Thirteen people were killed and 50 wounded in the

Faisal Othman Bin Shamlan

- Born 1934 (age 72) in Al-Swiri in Hadramout.
- Attended primary school in Ghail Bawazir and secondary school in Sudan.
- Civil engineering graduate of Kingston University in the UK.
- Married with one son and four daughters.
- Minister of Public Works and Transport in 1967 during the first government formed under President Qahtan Al-Shabi following South Yemen's independence.
- Executive chairman of the General Authority for Electrical Power.
- Supreme People's Council member, 1971-1990.
- Founded Al-Minbar party and issued Al-Minbar newspaper in 1990 with Omar Tarmoom, Dr. Ba Faqih, Dr. Karama Sulian and many others.
- Ministry of Oil manager of oil marketing administration, 1991-92.
- Minister of Oil in 1994, resigned in 1995.
- Member of Parliament, 1990-2003.
- Resigned from Parliament in protest against the two-year extended period of Parliament in 2003, refusing to nominate himself anymore after that.
- When the government was formed in 1994, concerned authorities insistently called on him to preside over the government, but he refused the offer.



- Characterized by a clean vocational job register throughout his life, with an interest in charity projects.
- Returned a car in his keeping after ending his work in oil marketing administration at the Aden refinery.
- Reportedly, unlike other 1994 government ministers, he was given just one car, which he left in the ministry's garage when he resigned his post.
- Given a car by the president in 1997 and later had to sell it to meet his life needs.
- As declared by some close to him, he spent all the money he saved from private work to meet his expenses while working at the ministry.
- Unlike other ministers who receive special entitlements and a car every seven years, he receives YR 38,000 from the Cabinet and YR 20,000 from the presidential office.

Fathi Ahmed Al-Azab

- Born 1962, in Aden governorate
- Married with three children
- Holds a PhD in Chemistry, Sana'a University.
- Faculty of science teacher at Sana'a University.
- Head of the student bureau affiliated with the Yemeni Reform Party (YRP).
- Assistant secretary-general of the YRP's capital branch



1997 parliamentary elections, according to the Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation (CDF), a Yemeni NGO doing research into conflict.

In the 2001 local council elections, 67 people were killed, says CDF - although the official government figure is 48 - and more than 100 wounded on election day.

In 2003, according to observers from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), an American NGO working on democratisation in Yemen, three people were killed and 14 wounded on the day of parliamentary elections, and significant violence occurred in the lead-up to elections day.

Analysts say that much of the violence has been related to distrust, a history of conflict among candidates, suspicion that voter registers were flawed and the seemingly arbitrary drawing of electoral districts.

However, Yemen has of late been taking steps to prevent electoral violence. There was less violence, for

example, in the 2003 elections than in the 2001 elections, partly due to government and civil society efforts.

This time round, the SCER has carried out countrywide public awareness campaigns which include putting up 25,000 posters about a ban on guns in polling stations and informing electoral officials of the 'no guns' message through training, says John Landry, chief of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) electoral support project.

In addition, local peace-building NGO Dar al Salam is carrying out a campaign called 'Polling Day 2006: A Day Without Arms'. In June, the NGO persuaded chiefs of 21 tribes to sign an agreement to conduct elections peacefully.

Yemen's President, Ali Abdallah Saleh, and the National Defence Council made a similar declaration for a peaceful poll nationwide.

Ahmed Abdullah Al-Majeedi

- Born 1947 (age 59) in Beit Al-Qadhi village in Tour Al-Bahah area in Lahj governorate's Al-Sabihah district.
- Holds an advanced diploma in political and social science from Moscow, Russia.
- From a rural family solely depending upon agriculture and related activities to secure the eight-member family's livelihood.
- His early study was in his village's kuttub (a school-like environment where students can study the Qur'an and Arabic language), where he studied the Qur'an and learned to read and write.
- Moved with his father in 1960 to Aden, where he studied preparatory school.
- Received his preparatory school certificate in 1962 and worked as a guard with his father at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (known today as the Republic Hospital).
- Married with 10 children - one son and nine daughters.
- Enrolled in Civil Police School in 1964.
- Graduated from Civil Police School in 1965 and appointed to Al-Sheikh Othman and Al-Mansoura police force. Also at this time, he joined the National Front's Fedayeen to free South Yemen.
- Responsible for a Fedayeen cell within Al-Mansoura police in 1966.
- With his friend Abdulrahman Al-Surimi, established Salahaddin's Fedayeen group in mid-1966.
- Informed by his Civil Police colleagues in mid-1967 that British intelligence had discovered his Fedayeen activities. However, not caring, he headed in his military uniform to police headquarters, where he attacked a British soldier, stole his arms and spent the following period hiding in Lahj, Aden and Al-Sabihah.
- Participated with his liberation army colleagues to overthrow the Abdali Authority in Tour Al-Bahah and Al-Shaet centers in the last quarter of 1967.



- Following South Yemen's independence, went to Taiz with some of his struggling colleagues like Mohammed Ali Salah and Ali bin Ali Shukri.
- Participated in defending Sana'a and the Sept. 26 revolution during the imamate's 70-day siege.
- Appointed Al-Shaet and Tour Al-Qarah police officer in 1968.
- Appointed Tour Al-Bahah police officer in 1970.
- Sent to Russia for military study in Oct. 1970.
- Returned home in mid-1971 to be appointed secretary of Lahj governorate's organizational sector.
- Manager of Lahj's Water Administration, 1972.
- Resumed his Water Administration work until 1977.
- Granted a three-year scholarship to Russia toward the end of 1977 for an advanced diploma in political and social science.
- Appointed assistant secretary of Lahj governorate's economic circle in 1981.
- Appointed chairman of Lahj's defense and security circle in 1984.
- Appointed governor of Al-Mahara governorate in 1986, as well as a Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee member and a Supreme People's Council member.
- Appointed Hadramout's first YSP secretary in 1989, in addition to his post as executive office chairman.
- Became a Member of Parliament for the Republic of Yemen in 1990.
- Appointed governor of Ibb, 1991-94.

Yassin Abdu Sa'eed

- Born 1952 (age 54) in Lahj governorate's Al-Maqaterah district.
- Holds a business administration certificate from the Faculty of Commerce at Egypt's Ain Shams University.
- Has held numerous posts: Youth and sport consultant, Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) member and currently is Deputy Minister of Social Affairs and Labor.
- Participated in leading student movement activities in Taiz.
- Head of the Yemeni Student Association in Egypt.
- Vice president of the founding conference for the Yemeni



- Expatriates' Union, 1976.
- Central Council member for the Yemeni Economic Association.

Comedy scene in Sabeen Square

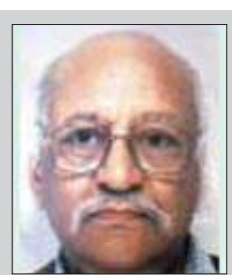
Since the story of "I will nominate myself, no I will not," which was an early electoral propaganda, campaigning has been in fits and starts. The whole story ended up with the comedy scene in the Sabeen Square in Sana'a so the tragic side of it to start since the first day of the new-old presidency tenure, which is pursued by the democracy of periodical elections that was replaced by democratic elections and its institutions and laws.

This presidency term is necessary for its owner for certain reasons, the important of which is that if he is absent, he would be the last Zaidi president of this country. As it is told he retracted from his previous decision because he wanted to protect the republic against the return of the Zaidi-Adnani monarchy and that is a confirmation of this "strategic" goal that concerns all the family of Qahtan, which is a goal organically connected to the former objective of bequeathing. Continuation of the army in honest hands is a guarantee of the political stability and protection of the country against evils of military coups, as he once stated to a journalist from NBC, as if he did not come aboard a military tank and is still on board of it. He equals the crown prince to the family, tribe and all Al-Qahtan. A crown prince is guarantor of this "historical" pursuit, he is also a continuation of the tribe role and the president consider it the origin and aim of history. Despite the difference on other matters, the representatives of the Adnani-Zaidi political Islam share the same opinion. What sultanate state is it without the South? Therefore the third goal is the

preservation of the unity that had been stamped with blood and defeat of all secessionists. He is saving all our modern and contemporary history.

It is not difficult to notice the army is at the center of politics and is the source of powers and the military coups are the sign of (Mawardi) domination in contemporary image. The new state of the Sultan that the Sunni legal scholars were keen to distinguish from the Caliphate – it is a fait accompli they adapted themselves and accepted and called for declaring allegiance to it in protection of the state of Islam and as well as the protection of the Sunnis and the Group. Since the first military coup in Iraq by Bakr Sidqi in 1936 we returned to the state of the Sultan that abolished the constitutions of the 20's and the experiments of modernization and liberalization in every field. With that alteration began our defeats leading to today. Coups abolished beginnings of the civilian political state.

Those of the Joint Meeting Parties complain about their political adversary turning to the army. This routine work has not stopped in almost 29 years. And it is quite enough to remind them about that theatrical show before the war of 1994 when the president and the sheikh of Takfir exchanged the roles and positions. He went to soldiers to practice a legal doctrine, sending him to military barracks to publish the slogan of war on the infidel. The political life is immersed in the mentality of force and oppression.



By: Dr. Abubakr Al-Saqqaf

The army and security manage elections and launch civil wars, they practice oppression in kidnapping, killing, torturing and imprisoning. Not to see this panoramic picture with its blood color is the worst type of color blindness, making one unable to distinguish between the differences between the parliamentary system and the presidential system.

The beginning of beginnings and the first thing of change and the first of all conditions is to embark on the civilian life. It is dangerous to assume both the presidency of the state and the command of the army. What increases the ferocity of this composition is the marriage between state and tribe.

This relationship adds to the evil, the functional inability resulting from structural and formational cause in the tribe and the tribesman when the tribe integrates with the state in conditions of faithless historical backwardness. It is the reason behind absence of an elite possessing cultural, political and ethical heritage capable of running the country in terms of the age. The civilian politics seem to be a condition for the very concept of the state. Without that it is not possible the state based on logic of power, safeguarded from inside, and the balance of the international environment, that guarantees its stability with absence of sovereignty as something able to continue. This situation is a crisis of existence of the state and the unity.

The absence of this big issue in the

Achilles heel of the JMP platform because it is following the orbit of the Sultan system and mechanisms of the Sultan state.

The Freemen Constitutional Movement, especially its first creator Ahmed Mohammed Nouman, focus was on the constitution and its association with freedom. It is a concentration on historical goals regardless of success or failure. Oppositely, it seems that the avoidance of focusing on the basis of the Sultan state structure in the Yemeni politics appears as failure in contemporary diagnosis of this structure. Perhaps among the reasons for an implicit agreement with the state by some parties of the JMP. It is also obvious the JMP is precisely not one opposition but rather oppositions. However, let's point to the keenness displayed by more than on side in the JMP concerning the ruling out of the idea of boycotting the elections under pretext that the required thing is a positive boycotting, whereas this has not been prepared for and not talked about even casually. Political thinking and working was carried out in accordance with the logic of retail sale rather than the wholesale. Thus the main issue was absent for years, or as the official political term necessitates. Now even collection of garbage has become more dangerous than our peaceful nuclear program.

When the simplest conditions for beginning democratic change are not available, positive boycotting will be an excellent democratic choice.

It is required to make the army a target for political enlightenment. If we exclude a small privileged group from it, the low-rank officers and soldiers are in very miserable conditions sharing misery with their fellow countrymen of tribes, workers and very poor people. The latest product was the bloody events of July 20 and 21 one year ago when demonstrations came unprompted because our political parties do not wish to provoke authority.

It seems politics in our country are waiting for a modern power to put forward questions and thus not going avoiding problems. The politics is not a game of musical chairs. I wish to be mistaken in this estimation and that the JMP is capable of achieving positive boycotting to tear up all the fig leaves with which the Sultan state democracy is wrapping itself.

The statements of the parties mentioned, "They express their strong regret for practices of violation of the agreement since the very first day of signing it in a way exceeding texts of the agreement to violation of constitutionality and legality of electoral procedures." Then the statement counted aspects of violation that included the constitution and

laws with regard to reform of electoral management, including the right to vote for those living abroad. It also included the question of electoral record, including suggestions proposed by international bodies, impartiality of the media and neutrality of the armed forces and the security.

After a compositional expatriation meaning nothing against the flood of violation and control we read in the statement "and if in this regard the bodies of the JMP reached a deadlock they would be forced to consult the leaders of their political parties to determine the final stand concerning the elections according to the options to be decided by leadership of the JMP."

The way is still not a deadlock – there is still hope. After all the criticism, participation in the elections seems to be for love of elections. Or this is according to dictates of the general interest, on which Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar said in justifying participation in the elections though they are rigged, and that was in reply to a question by radio Monte Carlo before the elections of 1997. At that time the higher interest was giving electoral legitimacy to results of the war of 1994.

What is the interest this time?

Abubakr Al-Saqqaf is a Yemeni writer, thinker and a well-known academic.

Role of independent press in elections

Along with holding any elections in Yemen there emerges a need for independent and impartial media to play a positive role instead of negative. Also emerges our need as journalists to recognize our role we have in free and fair elections in a country where democracy is emerging.



By: Yasser Al-Mayyasi

Journalists are important and vital and we can realize the meaning of "free and fair elections" and how to evaluate the process. We have to know the rules and criteria they are going to use in the elections and the degree of fairness of the rules themselves.

Holding free and fair elections is the cornerstone of democracy. The essential characteristic of a democratic society is the ability of citizens to choose their representatives with freedom, transparency and without any pressure exercised on them because in such a case the

principle of "rule of the people" depends on the possibility of the conscious selection. This role of the media is the instrument in covering events of elections.

Journalists participating in free and fair elections need a strong will for reporting and conveying facts without bias. It is the right of the citizen to obtain information and to be able to monitor those responsible for the state. In accordance with this understanding the media coverage of the election is an endless process and to cover the elections in a professional manner we need to be impartial. We should not be biased towards any political party.

As representatives of independent media we have to always remember we are in service of the citizens. Elections are considered an important event in the media and an occasion to prove credibil-

ity. We need to remember that in emerging democracies, such as our country, the citizens believe the press and other media instruments are the mouthpiece of the government and follow only the government. Our role as independent press and journalists is to be a reliable source for news trusted by all citizens. We have to prove our fairness and convey opinions of different viewpoints and seek to present media coverage of elections related to all concerned. Our writings and reports need to tackle the reality of daily life rather than platforms prepared by vying political parties.

As independent journalists we have to focus on issues, solutions and realities. The importance of the media coverage emerges through playing double role, but for the same reason we inform the citizens and give them the information to make informed decisions and we question the candidates so the public can get all the information.

Yasser Al-Mayyasi is a Yemen Times journalist and human rights activist.

Dear Yemen: Where to?

Yemen, over ages, used to be one unified country.

It was separated for the first time in its history in 1839 when British forces occupied Aden. Imamate state in the north of Yemen was unable to defend the weaker Aden and further the British forces extended their sway to include other coastal areas in the south of Yemen, thus separating the north from the south.

For one hundred and fifty years, Yemen was separated, but it was able to restore its unity again in 1990 with much struggle and efforts exerted by faithful Yemeni people.

The unification in 1990 was a turning point in the history of Yemen in particular and the area as a whole in general. Yemen's unity was achieved while other countries were suffering from separation and disintegration. Reunification of Yemen was a source of admiration for those following Yemeni affairs.

Most observers believed Yemen would play a great role in the area as it, with unity, became stronger and wider than ever before. The two opposing and conflicting countries became one country, so resources spent on war and equipments could go towards the general interest of Yemeni people.

Following the reunification, Yemen adopted democracy and a multi-party system as well as human rights. Additionally, parties were allowed work openly throughout governorates. Freedom of expression and opinion were allowed and a large number of papers and magazines were allowed to publish. Human rights were adopted.

These positive points encouraged democratic countries to praise the Yemeni experience and consider it to be the first democratic country in the area. Further, Uprising Democracies Forum were tempted to hold their conference in Sana'a.

However, these positive steps witnessed quick deterioration and democratic practices started to experience a dramatic and tragic setback at all levels. Freedoms were restricted and the controls over media became harsh. Such freedoms are ensured only in case they paid no harm to the regime or its corrupt officials. Human rights were violated in spite of newly formed Ministry for Human Rights and there are countless examples of human rights violations. For all these reasons, Uprising

Democracies Forum decided to deprive Yemen of its membership.

Additionally, journalists suffered a lot with newspapers subjected to pressure, trials and closing for no clear reasons – only their inclination to object authorities. Many journalists were subject to abduction, beating and harsh treatment.

It is true that Yemen has built good relations at the international level and Yemeni voice is heard throughout the world. Such success cannot be denied. Yet, internally Yemeni policy is a great failure.

In order for Yemen to develop, government should be open to all developments and to adopt anti-corruption programs as corruption deprives Yemeni people of their own rights. It should deal with matters in a transparent and clear way. Parties should be given equal chances to present themselves and their programs. Army, media and public jobs should not be exploited for the sake of any party and they should be neutral.

Further, freedoms should not be restricted, only in cases these freedoms are harmful to the country. Pressure should not be imposed upon newspapers as they are the mirrors that reflect the realism within society. Margin of freedom of opinion and expression should be expanded to the maximal point and other freedoms should be ensured.

Contrary to optimistic estimates who viewed Yemen as a giant economic entity in the region, Yemen's economy suffered successive deterioration and the Yemeni government found their solution by turning their backs to all the problems afflicting the economy.

There lie many reasons behind such deterioration. These problems can range from corruption and miscalculations by Yemeni leadership, who lacked political insight and blindly backed the Iraqi regime. This attitude caused Gulf countries to halt financial support to Yemen and return millions of Yemeni expatriates, thus depriving Yemeni budget from hundreds of millions.

Yemeni economy was very dependent on Gulf donations, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The collective return of Yemeni expatriates put added pressure on the ailing economy.

There had been an increased demand for infrastructure and primary services and Yemeni economy was unable to provide them. Further, the underdeveloped economy was unable to contain those

millions of people and there were increased problems socially and economically. Most of the public institutions and governmental sectors have proved to be a great failure, yet the privatization policy adopted to tackle this problem proved not to be a solution.

Yemen found itself in a civil war that claimed the lives of thousands of people, and more injured. The material losses were great with estimates in the billions of US dollars. These are only the economic affects – it also left a mark on with social relations, environment pollution and psychologically.

Though Yemen was able to defend its unity at a very high cost, officials paid no attention and kept on looting and exploiting public money, turning it into personal property.

The country under the recommendations of the World Bank and the International Monetary Bank (IMB) adopted a political and economic reform program; however it yielded no significant success due to rampant corruption.

Prices rose to unimaginable rates and people's lives deteriorated. This change eliminated Yemeni middle class and we were left with two classes – upper class or working/lower class. The former enjoying absolute richness, while the latter suffered in utter poverty, with almost nothing to eat.

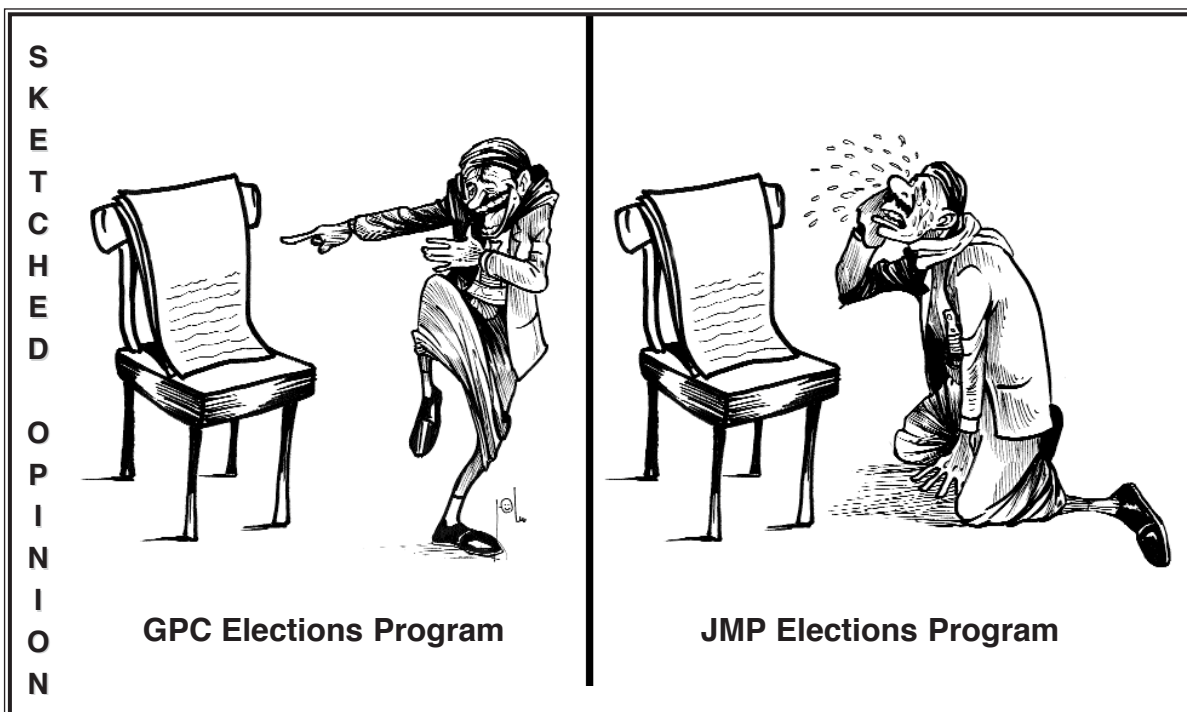
Though officials chant of investment and its benefits, the reality reflects something different. Yemeni investment environment is lacking due to poor infrastructure and the absence of law enforcement. Further, influential people and government officials try also to impose partnerships in each and every project.

Private sector started to suffer great decline as it was rivaled by the official businessmen. These officials exploit posts and forget about their own official primary responsibilities. Sometimes, they have problems with old businessmen and agency owners and they ask them for a partnership; otherwise they will try to grasp those agencies with the money they have.

Thus, the private sector suffers a lot and it is not able to sustain further employment. Not only this, but sidelining this sector has deprived the public treasury from billions of Yemeni Rials that were collected from taxes and customs.

Our problem lay in the lack of strategic planning, inability to list priorities and the spread of corruption.

Moneer Al-Omari is a Yemeni writer. He is currently pursuing his Master Degree in Linguistics.



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Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

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P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: editor@yementimes.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Letters: letters@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Managing Editor
Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammag

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Al-Ajel, Fatima
Al-Ariqi, Amel
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Al-Omari, Moneer
Al-Saqqaf, Raidan
Khidhr, Mohammed
Patterson, Dana

Interns

Al-Khaubari, Khalil
Goffin, Glen

Offices

Aden Bureau:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Ibb correspondent:
Nashwan Dammag
Mobile: (+967) 733840609,
Email: naschuan2000@yahoo.com

Hadramout Correspondent:
Saeed Al-Batati
Mobile (+967) 733896986
Email: albatati88@yahoo.com
Fax: +967 (05) 360303

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

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Seeking joint responses to global challenges

Asia and Europe look to the future on ASEM's tenth anniversary

On 10 and 11 September leaders from 10 ASEAN countries, China, Japan, Korea, 25 EU Member States, and the President of the European Commission will meet at the sixth Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Helsinki. The gathering will be a cause for celebration and reflection, as ten years have passed since the inaugural Summit in Bangkok took place. The Meeting's tenth anniversary provides an excellent occasion to see how far ASEM has lived up to the expectations of its partners and look to the future to consider where the Asia-Europe partnership should be heading after its first ten years.



Matti vanhanen Prime Minister of Finland.

Asia-Europe relations have achieved significant progress during the past decade. Economic relations have strengthened. Trade between the two regions now accounts for more than 43% of total world trade in goods, and ASEM partners together account for about 52% of the world's GDP. The scope of political dialogue has been widened and now covers human rights and the rule of law as well as global threats and broad security issues such as factors conducive to the spread of terrorism and conflict prevention. Moreover, enhanced interaction in the field of cultural dialogue and

cooperation has significantly improved mutual awareness and understanding between Asia and Europe.

ASEM has served to build consensus among its membership, thereby facilitating progress in other multilateral fora. ASEM has also been instrumental in developing shared values and interests between the two regions. This has in turn helped to promote regional cooperation and thus has provided momentum for the move towards future community-building in East Asia. By acting together, ASEM partners have the critical mass to help bring about global change.

At the trans-regional level, ASEM interlinks Europe's and Asia's business communities, parliaments, NGOs and other representatives of civil society. The Asia-Europe Foundation, the only institution of ASEM, has played a significant role in people-to-people contacts. The Foundation has successfully developed networking as well as cultural and educational exchanges, and has provided an interface between ASEM governments and civil society in the two regions.

Tangible results of ASEM include numerous collaborative projects, programmes, seminars and initiatives sponsored by groups of partner countries from the two regions. Cooperation has expanded beyond the initial emphasis on the economy to include new fields such as health, environment and energy, employment and labour, and science and technology including Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

To continue to exploit its full potential, ASEM must carry on providing added-value. It has three tools with which to achieve this:

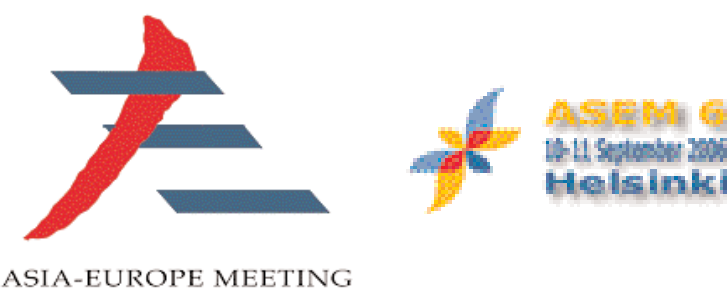
First, ASEM should pay particular attention to certain priority areas, to be followed up through joint initiatives and programmes. These areas include strengthening multilateralism to address

security threats; promoting human-centred and sustainable development including cooperation on environment and energy security; managing globalisation; and enhancing dialogue among cultures and civilisations.

Second, ASEM should continue to complement ongoing work in other fora in line with the international agenda. For example, ASEM's contribution to the fight against international terrorism should tie in with ongoing counter-terrorism efforts in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the UN framework. ASEM's "Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations" programme (which includes Interfaith Dialogue) is consistent with activities conducted in other international cooperation structures.

Third, ASEM should continue to strive for greater transparency and a broader sense of ownership. People-to-people contacts as well as educational and intellectual exchanges are of paramount importance, and also increase ASEM's visibility. Further efforts are needed to raise the awareness of the general public and attract media attention.

The ASEM6 Summit in Helsinki will review the first 10 years of the Asia-Europe dialogue and aim to set the direction for the second decade and beyond. Concrete outcomes of the Summit will



include the adoption of a Declaration on the Future of ASEM outlining guiding principles for future cooperation, and a Declaration on Climate Change highlighting ASEM's firm commitment to building the international consensus that is needed. Moreover, parallel events will bring together representatives of the business community, parliaments and civil society.

The political decision on further ASEM enlargement is an important milestone in the evolution of the process. ASEM partners believe that enlargement could provide greater dynamism and enrich the diversity of the process as well as help enhance and expand Asia-Europe dialogue and cooperation.

A lot has already been accomplished during ASEM's first decade, but much more still needs to be done to make the

Asia-Europe partnership count when responding to global challenges. Asia and Europe stand firmly united in support of multilateralism, and ASEM offers both regions a framework in which they can join forces in tackling pressing issues and contribute towards global peace, security and prosperity. Together, Asia and Europe can form a partnership that is much bigger than the sum of its parts - the ASEM6 summit in Helsinki will show the way.

The article is written by the leaders of the four ASEM coordinators, namely the country holding the rotating EU Presidency, currently Finland, the European Commission, Indonesia representing ASEAN countries and Republic of Korea representing the Northeast Asian countries.

Press Freedom: A tall order and Egypt falls short

By: Taqdir Washington

The United States has long prided itself on enjoying a free press. Freedom House, an organization that measures freedoms worldwide, declared that journalists in the United States work in an environment of complete press freedom, according to its 2005 Map of Press Freedom. In the same year, among Arab countries only parts of Palestine were labeled "free," while Bahrain, Kuwait, and Lebanon were considered "partly free." The rest of the Arab world, including Egypt, carry the label "not free."

The Map of Press Freedom has changed little in the past four years, and Egypt, the Arab world's largest country and the region's cultural leader, has earned the ranking of "not free" since Freedom House began composing a global ranking of press freedoms in 2002.

Why is Egypt consistently in the "not free" category, along with more obviously repressive countries such as Libya, North Korea, and Cuba? On July 26, 2006, the United States-Egypt Friendship Society, a Washington, DC-based non-governmental group dedicated to improving understanding between the two countries, hosted a panel discussion entitled "The Paradox of Press Freedom in Egypt." The panel consisted of Adel Iskandar, a member of the adjunct faculty at American University in Washington, DC and co-author of a book about the influence of the al-Jazeera satellite channel; Tareq Atiya, the deputy editor of Egypt's English-language al-Ahram Weekly; and Howard Schneider, the former Washington Post Cairo bureau chief.

Citing an "explosion" in opposition presses operating in Egypt in the last few decades, Adel Iskandar argued that the Egyptian press should not be viewed as a monolithic entity. He divided it into three main categories: government-operated presses; those presses operated by opposition parties; and independent presses beholden to neither the government nor any other political party. The fact that these three groups exist, however, does not mean

that Egypt enjoys a free and open press.

Iskandar outlined six essential requirements for the future of press reform in Egypt. These are: ensuring that revised press laws adequately protect the rights of journalists; reevaluating what constitutes journalistic principles, such as the concept of "objectivity," with the goal of standardizing these principles; the continuing influence of external alternative presses that help the Egyptian readership to appreciate the difference between constructive criticism of the country and slandering it; the diminishing of "media schizophrenia," in which people witness certain circumstances and events in their lives that are not touched upon by the media; the continued urging for press reforms by members of the press themselves; and the continued pressure on Egyptian authorities that stems from international expectations of greater accountability and transparency from the government.

For his part, Tareq Atia began his remarks by dividing the current Egyptian media into six categories, as opposed to Iskandar's three. These include: the government-operated presses, such as al-Ahram, al-Akhbar, and al-Gomhurriya; the independent dailies, such as al-Masry al-Yawm, which simultaneously provide government and opposition opinions on a given issue; the weekly independent papers, such as al-Dustur and Sawt al-Umma, which take up subjects other papers consider taboo; the satellite channels, which compel newspaper editorialists to keep up with the often-stinging political critiques they offer; the online-only news media, such as Fi-al-Bilad and Masrawy, which cater to "news junkies;" and weblogs, which oftentimes serve as media watchdogs despite their low readership levels.

According to Atia, changes in the Egyptian press will occur mainly within the parameters of a business model, in which those papers which



consistently operate at a financial loss will slowly fade from the scene. Atia warns that the disintegration of these papers may take longer than has been hoped by many observers.

Despite the slow pace of change, he discerns a distinct shift in the focus of the Egyptian media as a whole, which he argues has begun to pay more attention to the desires of Egyptian readers. Atia says that this trend can be observed in the fact that the Egyptian media has become more service-oriented, providing more useful information such as financial recommendations and real estate reviews.

He suggested that Egyptian journalism would benefit enormously from a greater focus on both investigative and literary journalism, the latter categorized by in-depth and detailed coverage of a particular topic.

Both Iskandar and Atia cited the opposition of Egyptian journalists to a law that was passed on July 10 of this year that criminalized the publication of information regarding the financial dealings of Egyptian government officials. Both argued that the outcry from journalists, including a 24-hour freeze in which more than 20 newspapers refused to publish, resulted in the intervention of President Hosni Mubarak, who removed the offending clause forbidding reporting on government officials.

Iskandar and Atia sounded another positive note with regard to the press coverage of Egypt's last presidential

elections.

Atia pointed to the fact that the Egyptian press was required to provide equal media coverage to all of the presidential candidates in the run-up to the election, though he admitted that ultimately Mubarak received the greatest coverage. Iskandar observed that, despite its unchallenged domination of the Egyptian media, Hosni Mubarak and his National Democratic Party spent much time and energy engineering a glitzy and appealing election campaign for the first time in history.

For his part, Howard Schneider approached the discussion of the Egyptian media from a more skeptical angle. He argued that increasing press freedom for Egyptian journalists would amount to little without the existence of a stringently enforced public information law that would enable journalists, or any other citizen for that matter, to access information that is currently off-limits.

Such information includes the details of ruling individuals' financial status, the financial and tax records of state-owned corporations, and the basic break-down of the Egyptian government's annual budget. Schneider insisted that a large gap separates a situation in which a journalist is merely immune from arrest from a situation in which a journalist has access to public information provided by transparent, accountable government agencies.

Ultimately, all three panelists came to a foregone conclusion - press freedom in Egypt has been and remains a paradox.

While some positive developments have taken place recently, particularly with regard to the press coverage of the 2005 legislative and presidential elections, meaningful reform and development will depend on a host of factors, but first and foremost will rely on the active engagement of Egyptian journalists demanding the freedom to access and report information and stories of significance to the Egyptian people.

The global communication revolution

By: Mary Nashed & Maria Magner

Iowa City, Iowa and Cairo, Egypt - In the past few years the entire landscape of global communication has experienced major change. While once the globe was a giant disconnected place, today the World Wide Web has managed to link a substantial portion of the world population together, allowed information to travel faster than ever, and empowered groups and individuals who had no voice to be heard loud and clear around the world.

The internet does not distinguish between races or religions, and in most cases communications between cultures are less constrained by biases and stereotypes, though language barriers remain. One such instance of the new power of the internet to bring people together involves the authors of this article. Mary Nashed is a student at the American University in Cairo and Maria Magner attends the University of Iowa. If it weren't for the internet, chances are we would have never met. We were brought together by the Soliya program, which brings American and Middle Eastern students together online to increase cultural understanding. Using webcams and microphones, we were able to have a conversation as if we were in the same room together.

Prior to the internet, our information about other cultures was controlled and restricted by the organizational structure of the media - individual editors and producers acted as the sole gatekeepers to knowledge about other parts of the world. Individual and cultural biases are an inherent part of all media, including so-called "hard news." It is virtually impossible for humans to be completely objective. Beyond bias, the unidirectional format of communication through mass media makes truly establishing context and background difficult. Questions can't be asked. Alternative perspectives can not be explored with any degree of depth. Descriptions of earth-shattering events are restricted to a newspaper page or two, and television news only compounds the problem because its visual aspect makes us believe we are seeing things as they are, despite the fact that those images are chosen by reporters who are operating under incredible time constraints and who have a duty to their corporations to make the news as exciting and entertaining as possible, for fear that they lose their advertisers.

The internet, thankfully, has eliminated all these obstacles. It has no restrictions in terms of time or space. It is infinite. It is omnidirectional. All views on all topics are available, and information can be exchanged in real-time, without interference. The only true barriers are those of language, but machine-translation and the wide-spread use of English are helping more people around the world communicate in more ways than ever before.

The best way to learn about another culture is to immerse oneself in it, and the Soliya program allowed us to do that. The Arab participants learnt, for example, that Arab media often portrayed American culture as being superficial and without much lasting value and gave the impression all Americans share the same opinions. Another common belief among Muslims in the Arab world is that since the attacks of September 11, Arabs are discriminated against in the United States, but we learnt that this was not the norm.

The American participants, in turn, learnt that Arabs were not the faceless terrorists of nightly news broadcasts and that many Arabs respect and admire aspects of American life such as their commitment to democracy, entrepreneurialism, and optimism. We all learnt that the media on both sides had greatly exaggerated the degree of animosity between Americans and Arabs. None of us felt that the attitudes that American and Arab media attributed to us were widely shared by our friends and family.

It is ironic that the internet, a purely mechanical, electronic form of communication, is what has allowed us to get closer and to connect as human beings. It can take us new places, which few of us will have the opportunity to visit, and fill them with real people. And while one person may not be able to make a difference, when we connect with others who believe the same thing, change is possible. The internet can make all this possible - and it is easier than ever to take the first steps toward greater mutual understanding across cultures.

Mary Nashed is a student at the American University in Cairo and Maria Magner attends the University of Iowa. They co-wrote this article as part of the Soliya Arab-American dialogue program (www.soliya.net). This article was distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.



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As CLO, working closely alongside the Embassy's management team, you will be required to provide welfare support, advice and local information to UK based diplomatic staff and their families and liaise with the Diplomatic Services Families Association in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, as well as other government departments in the UK. It will be your job to welcome staff and their families on arrival and to ensure as smooth integration as possible to life in the embassy and in Yemen.

The following skills are essential:

- English as a first language
- Strong interpersonal skill
- Friendly and outgoing nature
- Discretion and confidentiality
- Competency in Microsoft Office

Previous experience of working in an overseas environment and living in an expatriate community will be an advantage. Specific CLO training will be given to the successful applicant.

Suitable applicants should send their CV and references to the attention of the Management Office at the following address:

British Embassy Sana'a
129 Abu A-Hamadani St
Hadda, PO Box 1287
Sana'a
Email: BritishEmbassySanaa@fco.gov.uk

DEADLINE: 13 SEPTEMBER 2006

SIEMENS

Job Vacancies

SIEMENS AG, Communications-Mobile Networks, Yemen Branch is seeking highly qualified local personnel for the following positions:

MW ENGINEER

With the following requirements:

- University degree with minimum rate V. Good in communications or related field.
- Minimum three years experience in the communication field of MW (PDH&SDH) planning and configuration.
- Fluent in English and Arabic Languages.

FEMALE CASHIER

With the following requirements:

- Hardworking, highly motivated and analytical person.
- Fluent in English and Arabic languages.
- Must be computer literate, Bachelor of Accountancy graduate with minimum rate very good
- Minimum two years experience in bookkeeping or related field
- Knowledge of Peachtree accounting software is an advantage.

If you fulfill the above requirements, please send your CV and application letter to the following address not later than September 18, 2006.

Fax: 412314
P.O.Box: 18611
Sana'a-Yemen

Expression of Interest

**International Survey Firm
Basic Education Development Project
Credit No. 3988-YEM and Grant No. TF-053721**

The objective of this technical assistance is to help getting targeting and sampling data, and building up database, as well as providing input to Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) technical team on baseline questionnaire. The firm will conduct survey for 15,000 households in Lahj Governorate as part of the Demand Side Financing (DSF) in order to retain girls in school in age of 4-9.

This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business and Dg Market dated of Feb.2, 2005. The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and Multi-Donors Trust Funds toward the cost of Basic Education Development Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit & grants to payments under the contracts for the above-mentioned.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.).

The selection will be in accordance with the Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004". Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by September 30, 2006.

**Ministry of Education
Basic Education Development Project
Project Administration Unit
60 m Southern Rd. -Bait Meyad
Tel: 00967-01-619160, Fax: 00967-01- 619219.
Email: info@bedp-yemen.org**



Job Vacancy

The Maritime Consultancy Bureau wishes to identify Yemeni nationals, fluent in Arabic and English, for work on projects funded by International Agencies. Specific Technical skills are not essential. Graduates in economics and business administration/management are eligible to apply. Computer literacy and email/web searching skills will be essential to the likely posts. Candidates must be able to work within a team and be able to fulfill their own specific tasks and meet defined delivery dates for the required results as they work in a challenging environment.

Salaries and other benefits are expected to be in accordance with International standards.

Projects are likely to commence early in 2007 and will last for 2-3 years,

Potential candidates are requested to notify the Maritime consultancy Bureau of their interest by e-mail to sayafai@hotmail.com or by fax to +967 (1) 423058. Any enquires to 01-423056/7

Candidates are to submit their CVs within 2 weeks of the date of this advertisement.

OFFICIAL SPONSORS

Sana'a International Cricket Trophy - 2006
After the first round, tournament enters a crucial stage

Cricket Tournament started this year in August; first match was played on the 4th of August between Yemen United Cricket Club and Tital Yemen Cricket Club from Aden. League matches will be of 20 over's a side and the knock-out stage will be of 25 over's a side.

Batting first Yemen United with help of couple of good partnership posted a total of 160 runs. Tital Yemen Cricket Club started the chase brilliantly, scoring at almost 8 runs an over. Match was evenly balanced till the 12th over and then came the middle order collapse. Finally Tital Yemen's innings folded at 117 runs and lost the match by 43 runs.

Second Match turned out to be a low scoring game, Dove Energy Cricket Club posted a total of 102 runs for Arabian Stallions Cricket Club to be chased in 20 over's. As always seen, low scoring games are treat to watch as they usually go down to the wire. Arabian Cricket Stallions team made a mess while batting and were stretched till 19th over and 8 wickets down to get to the required total.

Third match between Friends Cricket Club and Adnan Cricket Club turned out to be one sided game with Friends batsman making merry on the lack luster bowling of Adnan Cricket Club. A record 165 partnership for the 4th wicket helped them to post a total of 203 runs, which was a huge task for the Adnan Cricket Club. Friends won the game by margin of 98 runs.

In the fourth match, batting first Taj Sheba XI scored posted a competitive total of 139 runs for Ceylon Cricket Club to be chased in 20 over's. Ceylon Cricket Club started the chase brilliantly, then again came the middle order collapse. It was left to the most experienced players of Ceylon Club to rebuild the innings and they won the game in the last over and with help of 34 wide's bowled during their innings

In the fifth match, batting first Dove Energy Cricket Club scored at brisk pace and posted a competitive total of 143 runs for Ceylon Cricket Club to be chased in 20 over's. Ceylon Cricket Club had a disastrous start to the innings and was reduced to 6/31 by the 7th over. Lower order batsman tried to rebuild the innings but it was too big a task for them. Dove Energy won the game by 56 runs.

Highest Scorer So far : Salim -78 runs, Friends Cricket Club
Highest Wicket taker : Sunil, 8 Wkts, Dove Energy Cricket Club
Leading All Rounder : Salim, Friends Cricket & Jomon, Dove Energy Club

Match Winning Partnerships:
1st Match : Jahangir & Azam (61), Yemen United Cricket Club
2nd Match : Amin Butt & Shital Somaiya (43), Arabian Stallions Cricket Club
3rd Match : Salim & Anthony (165), Friends Cricket Club
4th Match : Nabil Syed & Sarfaraz (48), Ceylon Cricket Club
5th Match : Dave Evans & Jomon (43), Dove Energy Cricket Club

Pool A	M	W	L	Points
Yemen United Cricket Club	1	1		2
Tital Yemen Cricket Club	1		1	0
Friends Cricket Club	1	1		2
Adnan Cricket Club	1		1	0
Pool B	M	W	L	Points
Arabian Stallions Cricket Club	1	1		2
Dove Energy Cricket Club	2	1	1	2
Taj Sheba XI	1		1	0
Ceylon Cricket Club	2	1	1	2

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Doha, Qatar
Tel: 445687
Fax: 445689

Adnan Oilfield Services

TAM International

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ORANGE STRAWBERRY

General Tender Announcement
Number (5) Year 2006
For The Second Time

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation reannounces tenders for the second time for the following:

- Supply, supervising installation, testing, hand-over and guarantee of four VHF TV transmission equipment in the following stations: Mara'a, Al-Damigh, Hailan, Dhain.

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US 300\$ an additional 100\$ is charged for optional postal delivery.

General conditions:

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2006
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2006
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2006
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2006
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

Place and date for opening the envelopes:
The envelopes are to be opened at 01:00 PM on Wednesday 4/10/2006 at the corporation premises.

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Tariq Abdulwase'e:

“We will introduce Medial Insurance soon.”

Although insurance is a prime industry and a necessary service in many countries, but in Yemen it has a different scenario due to the uniqueness of the Yemeni Business and society. YemenTimes spoke to Mr. Tariq Abdulwase'e, General Manager of United Insurance about these challenges and the prospects of the Insurance Industry in Yemen.

Interviewed By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

United Insurance was established in 1981 as a subsidiary of Hayel Saeed Anam group to accommodate the needs of the group, at the onset it was the third largest insurance provider and in 1995 it became market leader in providing insurance services in Yemen. Today it has a market share of 39 percent, in spite of the growth in the market and the new competition, as today there are 13 insurance providers operating in Yemen.

YT: What is the United Insurance secret to success through your 25 years of operation?

TA: Our success secrets lie in our management and staff, who are highly competent in ensuring excellent customer service with quick handling of claims and being highly responsive to our clients' needs to guarantee that all our clients are happy and satisfied. We are the first in Yemen to introduce world-class customer focused systems and services such as our 24-hour help line which is now imitated by our competition.

Our success secrets lie in our management and staff, who are highly competent in ensuring excellent customer service with quick handling of claims.

YT: How would you describe Yemen's insurance industry in terms of market potential and growth prospects?

TA: From my experience as the vice chairman of the Insurance Federation in Yemen, the Yemeni insurance market and industry are not yet well established, insurance services are still in the beginning of their lifecycle and the potential for insurance services is huge in Yemen. However, we need the help and support of our government and the Ministry of Trade and Industry in promoting the industry and 'opening doors for us' through improving legislation and integrating the laws of insurance into our national laws to facilitate our operations. You would be surprised to learn that the total premium income for the whole market is 45 million dollars annually, this is an equal figure with the income of a tiny insurance company in neighbouring countries and the current legal framework isn't supportive for our growth.

YT: Yemen was hit hard by terrorism which has affected insurance premiums especially in marine insurance and freight. How did you deal with that?

TA: The attack on the Limburge affected the industry a few years ago but now that impact has become history; thanks to government interference and the 50 million dollars guarantee the government has placed in order to maintain the levels of insurance premiums they were prior to the attack. Our main problem with marine insurance and freight is the detention of commercial shipping vessels as a result of damaging the cargo, especially older vessels where it occurs regularly. Therefore businessmen and shipping agents resort to detaining vessels until the damage has been compensated and their insurance claims have been sorted.

YT: How do you deal with the cultural barriers to the concept of insurance such as life insurance?

TA: We try to educate our customers on insurance services and we have quoted some fatwas (Islamic verdicts) from a number of religious scholars that the types of insurance and life insurance

services we provide are not 'Haram' (forbidden), and that we do not provide any insurance services which are labelled as 'Haram' in Islamic law. What our life insurance scheme provides is a safety net for the insurer's family and children, with the money of the insurance we help them pick up their life and go on. The Yemeni society has become aware of the importance of insurance and only a minority still thinks that insurance is haram. For example, we have recently introduced a new insurance scheme for teachers and those working in the education sector, the insurance scheme includes coverage for the insurer's family if he/she dies and also covers medical expenses if the insurer suffers from an accident or a disability in accordance to the insurance scheme, we have already received over 3000 applications for this insurance from teachers in the country in spite of the short period this service has been offered. This interest shows the people have matured enough to understand their need for insurance services in Yemen.

Entry to the World Trade Organization would provide healthy competition in the local market, provided there are certain laws to protect the local companies

YT: In the event of violence - like last year's price hike and the associated violence - how does that affect your industry as insurers and risk managers?

TA: We have had this experience several times previously, and there were several casualties and damages and we have to compensate for that on par with the insurance policy. Of course we have a limited protection. For example in terms of car insurance our policies do not cover riots and civil unrest, but other aspects such as damages to build-

Takaful-based insurance

In modern business, one of the ways to reduce the risk of loss due to misfortunes is through insurance. The basic idea behind insurance is the sharing of risk. The concept of insurance where resources are pooled to help the needy does not contradict Shariah.

Conventional insurance involves the elements of uncertainty (Al-gharar) in the contract of insurance, gambling (Al-maisir) as the consequences of the presence of uncertainty and interest (Al-riba) in the investment activities of the conventional insurance companies which contravene the rules of Shariah. It is generally accepted by Muslim Jurists that the operation of conventional insurance does not conform to the rules

and requirements of Shariah. Hayel Saeed Group, and it is the pioneer in the Islamic Banking Industry in Yemen. We might utilize their knowledge and expertise in this field as we develop a portfolio of Islamic and Takaful-based Insurance services. Currently we are studying the idea of Takaful Insurance in terms of the nature of services, economic feasibility and the demand of target segments for Islamic and Takaful-based insurance.

YT: Would Yemen's accession to the World Trade Organization and global competition affect insurance providers in Yemen?

TA: Entry to the World Trade Organization would provide healthy competition in the local market, provided there are certain laws to protect the local companies. We don't want a giant multinational insurance corporation to open only a small branch in Yemen with four and five people, there should be regulation to dictate the size of the company, the number of staff and that it should have many branches throughout Yemen.

It is important not to have such giant



Tariq Abdulwase'e: Total Industry income of premiums reaches US\$45 million.

companies working as mere brokers to sell policies. We, at United Insurance are not afraid of international competition because we provide the best insurance services in Yemen and have considerable expertise in working within the Yemeni environment. Keeping in mind the size of United Insurance and the strong brand it has built over 25 years of operation and mutual trust between us and our clients. However, smaller insurance providers might suffer under international competition, but their success in competing with international competition is dependent on how they react to it and their corporate strategy.

We are in touch with the Minister of Trade and Industry concerning Yemen's negotiations with the World Trade Organization and he is a very intelligent personality. We had different discussions on the subject in order to add several exemptions and regulations to regulate the entry of multinational insurance providers in order to level the playing field for local companies.

YT: Do you plan to introduce Islamic insurance packages any time soon?

TA: Islamic insurance is a relatively new concept and Tadamun Islamic Bank is a member of our group, the

You may see United Insurance to pioneer the Islamic insurance industry in Yemen as we launch our Islamic Insurance packages within a year.

YT: As an established businessman and investor, what advice would you like to convey to new investors?

TA: I advice all investors and businessmen to invest in Yemen as there are many virgin opportunities which are worth investment and have big and profitable potential, but I also advice them to know the laws and whom to deal with in the country and the business environment in order avoid surprise by the unique nature of business conduct. Yemen is a big and diverse country for investment opportunities.

Currently we are studying the idea of Takaful Insurance in terms of the nature of services, economic feasibility and the demand of target segments

YT: What are your future plans for the company?

TA: We are planning to introduce health and medical insurance within two months for the local market because if you currently want to buy a medical insurance policy for hospitalization you would have to resort to international companies and such a policy would cost you at least US \$1200. We plan to introduce three categories of medical coverage tailored to the different needs of people.

YT: What will assist United Insurance in staying as a market leader?

TA: United Insurance always strives to be a good example for the industry by exhibiting social responsibility. United Insurance insists to compensate the Deyaa (compensation for accidental loss of life) for women in equivalent of the Deyaa of man in spite of law statements indicating that a Women's Deyaa is half of a man's. We believe in fairness with regards to social gender because a soul is a soul. Our mission as insurance providers is to educate the public on the importance of insurance and help our clients in the best possible manner through our insurance policies and helping them in times of crises. We even marginalise our interests in implementing our policies in favour of our clients' time and assist them in recovering any loss or damage they might suffer from because this is our ethical standing towards our clients.

Business in brief

GCC committee to discuss Yemen's rehabilitation

In Their Hundredth meeting in Jeddah, the GPC foreign affairs committee have decided to hold a meeting in Sana'a on the 31st of October in order to discuss and potentially endorse the Plan laid by Yemen for the London donors conference held to be held in London on the 15th of following November.

GCC investments in Yemen less than US\$ 200 million

Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Ahmed Al-Sayaghi has stated that the total investment in Yemen originating from the Gulf Cooperative Council is less than US\$ 200 million in spite of the existence of investment opportunities worth over US\$ 7 billion, indicating that Yemen is trying hard to attract more investments from the Gulf through providing exceptional incentives and schemes for new investors.

Yemen halts exports of fisheries temporarily

Ministry of Fisheries has issued pre-

cise instructions to stop the exports of eight types of fisheries for three months due to the shortage of supply of these types in the local market and in turn the increase in the prices of these fisheries.

OPM announces record traffic

Overseas Port Management - Aden, Operators of Aden Port Terminal have announced that over 183395 Twenty-Foot containers or equivalent have crossed the berths of the container terminal port during the period Jan - Aug 2006, with a growth of 16.7% compared to last year's traffic.

DNO's Tasour well begins production

Norway's DNO ASA said that it has completed drilling well Number 22 at the Tasour oil field and that oil has initially flowed at a rate of 6,440 barrels per day, while prospects at the Tasour Block 32 seems to be promising but will start production in the last quarter of 2006 with an estimation of 2000-4000 barrels per day.

OPINION

Economic Illusions

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Yemen's Economic and Financial reforms has left a palpable sense of frustration among citizens over the reverse impact of these reforms. It may thus appear naive and counterproductive to suggest that Yemen needs to go beyond reforms and ensuring that our economic systems work and instead move foreign investment to the top of our priority list. The roots of the current economic underdevelopment in Yemen do not lie in the non-existence of capital to move the market and grow the economy, but Yemen's underdevelopment is because of the non-existence of an Economic and Financial System that works.

The irony of Yemen's economic policy is that it is short-term. First, A large portion of our natural resources are not channelled towards creating means of sustainable economic development, but it is channelled towards covering the day-to-day operations of the government. Second, the government of Yemen seems to ignore any piece of advice or recommendations on how to develop and rehabilitate the economy, a good example is how Yemen intentionally ignored integrating that economic rehabilitation plan laid down by the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) in Yemen's third national plan in order to facilitate Yemen's accession into the GCC, another manifestation of the Prime Minister's Mumbo-Jumbo remarks on Yemen's relationship with the GCC.

And lastly, Yemen's policy makers seems to be enjoying the high level of corruption within government circles and ensuring that any Anti-corruption campaign fails by endorsing the following activities: bribery, dishonesty, imposed commissions, committing fraud, abusing power and authority, tailoring contracts to avoid tenders, duplication of efforts, etc...

It is very logical that some half a million government employees will ensure that any anti-corruption campaign will fail because these activities constitute much of their income, and

these activities are the 'additional means' that will help them survive the stagnating economy and the reserve impact of Yemen's Economic and Financial reforms. This culture of 'additional means' have become synonymous with hard work, as people who know how to generate 'additional means' of income mainly through activates of corruption, then these set the standard for their peers, colleagues and society.

A friend of mine was a government official in the ministry of education, who was in charge of administering the marking process of primary school graduate which is a centralized process coordinated by the Ministry. Being a honest person of high calibre, he insisted to follow up the whole procedure and detected many cases of cheating and copying among students, only to be offered millions of cash as bribes and 'additional means', only to be seen by his colleges, family and society as the fool who refused additional means of making money and surviving the harshness of failed economic and financial reforms imposed by the government. Why would all his peers and the half-a-million government employees refuse the additional means and choose to live in poverty and bear the consequences of poor policy making?


Indeed, without returning to the illusion of attacking tons of investments to give every one three or four jobs and cut back on the dependence on 'additional means' of financing, the government of Yemen and the Country's Economic policy makers need to be able to set conditions allowing a reliable system to function, and integrate long-term economic measures into our current plans through investing in sustainable development means. Despite the complexity of the issue there is no Midas touch that will sustain our natural resources long enough because all indicators show that Yemen's economic scenario is heading towards a collision course. Unless, of course, our policy makers adopt some decency and choose to build a country for the next generations, not harvest all its resources to satisfy their shortsightedness.



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THE CLIMATE GROUP

Turkish International Schools' Students Bring Gold Medal to Yemen

By Owais A. Asim

Two students from the Turkish International Schools, Maha Taha Majid Salim Al-Sahili and Mariam Mustafa Abdul Moula represented Yemen at the International Environmental Project Olympiad (INEPO) and won the first-ever educational gold medal for Yemen.

The International Environmental Project Olympiad, took place in the Turkish Megalopolis, Istanbul, between 4-6th June, 2006. The event was vigorously participated in by 29 countries and included 75 diverse projects. A total of 194 high school students from all corners of the world, presented original projects in front of 41 members of evaluating jury, which included internationally acclaimed scientists and professors from major world universities. Chief among the participating countries were USA, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Romania, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, South Africa, Thailand, South Korea, Yemen and Turkey.

The students from the Turkish International schools presented, "The effects of Neem tree fruit extracts on the growth and development of Drosophila larva mosquitoes", and were declared the co-winners of the competition along with the South Korean students.



The wonder plant, neem tree, can be found easily in Yemen

Biology teachers of TIS, Ummuhan Yanik and Mesut Karatas supervised the project. Professor Dr. Zuhair Alsscharook from the department of biology of University of Ibb, who has major researches on the topic, also encouraged and assisted the students in the project.

The students of the Turkish International Schools participate in such International Educational Olympiads and Contests, on annual basis and bring medals to Yemen. In 2004, the students of the school brought bronze medal from the 2nd International Computer Olympiad held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

The Turkish International Schools were founded in September, 1998 to enhance the quality of education, provide a balanced and challenging educational environment to local students, and act as a cultural bridge between the two brother Islamic countries Yemen and Turkey. Since then, the school has grown from strength to strength, as a result of dedication and sheer hard work of its teachers and administration. It now has four branches in three major Yemeni cities Sana'a, Aden and Taiz. Plans of opening branches in other cities are already in the pipeline. All the schools are situated in spacious campuses and enjoy state-of-the-art educational facilities along with a diligent committed and dedicated team of local and foreign teachers.



Winner students proudly present their project.

The Turkish International Schools : A Glimpse

The Turkish International Schools are the first chain of English Medium schools with branches in all major cities of Yemen. The schools follow the curricula of the Yemeni Ministry of Education and the Cambridge University.

Salient features of the schools:

- Well-lit, well-ventilated and spacious campuses
- Fully equipped laboratories for all science subjects
- Up-to-date computer labs with full time access to the Internet
- Highly qualified, professional team of local and foreign teachers
- Spacious lawns and playing courts
- Annual participation in International Educational Olympiads
- Annual educational trips to Turkey for senior students
- State-of-the-art facilities for kindergarten kids and junior students
- Annual science fairs and educational exhibitions
- Full and partial scholarships for deserving students
- Well-stocked, hygienic cafeterias
- Free extra-coaching classes for grade 9, 12 and O-level

students

- Our achievements:**
- Excellent results in local and international exams
 - Gold medal in International Biology Olympiad held in Istanbul, Turkey
 - Bronze medal in International Computer Olympiad held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
 - Outstanding performance in major inter-schools sporting events
 - Successful arrangement of First ever National Computer Competition

The Schools: Offer high quality education and training to your kids at affordable prices for they are the future builders of Yemen. For further information and a visit to the schools please call the following numbers:
Tel: 447544, Fax: 447545
P.O.Box: 18148, Sana'a - Yemen

The Turkish International Schools (Sana'a , Taiz , Aden) (Broadening Education Horizons in Yemen) Registration is currently in progress for the academic year 2006-2007 from kindergarten until 12th grade.



Yemeni students are receiving their Golden Medals.



Golden Medal winner Yemeni and Korean students together



Golden Medal winner students and teachers together in a memorial photo.

The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

The fatal accident

By: Ghaleb Hassan Al-Ahlasi
ghalebahlasi@yahoo.com
ghalebahlasi@hotmail.com

Kamel Tameim, a 15 years old boy was extremely happy when his father allowed him to take the car and go for a drive alone. He took the keys, started the car and drove. At first he drove slowly and fine but his he his patient lessen and lessen until he got nothing. He started a music very loudly and the car's speed went up from 40-160 km/h. it was a hay way so the right was his but, unfortunately, his mobile rang, it was his father told him madly to return the car. Kamel was upset, that was his passing gift and he couldn't get the whole satisfaction he wanted. He tried to persuade him to give him just more hour but he refused. Before he shut off the mobile, another car in 120 km/h appeared from the other side and faced kamel's car; of course he deviated from his line because of his father's call. Anyhow, both of them tried to stop his car, as this was kamel's first lonely drive he couldn't think or do anything, he became out of life.

When he wake up he found himself lying in a white bed with white ties around his face, arms and chest and a tied up leg and surrounded by his young brother and sister and a pretty lady in white telling him in an angelical sound not to move. In ten minutes, a tall and very fat 50 years old man entered the room and say smiling "wow! You are very lucky to be alive now after that horrible accident."

An hour latter his father arrived, trying his best to cover his madness, worry and over tiredness by some happiness.

"dad," said Kamel very slowly "I'm sorry. I'm very sorry."

His father looked at him for a while then said, Turing his face "sorry! Huh.

For what? for disobedience me or for destruction the car or the big panic you made for us. Tell me, how much you

can be sorry for that and how much you would need for the poor family that lost three of its best guys because of you..."

"It wasn't my fault, father..."

"don't lie," the father shouted at him "it's your mistake. You deviated from your line."

"no father I didn't. I swear..." a very hard slap interrupted him "I told you don't lie." His father said madly "you are a man now and you must take over your mistakes. There where witness and they saw every thing."

After he calm down kamel asked "father..." no answer "father..."

"what do you want?"

"what is going to happen to me?"

"I don't know."

"it was an accident, it was just a mistake father."

"I know that, son, I'm sure it was."

"father, they won't kill me, are they? You won't let them kill, right?" he started crying

"calm down son, no one will kill you. I promise." A very sad, hopeful shine radiated from his eyes.

"as I told you, just ten minuets." The doctor entered the room with a bright-faced cop who sat near kamel saying "hi kamel, how are you now?"

"Thanks Allah for every thing."

"tell me, kamel, what exactly happened?"

Kamel turned to his father who nodded and smiled to him, like to say "tell the truth." Kamel turned back to the cop and said "will, I was driving our car..."

Three accusations where leveled at him

1- driving below the legal age and driving without a driver's license.

2- Overstep the permitted speed

3- Kill three people accident

"the first tow are easy. You should go and pay the fine." Gamal, the lawyer said

"will, that is good. What about the third one?" answered the father

"I'm afraid it is not going to be easy. The deads father is a famous(sheikh) and their brothers and cousins are big

army leaders."

"so?" kamel interrupted

"So they believe it wasn't an accident , it was purposed."

"That's silliness. I was nearly dead myself."

"But you didn't." said Gamal smiling "that's why they believe it was purposed."

"They are right." Said the father sighing "that's what I would had believed if that accident happened to my sons."

"what are you taking about father?"

"it's unreasonable. Their car was newer than ours and they were driving slower than you but the 3 of them died and you still alive."

"yes," Gamal jumped "that's what they said."

"Tell me Gamal," the father said hopelessly "Is there any hope of our winning the case?"

"yes there is. There is always a hope. Don't worry, Allah will help us."

"father please," Kamel requested his father after he got out of the hospital "it's my tribunal and I must be there."

"I said no, don't you understand?" said his father madly

"But why! Why not?"

"See son, you have killed three guys of those people who know no mercy. I'm sure they will kill you as soon as they see you."

"your father is right." Gamal interrupted "You must do what he tells you."

Before he could say a word the car was started and speedily driven then, very sad and angry, he went in the house, trying his best to control his tears.

It was 3 p.m., it has been six hours since they went, Kamel was staying at his room damning his luck and they day he on which he wished to drive the car alone. When his father arrived, Kamel saw the sadness eyes shine he had ever seen; his heart stop working, his tears freeze in his eyes, he recognized that it was his last days.

"I assure you Mr. Tameim, every

thing going to be ok. We will appellate ..." Said Gamal

"Why? What happened?" asked Kamel

"The judge gave you a death sentence."

"What! A death sentence. Why? It was an accidental homicide."

"The judge didn't believe that?" the father said very slowly.

"But...but how? I mean how he sentenced me from the first hearing? That's unusual!"

"the judge is from there family. The had already envenomed him and made him made his sentence before the hearing." Answered Gamal after a long, hot sigh.

"So what? Are we going to give up and ..."

"No, how said this?" Gamal interrupted angrily "We will appeal.. the justice should be done. They cant just kill you, it was an accidental homicide. If they have anything else, they have to prove it."

When Kamel and his father heard that words and saw the determination shine in his eyes the life came back to there souls again. Yes, as Gamal said, there is always a hope."

Days go so quickly, the summer vacation was ending and the schools open again its door. Every one prepare him/ herself for the new scholastic year with happiness and hopefulness.

All except Kamel and his family. Kamel hasn't lift his house since he was sentenced. His parents are frightened for him, they all horrified from the revenge.

Three days are separating them from the decisive day; the judgment day.

Although the days go quickly, as said, those three days were more than three years for him and his family. He got no sleep, no appetite, he lost even the ability of taking. He was just (an alive dead man.)

The day has come, finely. Mr.Tameim and Gamal went from the early morning to the court. Kamel stayed at his room, lying on his bed

awake, didn't even see off his father or wished to go with them while his mother was praying for him.

Not more than 90 minutes, they returned back. When Kamel heard them he went out as fast as he could to see the old sad look in his father's face.

"what...what happened?"

"noting, nothing at all."

"what! What do you mean?"

"the judge has been changed." Gamal answered very slowly.

"he was a very valid one." The father remarked.

"Why... I mean if he was good why the changed him?"

"Because he wouldn't sentence you. He was sure it was an accident. So they changed him."

"are you telling me that I'm dead."

"who said that, son?"

"if they were able to change that one because he wouldn't gave me a death sentence, they must have the power to send away any one like him."

"don't be so pessimistic."

"I'm not pessimistic," Kamel shouted at Gamal "I'm just a realistic man. It's just a matter of time. They will find the judge they want."

"and until tat day comes," interrupted his father, "we must try our best to live our live. We must trust in Allah and he will not fail us."

"Father," Kamel said calmly, "which life we must live. Do you really call this a life?"

The father inclined his head. "What kind of life is this." He continued "w2hen a 15 years old boy cant go out, cant play or see a friend. When a smart student cant go to school. When a boy like me had nothing to do but staying at his room and waiting for death."

"I know how do you feel son but... there is no thing we can do. That's your fate and you should be patient and thanks Allah for every thing."

"I always do, father but... I cant stand it any more."

"We don't have any other choice."

"Yes we have. We still have one." The life light shined again on his face.

Sheikh Soliman Gaber has a very big house in his non-definite, beautiful plantation. Although his name , just his name, can agitate the whole country, every one like him because of his humility and character.

It was 9:30am when he was told that a boy wished to meet him. When he entered the(diwan)

The gust stood up and unveiled his face and said " sir, I'm Kamel Tameim, the one who had an accident with your sons. I now it's a surprising but... here I am. Waiting for your justice. But before you sentenced me I want to tell you ..it was an accident. it was just my superiority"

"Your superiority!" Kamel told the Sheikh how he took the car and who the accident happened and when he finished the Sheikh took the holly Qora'an and gave it to him, saying

" Swear Allah that every word you have said is the truth." Kamel did, then the Sheikh call out all his sons and said " listen sons, I have heard him and believed every word he said and I forgive him, I completely forgive him and you are my witness in front of Allah."

Kamel couldn't believe that, he was free. He took his life again. He...he started kissing the Sheikh's head, hands and legs with the whole thankfulness in the world.

When he left the Sheikh's house, of course after launch, he took his mobile and called his father but he didn't answer. He tried again when he entered the hay way , after 8 rings the father answered but before he said a word, three veiled, full-armed men stopped him.

" See, young boy," said one of them "if you cheat our father by your prefect story, you will not cheat us. The accident was premeditated and you should pay for it. Our brothers' blood will not be of no avail. You understand that?" and before Kamel could said a word, the three started their guns and shut directly at his heart. Then they said "that's what we call justice."

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Some bass horns
- 6 Kachina maker
- 10 Speck of dust, e.g.
- 14 Electricity-eschewing sect
- 15 "___ Brockovich"
- 16 Declare
- 17 In hot water
- 19 Snap marriage locale
- 20 Brutish person
- 21 Sounded a trumpet, e.g.
- 23 Winter woe
- 26 Operated, as machinery
- 27 Mollify
- 28 Hang around
- 30 Monkey-bread tree
- 31 Reversed an action
- 32 Expenses
- 33 High mountain
- 36 Suffix for four
- 37 Mongolian tents
- 38 Geographic region
- 39 Commit a faux pas, e.g.
- 40 Senate of old Rome

- 41 Things to put out
- 42 Fairy-tale bridge tenders
- 44 Grade school staples
- 45 Bonds
- 47 Watch out when this flies
- 48 Caustic substance
- 49 Battlement opening
- 50 David's weapon
- 52 Roman garment
- 53 In hot water
- 58 Egg
- 59 Increased
- 60 Unusual objet d'art
- 61 Jeweler Lalique
- 62 Isn't off one's rocker?
- 63 Correct text

DOWN

- 1 Letter after sigma
- 2 Authority at home, briefly
- 3 Shtick performance
- 4 Pallid-looking
- 5 Did some wool gathering
- 6 Bird with an S-shaped neck

- 7 Cookie jar denizen, often
- 8 Thanksgiving dessert, often
- 9 Rorschach silhouettes
- 10 Mexican rattler
- 11 In hot water
- 12 Belief
- 13 Wear away
- 18 Bum slightly
- 22 Some retrievers, for short
- 23 Piccolo cousin
- 24 Cruise ship
- 25 In hot water
- 27 Italian staple
- 29 Conclusion of some card games
- 30 Rocket J. Squirrel's foe
- 32 Some weightlifting maneuvers
- 34 Mistrustful
- 35 Outmoded
- 37 Traditional Christmas items
- 38 Suffer somewhat
- 40 Central portion
- 41 Heat producer
- 43 Change an appellation
- 44 Archaeological site, perhaps
- 45 Boards treader
- 46 Motored
- 47 Streams forth
- 50 Proofreader's note, perhaps
- 51 Rather morose
- 54 Swiss canton
- 55 Umbrage
- 56 Sixty secs.
- 57 Iron-pumper's pride

"IN HOT WATER" by Amy Greene

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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	A	V	E	M	E	C	R	I	B	C	A	T	
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Y	E	N	S	I	R	S	S	K	Y	W	A	Y	

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The comic strip shows Calvin and Hobbes in a car. Calvin is driving and talking to Hobbes. The panels include dialogue about a 'fatal accident' and a 'death sentence'. The final panel shows Calvin thinking about his date.

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YEMEN TIMES

Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

Wadi Al-Sahwel: Famed bounty

By: Moneer Al-Omari

Wadi Al-Sahwel is one Yemen's richest and most fertile valleys named after a famous Yemeni dignitary known as Sahwel Bin Nagi, who lived there long ago.

Extending north-south, Al-Sahwel Valley lies between Mount Sumara, which rises to 2,800 meters above sea level, and the hill embracing Ibb city. It extends over 20 km. and contains two small cities, Al-Makhader and Al-Dalil, as well as a large number of villages. Administratively, Al-Sahwel Valley now belongs to Al-Makhader district.

Lying in Ibb governorate, Al-Sahwel Valley is green year-round, enjoying high average rainfall between 800 and 1,200 millimeters. It previously produced many grains like corn, wheat and similar crops; however, qat trees now rival such

crops.

Cotton also grew in Al-Sahwel Valley, which was famed for its textiles industry. According to the Arab writer Yaqout Al-Hamoui's guidebook on Middle East countries, "Al-Sahwel is a Yemeni village from which Sahweli textiles come. According to the hadith, upon his death, the prophet Mohammed (pbuh) was shrouded in three Sahweli cotton pieces containing neither dress nor a turban."

In the past, Wadi Al-Sahwel was Yemen's food basket and a safe haven for all those escaping hunger. Everywhere one went and whatever he ate, no one would ask why he ate, happily providing any food or help.

The goodness of Al-Sahwel's inhabitants and its valley's richness prompted famed Yemeni wise man, Ali Bin Zaid, to utter the famous saying: "If you're escaping death, it's inescapable; but if you're escaping hunger, then go to Sahwel Bin Nagi."



Wadi Al-Sahwel: A piece from heaven on earth.

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