

YEMEN TIMES TIMES



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Inside:



North Korea says it will

return to nuclear talks



Al-Nass Editor-in-Chief Hameed Ahmad Shahra: "Sana'a is the capital of



Yemen reaffirms commitment to trans-

Readers' Voice **Last edition's question:** that Yemeni Security Authorities arrested 8 Al-Qaida-linked elements Somalia. Do you think that Islamic Charity Societies use Al-Qaida members to supply Islamic Courts in Somalia with weapons? I don't know (10%) Yes (34%) No (56%)

This edition's question:

Yemen requested a total of 48 billion dollars in aid in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals, If granted, do you think Yemen will truely be able to achieve the goals by 2015?

- I don't know

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New details on Australian and other terror detainees

By: Amel Al-Ariqi & Agencies

SANA'A, Nov. 1 — The Australian press has revealed more information about three Australian citizens arrested in Yemen on terrorism charges two

The three detainees are among a group of eight foreigners with suspected Al-Qaeda links who face charges in Yemen for an alleged plot to smuggle arms to Somalia.

According to press reports, two of the men are brothers and reportedly sons of Abdul Rahim Ayub, who established a Jemaah Islamiyya cell in Australia but fled after the Bali bombing in Indonesia. The two Australianborn brothers of Anglo-Saxon background are believed to be named Mohammed and Abdullah Ayub, age 18 and 21, respectively.

The brothers were in Yemen on a study tour organized by their mother, Australian-born Muslim and former wife of Ayub, Rabiah Hutchison, who fled Australia on Oct. 16, 2002, four days after the first Bali bombing. Their sister Rahmah reportedly is married to

Khalid Cheikho, one of nine men charged in Sydney with conspiring to produce explosives in preparation for a errorist attack.

Although born in Poland, the third detainee, 35-year-old Malik Samulski, also known as Abdul Malik, had been an Australian citizen since the 1980s. He was a student and Sydney resident from the southwest suburb of Preston who converted to Islam. His family said he left Australia two years ago with his wife and child to study language in Yemen. Although Samulski's family says he's never been in trouble the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), he was known to have associated with the Ayub brothers before he left Sydney.

Acting on behalf of the three men. Sydney lawyer Adam Houda said the Ayub brothers' family had contacted him. He described them as devout. law-abiding Muslims who only recently had gone to Sana'a with their families to further their religious instruc-

Houda confirmed that the men went to Yemen to attend a private religious college, but not the Islamist Al-Iman University in Sana'a run by Sheikh Abdul-Majid Al-Zindani, who has denied any connection with the detainees.

The lawyer added, "The family is very, very upset. They believe there's no doubt that the Australian government is responsible. ASIO used to hassle them in Australia and some ASIO officials intervened as they were flying from the country."

In Parliament yesterday, Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer saluted the men's detention. "We welcome the Yemeni authorities" determination to address terrorism in a country where there have been a number of terrorist attacks over the years most prominently the attack on the USS Cole - but there also have been attacks that Australians have been caught up in over the years."

He added, "If they've broken the law or been involved in terrorism, well then they deserve everything they get."

However, Downer also insisted that Australia had no knowledge of the group before their arrest and no



The Ayub brothers as they appeared in Sydney Morning Herald newspaper.

involvement in the operation. "Australia wasn't involved," he stated. On Thursday, a Danish Foreign Ministry official confirmed the Oct. 14

arrest of a Dane, but refused to identi-

fy him. Danish media reported that the suspect is a 23-year-old man who converted to Islam and moved to Yemen two months ago with his wife and Continued on page 2

and Yemeni foreign ministers **Second joint meeting of GCC**

GGC member States foreign ministers or their representatives met for the second time as preparation step for the donors conference to take place in London between the 16th and 17th of this month.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Nov. 1 — Yemen requires a funding of 48 billi0on US dollars ion order to achieve the million development goals, as stated by Abdul Qadir Bajamal Yemeni Prime Minster at the opening session of the second joint meeting of foreign ministers of Gulf Cooperation Council and Yemen yesterday Wednesday, Nov 1 2006. The meeting aimed to discuss the final preparations of donor conference with Yemen's development partners, and would determine required funds to carry out the economic and social development plan 2006-2010 for poverty reduction. Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi in his welcoming remarks said "This cooperation is a start of a large political Arab cooperation and the meeting conveys Yemen and the GCC's desire to get together"

He conveyed the increasing commercial exchange between Yemen and the Gulf countries since 2000, and that it would be fair to say that more than 80%

عبرالعالم في الوقت تمامأ The World on Time of this exchange is towards the benefit of the gulf economy, keeping in mind the facilitation provided by the Yemeni government for investment. As for Yemen, there has been improvement but it is much below the required need and does not serve the nation's economy. "Yemen faces various challenges especially poverty which we all know breed terrorism which in turn is not good for the whole region not just Yemen. If Yemen is not able to contain the security issues and maintain stability then this would reflect on all the countries." He said.

The government of Yemen aspires to achieve an annual economic growth of 7.1% and he hoped the investment conference coming February will be an opportunity to strengthen this strategy. Funding Yemeni development is an investment for all countries, as helping Yemen today would prove beneficial for all in the future, he added.

The Qatari Foreign Minister Shiekh Hamad Bin Jasim Al Thani, who briefly remained in the session before departing to another country, emphasized on his government's will to develop the Yemeni-Gulf relations especially financially. "We promise to stand by Yemen politically and financially and especially financially," he said.

The Omani Foreign Minister Yousif Bin Alawai said that March last year at the Fahd conference the gulf member states agreed to review the development requirements Yemen would come up with and work with the Yemeni government on how to implement the plans to allow gradual integration of Yemen into the GCC. "We look forward to the day when this plan and these strategies are for real and are visible in the lives of the people" he said.

The GCC General Secretariat Mr. Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Atiyah praised the Yemeni culture, which he said, joined modern requirements and rich traditional heritage in a splendid homogenous way. "I was required from the previous summit in March to connect the Yemeni government with the concerned authorities in the GCC so that when Yemen is ready with its strategies and plans, the resources are provided to transform them into activities. The Yemeni government has come up with the third five-year development plan and we will review it and discuss possible interventions in preparation to the donors conference to be held in a couple of weeks." He said.

He summarised the work of this meeting in five points: Yemen identifying its requirements and proposing a development action plan based on a comprehensive study of the developmental and economic needs of the country, then comes the preparation for the donors conference, identifying the investment programme, confirming that the achievement of this program comes from the belief that this serves the region and translating the plan into commitments and executive action plans.

"The most important issue is that government of Yemen must understand that it must work on reform in judiciary system, and reforming COCA, freedom of press, fair tenders and bids, extractive and explorative industries and investment all has to be reformed. We want to

development goals by 2015.



Yemeni government aims at an annual economic growth of 7.1% in order to be able to achieve the millennium

not by the size of the funding we offer but by creating a long term partnership contract between Yemen and donor countries." He concluded

On his part, Bajamal said that this is a transformation from neighbours to partners because the world today would not allow an individual country to join the global movement without being integrated regionally first. "We feel that we have no choice but to integrate together" he commented.

The Yemeni government has created an evaluation report on its development requirements and aims at an annual economic growth of 7.1% in order to be able to achieve the millennium development goals by 2015. These requirement need

prove that we are in this project together a total funding of 48 billion US dollars so as to eradicate poverty, improve through a period of 10 years which means around 4,800 billions every year. environment and provision of clean This funding will be distributed among the various sectors in light of the MDGs

health and education, protection of the water and sanitation systems.

Continued on page 2

GPC wins majority of local council secretary-general seats

By: Hamdan Dammaj

SANA'A, Nov. 1 — Elections for secretary-general on local councils were conducted yesterday, with the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) winning the majority of seats in 15 governorates where election results had been announced at the time of this writing.

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) won the post only in Al-Dhale' gover-

norate. Following announcement of the election results, GPC candidate Sa'eed Ali Bayamin was declared local council secretary-general in Hadramout governorate, as well as Mujahed Shayef Al-Ansi in Dhamar, Ali Ahmad Al-Zaikum in Al-Mahwit, Amin Ali Al-Warafi in Ibb, Mohamed Ahmad Al-Haj in Taiz, Hassan Haij in Hodeidah and Jaber Ali Al-Shabwani in Marib.

Additionally, GPC candidate Naser Al-Fadhli won secretary-general in Abyan governorate, Ali Haidarah Mater in Lahj, Amin Juma'an in the capital, Nasser Al-Khadher Al-Sawadi in Al-Beidha, Hassan Mohamed Mana'a in Sa'ada, Abdulkarim Shayef in Aden and Salem Al-Humais in

Only Mohamed Ghaleb Al-Utabi of

the JMP won the secretary-general post on Al-Dhale' governorate's local coun-

Minister of Local Administration Sadeq Amin Abu Ra'as announced that concerned parties are studying implementing President Ali Abdullah Saleh's platform, which includes electing governors after three months.

Law professor Dr. Mohamed Ali Al-Saqqaf criticized such gubernatorial elections, asserting that such a procedure is bound to create problems in Yemen's administrative system.

Al-Saqqaf suggested that secretarygenerals be given broader authority, but the president should appoint governors because they are considered state representatives.







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In brief

Aden

Awareness programs about the risk of AIDS

Oct. 31 - The Woman National Committee arranges visits to several schools and some awareness's committees in Aden to increase the public's awareness on the danger of AIDS and how people can avoid it. "These campaigns are a part of the main project for the woman national committee that aspire all population members," according to Gablah Saeed, the chief of the Woman National Committee.

Yemen, Japan discuss cooperation

Oct. 31 — Lahj governor Abdul-Wahab al-Durah met with the Japanese Ambassador, Yuichi Ishii, to discuss the projects that will be implemented by the Japanese government in the governorate including the cleaning project of Al-Habilain district. The grants which are presented by the Japanese government. The ambassador expressed happiness for the level of the Yemen-Japan ties, wishing for further mutual cooperation in the future.

Public prosecution tries 37 traders Oct. 31 — The public prosecution will see 37 traders who raised foodstuff prices. The investigations are continuing with theses traders who monopolize foodstuff and increase the prices illegally. The prosecution will not tolerant these actions as it caused riots in the country last year.

Sana'a

Human resources management course

Oct. 31 — Yemen's capital will play host to a training course on human resource management starting Saturday. The 5-day course is organized by Islamic Relief-Yemen. Three trainers from Human Resources Department at Islamic Relief's Headoffice, based in Birmingham, Britain, will give lectures aimed at training office managers and workers in human resources departments in Islamic Relief-affiliated offices in the Middle

Media cooperation between Yemen and Oman

Oct. 31 — Minister of Information, Hassn Al-Lawzi, held talks with the Chairman of Oman News Agency, Majid al- Ruwassion, concerning media cooperation between the two countries. They discussed the cooperation between Saba and ONA agencies and the importance of exchanging experiences between the two countries in the media field. Al-Ruwassion said his visit came in the framework of cooperation between the two agencies and he hailed the adherence of the agencies' officials to increase the cooperation, voicing desire of his agency to benefit from the experiences of Saba.

Fisheries cooperation

Oct. 31 — The Minister of the Fisheries, Mahmoud Saghiri, met with the representative of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. The meeting discussed between Yemen and the organization and means of benefiting from the expertise of the organization in training, qualifying and setting up a fishing database.

Shabwah

New heritage discovery

Oct. 31 — Recently, a research group discovered a group of ancient earthenware objects pieces, some furniture and beauty tools in Tamena; the heritage location in Shabwah. A new study is hoping to find the history of these objects. A national exporters group will continue field research in two counties in Shabwah and will finish on the end of December.

Taiz

Al-Saeed foundation opening its programs

Oct. 31 — The Al-Saeed cultural forum is arranging a number of cultural activities programs during the months of November and December. The programs will include a plastic exhibition, a lecture focusing on the reasons behind the increase in revenge and the 10th European film festival.

Improving Nutrition on Socotra

SOCOTRA, Oct. 30 — The second phase of the Improving Nutrition Project in Socotra Island has begun, and a number of nurseries will be established to produce various kinds of vegetables. The project also aims to train the locals of Socotra on using domestic manure, cultivating the soil and teach about seeds that should be grow well on the island.

The project, moreover, aims to renew planting grains in the island, namely millet, which used to be grown hundreds years ago.

The head of the project, Yousof Brosher, recently arrived Socotra and said the first phase began in 2004, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Water and Environment. Five nurseries have been established since the start of the project to produce vegetable seedlings in various areas of the island, he added.

Each nursery is provided with a water tank, a store and training room. An agricultural training center is under construction and financed by the proj-



A new vegetable nursery in Manafo city, to the south of Hodaibu.

ect in the east of Hodaibu, the capital city of the island.

Brosher further noted the project will be renewed and supported by the French Embassy in Sana'a as well as Triangle Organization.

Locals are interested in the project as they donate some land pieces for establishing different vegetable nursPHOTO BY: MUSE'D SWAILER

The plan is to diversify Socotra's crops because there is fertilized land, but only dates are found, while grains are no longer planted.

The project is funded by Socotra Conservation and Development Program in addition to Triangle Organization.

Hajja jail inmates complain of torture

By: Adel Al-Khawlani

HAJJAH, Oct. 30 — Many prisoners, detained in a Hajja jail on criminal charges, said they were tortured by policemen in charge of the jail and affiliated with the Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Deputy Manager of Hajjah Criminal Investigation Bureau, Rashad Mohamed Saif, said he has no comment on the allegations of torture.

"We never practice torture against inmates," said Saif, while denying the

However, Al-Sahwa Net managed to take shots of an inmate showing traces of the torture on different parts of his body. The inmate said he was tortured by policemen in the jail while they investigated him.

Shots of detainee Ahmad Mohamed Dagma reveal he was severely beaten. Dagma, jailed on suspicion of murdering the Director-General of Khairan Al-Maharaq in Hajjah governorate, said he was whipped, beaten with electrical wires and also punched, slapped and subjected to badmouthing during the investigation process.

Dagma said detectives tied and beat

him to force a confession for his involvement in the murder of Al-Maharaq.

"I was taken to the Criminal Investigation Bureau to be investigated, but I hadn't known that I would face human beasts, who practice all kinds of torture against prisoners. The detectives dragged and knocked us with their legs until I found myself compelled to sign on the detection minutes, which contain fabricated information," said Dagma. According to Nasser Al-A'awar, a legal expert, such practices against prisoners, if proved authentic, are a legal crime. The law bans illegally treating, beating or torturing the suspect to force him/her to confess any charge attributed to him/her.

"Those who commit such crimes. which violate the constitution and legislation, face punishment under the Penalties Law. These acts contradict morals of the Yemeni society, particularly as they are practiced in security offices," said Al-A'awar.

Letters and complaints coming from prisons and penitentiaries nationwide have increased over the past two years. Prisoners say there are flagrant human and legal violations committed against them where they are subjected to malpractices and mistreatment by influential people and suffer a lack of basic services in prisons. Many inmates have been quoted as saying that prisons are heavily crowded with prisoners, exceeding their capacities.

The Parliamentary Committee of Rights and Public Freedoms revealed, in a report which it forwarded to the Parliament more than on year ago, following a field visit by the committee to prisons in different governorates, there are hostages who spent several years in prisons. These people have been put in prison as hostages on crimes committed by relatives. The security authorities detain citizens, among them children, who have been jailed for over 3 years without committing any crimes punishable under the law, according to the report.

Torturing prisoners, coupled with poor jail conditions and prolonged court procedures constitute some of the primary reasons why international human rights organizations usually assess the situation of human rights in

Parliament refuses to accept **International Criminal Court**

SANA'A, Oct. 28 — The constitutional committee in parliament recently criticized Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court. The parliament says the statue opposes the national laws especially those in relation to national sovereignty, extraditing citizens, impunity and independence of judgment. The committee considered the international community unable to defend the Rome Statue saying it could not defend the charter of the United Nations and the International Declaration of Human Rights. The international criminal court falls under the auspicious of the UN.

In the parliament report on the Rome statue, the committee was concerned with the court's functions and power in the countries approving the convention and considered it a violation of the

national prominence on the country and opposing the content of the law. But the report also stated the court's practice of its functions and power on its contributing parts is normal and does not mean a violation of the national prominence on the country. The committee considered giving the international criminal court the authority to charge or request investigation or arrest of any person, but they said the statue contradicts Yemeni law which states there is a "prohibition of delivering any Yemeni citizen to a for-

The committee wants a definition of the punishment on the crimes against humanity, war crimes and to take into account the principle of high prominence for the country while making harmony between the international convention and the constituent.

The international criminal court's fundamental system was approved in 1998 in Rome. It was put into effect in 2002 with approval of 66 countries. Jordan and Djibouti are the only Arab countries to sign the statue, but 13 countries, including Yemen, have signed, but are not operating under agreement. The court is specialized in eliminating crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression. Yemen signed the Rome Statue in 2000 and sent it to the parliament in 2004.

Jamal Jabi, member of the national coalition for international criminal court in Yemen, claims the Parliament's constitutional committee read the statue

"It is definitely wrong that the system of the court contradicts with the principle of national prominence," said Jabi.

Education strategy discussed

ADEN, Nov. 1 — The national education strategy, funded by the World Bank and Dutch government, aims to reconsider the education system in Yemeni universities, according to Saleh Ali Basurrah, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Basurrah added that the strategy focuses on updating courses in some Yemeni universities.

"Some people are expected to oppose the strategy application, this strategy is due to reconsider and update syllabuses, which have not

been updated for years, in some Yemeni universities that have no plans," said Basurrah.

Academic committees from different faculties will be in charge of assessing university syllabuses and suggesting plans for the new education

The new system boosts the specializations demanded by the labour market and provides learners with the necessary skills to cope with current job-

market demands. Basurrah emphasized the necessity of reshuffling the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, viewing it as the party concerned with supervising education programs and coordinating between educational institutions nationwide.

According to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Yemen lacks the necessary funding to improve the quality of education. He said there is a proposal for establishing an authority for scientific research, due to be funded by non-governmental and international organizations.

Shahra's family leaves hospital

SANA'A, Oct. 30 — Hamid Shuhrah's family was released from Al-Amal Hospital in Hodeida and they are heading for Sana'a, according to Hamdi Al-Bukari Yemeni Journalists Syndicate member mandated to investigate Shuhrah's traffic accident.

Shuhrah died Oct. 25 on the highway connecting Hodeida with Haradh, as the journalist and his wife and children were traveling back to Yemen after Omrah.

His widow and four children are in good health following their treatment. Shuhrah was Editor-in-Chief of Al-Nass newspaper.

Al-Bukari said the accident investigation results will be announced soon after the syndicate's council meeting at the end of the week.

Yemen does not apply for MCA membership

SANA'A, Oct. 30 — The Millennium qualified country but deprived support Challenge Account does not have a new decision to offer help to Yemen, as the Yemeni government did not renew its request to join MCA after its request was suspended last November, according to acting U.S. Ambassador to Yemen, Nabil Khori.

"I want to rectify reports by some newspapers that Yemen's request to join MCA this year has been rejected," said

The U.S. supports Yemen to get aids from the Gulf countries via the Donors Conference scheduled to be held in London later this month. Khori said the U.S. talked with the Gulf countries a few years ago on the significance of supporting Yemen.

"The U.S. supports Yemen's admission to GCC and the establishment of any Gulf authorities to grant reform programs in Yemen so that Yemeni government can achieve goals of the support," the diplomat noted.

Abdurrahman Bafadhl, Head of the Islah parliamentary bloc, demanded this week that Bajammal's government be changed. Bafadhl described Bajammal's government as disabled and weak, and it has failed to achieve any economic and political reform.

The MP confirmed that the MCA's decision, which described Yemen as a for 2007 support because of the the government's poor performance.

Khori said the MCA board of directors held an annual meeting on Nov. 8 to discuss the situation of MCA member states that renew their memberships and it doesn't discuss the situation of countries that don't make any request for MCA admission.

"During the most recent talks in Washington in this regard, concerned officials listed the reforms that were implemented in Yemen over the past few months. They acknowledged the good political administration pursued by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his government to carry out reforms," said

There have been a series of reforms, which Yemen approved and implemented and now the government only needs to approve the anti-corruption draft law, presented to parliament.

Yemen will have an another opportunity to enter the MCA soon.

"To achieve these reforms, Yemen and MCA agreed to hold a special meeting for Yemen in coming February or after this month. Yemen's file will not be discussed at the Nov. 8 meeting unless the Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation applies for the MCA membership," said Khori.

Democratic conference for women

SANA'A, Oct. 31 — The Arab Women Democratic Forum wants to evaluate and record the democratic transformations, political reforms, related governmental and civil initiatives and their effect on women in politics.

Their second democratic conference is a three-day affair starting Friday entitled, "Two years of democratic transformation: achievements and missing

The conference comes as a follow-up to the First Arab Women Democratic Forum held in Sana'a in 2004.

A number of female activists interested in women's issues will come from 20 other Arab and Muslim countries (Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Morocoo, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Peace without Justice.

Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey and Iran). There are also Yemeni human rights activists participating in the event.

The conference is expected to be attended by the Ministry of Human Rights, Khadija Al-Haisami, and Kathryn Both, the coordinator of Women Rights Program for the International Federation for Human Rights, along with Arab and foreign ambassadors to Yemen, representatives of international and internal civil society organizations and Yemeni politicians.

The conference is sponsored by the Ministry of Human Rights with a sup port from Middle East Partnership Initiative, International Federation for Human Rights United Nations Development Fund for Women and Now

Continued from page 1

Details on terror detainees

On Thursday, a Danish Foreign Ministry official confirmed the Oct. 14 arrest of a Dane, but refused to identify him. Danish media reported that the suspect is a 23-year-old man who converted to Islam and moved to Yemen two months ago with his wife and

Press reports also mentioned that another detainee, Ibrahim Abdullah Al-Sinhi, also known as Abu Dujana Al-Misiki, admitted that he'd been assigned to carry out an attack with an explosives-laden car at Sana'a International Airport.

Yemen's Interior Ministry previously issued an official press statement on September Net, wherein it mentioned that Yemeni security had arrested a group of eight men of various European and African nationalities on Oct. 16 on charges of smuggling weapons to religious courts in

The arrests stemmed from a state security campaign launched last month against alleged members of an Al-Qaeda cell, a Yemeni security source said, adding that another 15 Yemeni suspects have been arrested so far.

Second joint meeting of GCC

We will focus on infrastructure, rural development, and the private sector. We will put our efforts to improve the agriculture, fishery, tourism, extractive and transforming sectors and the free

He added that the demographics of Yemen must be taken into consideration knowing that this 464 square kilometre land is inhabited by more than 21 million people and with a long coastline of more than 2400 kilometres

The Yemeni government promises to

reform and eradicate corruption, this is on one front and on the other front it promises to continue fighting terrorism and marinating stability and security.

The Saudi representative confirmed his country's commitment to aiding Yemen in its development journey "All member countries showed their desire to aid Yemen's development in order to integrate it in the region." We hope that the various parties would come together in order to push for a speedy implementation, efficiency, and lowering of costs.

North Korea says it will return to nuclear talks

By: Jack Kim

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea said on Wednesday it would hold direct talks with the United States about ending financial sanctions as part of the stalled six-country negotiations on scrapping its nuclear weapons program,

The statement, carried on the official KCNA news agency, confirms an announcement the previous day by China's foreign ministry and follows international sanctions against the reclusive state for its nuclear test three weeks ago.

"The DPRK (North Korea) decided to return to the six-party talks on the premise that the issue of lifting financial sanctions will be discussed and settled between the DPRK and the U.S. within the framework of the six-party talks," KCNA quoted a North Korean foreign ministry spokesman as saying.

The agreement to return to the negotiations -- which Pyongyang has spurned for the past year -- was reached during talks between envoys from North Korea, the United States and China in Beijing this week.

South Korea's point man for the North said Seoul would reconsider its regular food aid to its impoverished neighbor now that Pyongyang had decided to return to the table.

Japan said it would keep in place its unilateral sanctions on North Korea that Tokyo imposed after the nuclear test

President Bush welcomed the decision but said he would send teams to Asia to ensure U.N. Security Council sanctions were enforced on the budding nuclear power after it conducted a test explosion on October 9.

"Obviously, we've still got a lot of work to do," Bush told reporters in Washington on Tuesday.

North Korea has come under increased pressure from China, the closest Pyongyang has to an ally, to return to the talks.

Distrust high, expectations low

"The agreement to resume six-party talks was reached because the Bush administration wants to score a diplo-



A North Korean soldier guards the bank of the Yalu River opposite the Chinese border, October 15, 2006.

matic point ahead of the mid-term elections in the United States and North Korea does not want to see China losing face," said Yasuhiko Yoshida, at Osaka University of Economics and Law.

The other three countries involved in the talks are South Korea, Japan and Russia. A round of talks in Beijing broke off in November 2005 after Washington took steps to restrict Pyongyang's access to the international financial system.

After the breakthrough meeting in Beijing, Washington's envoy, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, told a news conference there that he wanted "rapid progress" from the next talks, possibly in November or December.

But he said fully settling the nuclear standoff was likely to be difficult and time-consuming. "I have not broken out the cigars and champagne quite yet, believe me," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the new round of talks would not happen before the November 18-19 summit of Asia Pacific Economic

Cooperation leaders in Hanoi but she

hoped they would take place soon after.
"I think we have to have very low expectations (for the next round) given the fundamental distrust that exists," said Peter Beck, a Korean affairs expert in Seoul expert with the International Crisis Group.

Hill spelled out contentious issues that could again derail talks, including the U.S. financial restrictions, how to ensure North Korea keeps any disarmament commitments, and diplomatic damage from Pyongyang's October 9 nuclear test.

North Korea made no explicit promise not to conduct any more tests, Hill said, adding that a U.N. Security Council resolution imposing sanctions over the test by the reclusive Communist state remained in force.

The next six-party talks will address North Korea's concerns with the U.S. financial restrictions, possibly through a working group, he said, adding Pyongyang needs to abandon "illicit activities" that Washington has said include currency counterfeiting and drug trafficking.

Vaccine may work against common infection: Researchers

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A newly developed vaccine may work against Staphylococcus aureus, a bacteria that causes a range of potentially fatal infections and has become resistant to many antibiotics, U.S. researchers reported on Tuesday.

The government-funded team said their vaccine worked against several different strains of the bacteria in mice.

S. aureus is the most common cause of hospital-acquired infections, and can cause inflammation of the heart or endocarditis, toxic-shock syndrome, severe lung infections and food poisoning.

Every year, infections caught in U.S. hospitals kill 90,000 people and cost \$4.5 billion, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Up to 80 percent of hospital infections are caused by Staph aureus.

Many strains have evolved resistance to antibiotics, making them difficult and sometimes even impossible to treat.

"One by one, this organism has learned how to evade nearly all of our current antibiotics. So, generating protective immunity against invasive S. aureus has become an important goal," Dr. Olaf Schneewind of the University of Chicago, who led the study, said in a statement.

The CDC says that in 1972, only 2 per-

cent of Staphylococcus aureus bacteria infections were drug-resistant but in 2004, 63 percent were.

Schneewind's team created a vaccine that combines four of the proteins that make up Staphylococcus aureus.

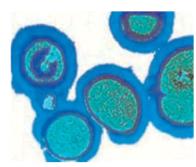
Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, they said they tested 19 different proteins found in Staph bacteria, and chose the four that stimulated the most immune response in the mice.

"When we challenged the immunized mice by exposing them to a human strain of S. aureus, the combination vaccine provided complete protection, whereas the control group developed bacterial abscesses," Schneewind said in a statement.

The researchers tested the mice using five different S. aureus strains that infect humans. The vaccine offered significant protection against all strains, they said.

"This finding represents a promising step toward identifying potential components to combine into a vaccine designed for people at high risk of invasive S. aureus infection," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which paid for the study.

This approach is called rational drug



Multidrug resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteria in an undated image. A newly developed vaccine may work against S. aureus, a bacteria that causes a range of potentially fatal infections and has become resistant to many antibiotics, U.S. researchers reported on Tuesday.

design. Most vaccines use a whole virus or bacterium, which has been crippled or killed and injected into the body to help stimulate immune system recognition.

But this approach has not worked against Staph aureus.

Some companies are working on staph vaccines, too, including Nabi Biopharmaceuticals, whose experimental StaphVAX vaccine failed final human clinical trials last year.

((وبش الصابرين الذين اذا اصابهم مصيبة قالوا إنا نَهُ و إنا إليه ماجعون))

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة

للحاج / أحمد علي شحرة ولجميع العاملين في مؤسسة الناس للصحافة ولنقابة الصحفيين اليمنيين

لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

الصحفي المبدع الزميل/ حميد أحمد شحرة

الذي كان نموذجاً متقدماً للعمل الصحفي المهني والذي برحيله المبكر تفقد الصحافة اليمنية أحد شبابها المبدعين سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان

متمنيين لأولاده وزوجته الشفاء العاجل ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون المعزون:
د/ همدان زيد مطيع دماج
د/ بلقيس أحمد منصور أبو أصبع مروان أحمد قاسم دماج

Consulting Services

for the Basic Education Development Project (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MoE) seeks applicants for a coordinator based in Lahej governorate .

Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT)

The pilot scheme is planned to be rigorously evaluated before being phased out in other regions of the country. A demand-side financing survey is being developed to be undertaken in Lahej governorate. The Lahej governorate survey will also serve as a baseline survey for the impact evaluation of the scheme. For monitoring the CCTs, a detailed list of students benefiting from the CCTs will be developed and maintained by the MoE and will be updated monthly after receiving information from schools about the compliance of students with the conditions of the cash transfer. In addition, the transfer of funds will be monitored to ensure timely delivery to the students and records will be maintained about the number of beneficiaries and the amount of funds paid out. In order to facilitate the MoE in implementing the CCTs a group of six individuals (one of them is the subject ad) will be hired to ensure a smooth and timely process. The work of the individuals hired will complement each other and they will work in close coordination with the Girls' Education Sector (GES).

The position is one year term position starting January 2007, with a possibility of an extension of another year on the successful completion of the first year on the discretion of the MoE. The position requires commitment and long work hours.

The coordinator's responsibilities will include:

- Developing a strong operational and working relationship on behalf of the GES with the agency responsible for transferring the funds to the beneficiaries (this agency has yet to be finalized).
- transferring the funds to the beneficiaries (this agency has yet to be finalized).

 Check that the payments to households are being processed and sent on time.
- Verify the information concerning who has and has not met their conditionalities is being provided on time by the school system.
- Solve any problems associated with information on conditionalities not coming in on time or looking like it has been falsified
- Gathering information in dropping out of beneficiaries and monitoring the compliance of conditionalities and
- the social issues of attending or not attending school. This would be a part of the main beneficiary database.

 Solve any problems regarding households that do not receive payments or are difficult to send money to (in
- coordination with the Sana'a based supervisor).

 Work with the GES, the Sana'a based CCT office and any other relevant agency to solve any implementation
- issue that may arise.
 Ensure that any mismanagement of funds is reported to the MoE and the BEDP Project Administration Unite.
 Help provide the database manager and data entry operator with relevant and up to date information on the distribution of funds including how much has been transferred, when and how by liaising directly with the Lahej
- governorate Education office and the schools where beneficiaries are enrolled.
 Participate in surprise visits to the beneficiary schools to verify the compliance of children with the conditionalities and to verify the data and information about children being transmitted to the team and GES by the schools. During these visits also talk to the beneficiaries to verify the transmission of funds.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will have at least a bachelor's degree in financial or public management, such as a Masters in Business Administration or Masters in Public Administration or Social Sciences (Masters degree preferred). The candidate should have at least 3 years work experience in a relevant position. It will be beneficial to have experience in managing payment systems. In addition, the person should be dynamic and creative in figuring out new ways to design mechanisms.

All applications along with detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by November 15, 2006 at the following address:

Basic Education Development Project 60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad Tel: 01-619160 / Fax 01-619219

Immediate Vacancy in Sana'a

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The Ministry of Public Health and Population announces the Extension of Bidding opening date to Sunday 5/11/2006 at 11:00am for the Consultation, Administration and Operation of President Hospital in Mareb.

VACANCY (Financial Assistant)

for the Basic Education Development Project (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the position of a Financial Assistant who will be responsible for the entire daily routine finance tasks of the project and will form with the financial officer the financial department which will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project implementation .

The Financial Assistant would:

- Update Fixed Assets Sys. and maintain files of Fixed Assets.
- Enter all the financial transactions on daily basis into the Financial Sys.
- Maintaining proper filing for all accounting documents.
- Prepare bank reconciliation for all bank accounts on monthly basis.
- Prepare the accounting reconciliations on monthly basis for , Contracts, Resources Centers, ...etc and prepare the necessary adjustments.
- Insuring that the Contracting System is updated on the appropriate time and follow up with FO at the governorate level.
- Prepare Initial financial analysis of data & preparation of the project basic data (plans, cost, budget, actual ... etc).
- Prepare The Financial Monitoring Reports and Cash Disbursements Plans.
- Assist Finance Officer in facilitating the work of the external auditors.
- Assist Finance Officer in the assessment of FMs capacities at the governorates level.
- Assist Finance Officer in maintaining overall integrity of financial statements and accounting records.
- Assist Finance Officer in developing, proposing, implementing & supporting changes or improvements to financial policies & procedures.
- Any other tasks as required by the project Financial Officer and the Project Director.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Business Administration with major in accounting and finance.
- Minimum of 5 years of professional experience in a financial management and accounting position, preferably in the private sector.
- Familiarity with the government's and IDA's financial management requirement is a plus.
- Experience in the use of accounting programs and software.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

All applications along with detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by November 15, 2006 at the following address:

> **Basic Education Development Project** 60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad Tel: 01-619160 / Fax 01-619219





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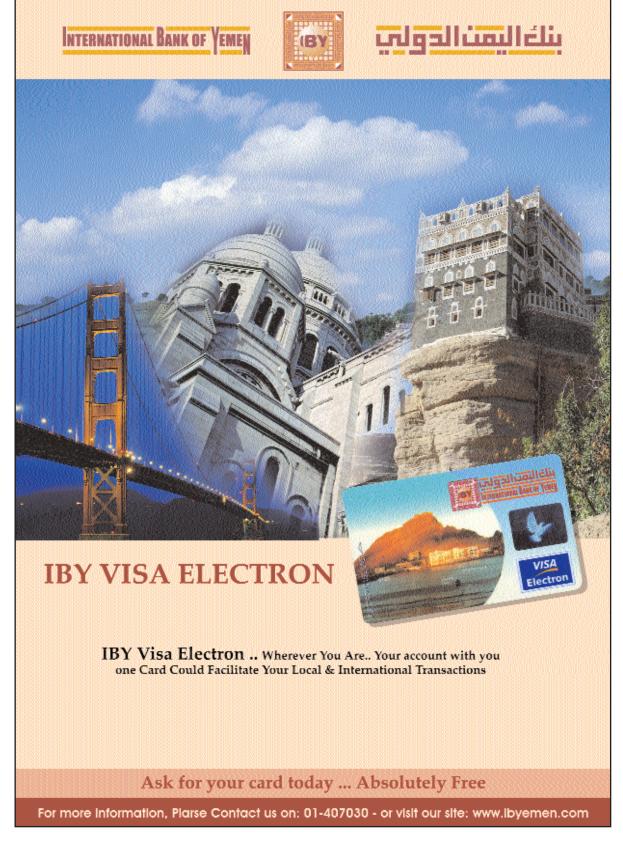
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Al-Nass Editor-in-Chief Hameed Ahmad Shahra:

"A professional journalist is one who creates." "Sana'a is the capital of sinks."

Annas newspaper Editor-in-Chief Hamid Shehra died in a car accident last Thursday in Hodeidah province while returning from Mecca, where he and his family had performed the religious ritual of Umra. In his memory, the Yemen Times is republishing a 2001 interview with him.

l-Nass Editor-in-Chief Ahmad Hameed Shahra could create a distinguished picture to his weekly newspaper in a short period of time. This intellectual personality could cope with the current situation in Yemen successfully with his newspaper. A book titled Smile Demise (Masra Al-Ebtisama) was issued in which the writer deals with the Brothers Islamic Movement in 1948. Bassam Al-Saqqaf of YT has met with him and filed the following interview.

Q: How do you evaluate the future of journalism? What does it lack, particularly here in Yemen?

A: I think with the increase of the number of the publications whether regular or periodical, it seems for the viewer that there is an improvement. But as a matter of fact, journalism is still lacking the human and material potentials. This can be clearly seen through the reality of Yemeni journalism. We see with our own eyes only one editor for more than one newspaper. If the individual does his best for for the benefit of his party, it is sure that it will be an abortive one. The journalism in Yemen is poor; up to this moment we don't have any press establishments and institutions which can participate in the trade work as an investment in the field of media. The matter is likened to the so-called circulars in which the content and style is

Q: Al-Nass Weekly newspaper could

achieve wide popularity in a short period of time. What makes it different from other newspapers?

A: I think this can be explained from two angles. The first one is that the magazine is not restricted in itself; it deals widely with all opinions and in each page you can find contrary opinions. The second aspect is that its main concern is on social aspects. Political issues and topics are lacking in our newspaper. The main feature of our magazine is the simplicity, whether in publications, in writing, or in its commentary. We as journalists, we make use of others' experiences in the field of journalism. In this short period, we could achieve what we have dreamed of. Now the newspaper is progressing by leaps and bounds.

Q: You have stood alone in issuing a special supplement concerning the Palestinian issue. Have you published that supplement to pursue the current situation in the occupied land, or is it going to be continued? A: We will go on to issue that supplement concerning the current situation in the occupied land. The issue itself represents all Arabs and Muslims

Q: Do you intend to publish other supplements in other creative areas such as sports or culture?

A: We intend only to issue a sport and news supplement entitled Al-Nass in order to pursue the current situations in the governates and the remote villages. Actually, we don't intend to publish any cultural supplements.



Hamid Shehra

Q: How do you assess the role of women in the Yemeni media? Do women play a leading role in the media, or do men themselves control the media?

A: It is neither controlled by men nor by women. It can not be classified as such. There are no imposed barriers which stand against women; the barriers can be found within the woman herself. Culture, environment, and backwardness reflects negatively on both men and women. For the most part, I think man's ambition is limitless, whereas woman, for a number of reasons, such as ignorance, is isolated from this aspect.

Q: There is rumor that Al-Nass

"Coercive partnership with investors on

the part of influential state figures, as

well as land-related problems, figure

Yemen's weak investment environ-

ment also affects gross domestic pro-

duction, which decreased from 22 per-

cent in 1995 to 19.2 percent by the end

of 2001, with the percentage continuing

the same direction, i.e., toward deterio-

Weak gross domestic product (GDP)

growth and lack of firm resolve for far-

sighted fiscal management are the

Yemeni economy's main weaknesses.

progress in the initial two years (2003-

2004) of Yemen's first Poverty

Reduction Strategy (PRS)has been

slow and "short of PRS targets in many

respects," according to the candid

review prepared by the government.

newspaper is confederated with Al-Sahwa newspaper. What are your comments?

A: Let them say whatever they want. It seems to me that the last page of our newspaper makes them say so. But if we closely analyze both of the newspapers we will see a big difference. For example the Islah, the Congress, and the opposition's positions have little coverage on our pages. If you look closely to other newspapers you will see that all these newspapers frontpaged the Islah's issues. It is the only party in the political arena, and the political battle now is between Islah and the PGC. The problem is that their point of view lies with the Editor-in-Chief who a member in the Islah Party.

That is why they say that Al-Nass is a confederate of the Al-Sahwa newspaper. But I confirm again through careful reading of the Al-Nass newspaper, it will be noted here that the newspaper has different concerns and issues from that of the Al-Sahwa newspaper.

Q: In your own point of view, what are the qualities of a professional iournalist?

A: To me, he is the man who creates and who is faithful in his work.

Al-Nowafeth Magazine (Windows Magazine) could also achieve a dramatic shift in the field of journalism, but we see that it has been stopped. Why has it stopped since its publication in 1997?

A: As it is known to all that the newspaper has encountered financial crises because its costs exceed its revenue.

Q: In your book "the Smile Demise" you have related the Brothers Islamic Movement to the 1948 Movement. How did you come to such idea?

A: When I joined the Movement in 1989, I was reading the history of the National Yemeni Movement. Through my reading, I closely followed the history of the movement and looked for more details related to the movement, so that I could collect a number of references and documents concerning this subject. I was supported by Nasr Taha and Mohammed Zabara. They encouraged me to publish the book under the supervision of the Strategic Studies Center. The book mainly focuses on the role of the Brothers Islamists in the National Movement (1938 - 1948) and their role in 1948 coup d'état. This book is a reference to researchers and students.

Q: You have mentioned in your articles in the newspaper saying that the

inexperienced young people in the government will bring about failure as that of the former government. Is that true?

A: First of all, there aren't any young ministers, and if they are young, they are spiritually old. At last there is a culture in which they live under the same roof. In this country there is no difference between young or old ministers.

Q: What about cudgels which have been imported recently? A: To put down the riot.

Q: What is your opinion concerning the legal case filed by Al-Qasemi against Al-Nass and Sadek Nasher? A: I think the case is absurd and doesn't deserve any attention at all. It is supposed to Al-Kasemi being brought up for trial for his stealing qat and plagiarizing publications.

Q:Do you think that Yemen will be the cultural capital for the year

A: I think it will not be because it is unqualified. I agree with Al-rasehi that it will be the capital of sinks

Q: The journalists' infringements in Yemen have the same idea of standing against journalists of the government and the opposition parties. Do you agree with me?

A: The Yemeni's tyranny and despoticism can be found within the Yemeni mentality, both within the rulers and the ruled. All Yemenis have the same mentality starting from the headmasters passing through the Secretary General of any given party. They practice the same style practiced by the government.

Q: What is your vision for the future of Yemen in 25 years?

A: Generally speaking, I think that my son will be the editor-in-chief, and he will be an army officer.

Is Yemen serious about fighting corruption?

Yemen loses \$600-700 million annually due to corruption, expert says

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

s one of the world's poorest nations, corruption is a chief obstacle to Yemen's economy and its citizens' devel-

Transparency International's annual Corruption Perception Index for 2005 placed Yemen at 106 out of 159 countries. It scored 2.7 out of a squeakyclean 10 compared to 2.4 in 2004.

Corruption was the foremost issue for Yemeni presidential candidates in their Aug. 22 to Sept. 19 election campaigns, with each confessing its existence and promising to fight it.

Yemen annually loses \$500 million, with that figure rising to \$600-700 million in other years, says Abdul-Hai Qasim, a political and economic analyst at the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies (YCSS). "Increasing corruption causes Yemen to be a non-stimulating environment for both foreign and local

Approximately 50 percent of development projects have been deterred or



43 percent of Yemenis live below the poverty line, which is \$2 per day.

prominently in deterring such projects," Qasim adds, "Inability to attract local and foreign investment deprives Yemen of gross financial revenues, as 40 to 50 percent could be attained if there was no

investment capital," Qasim says.

not implemented due to corruption.

GDP growth barely has kept pace with population growth, whereas the proposed per-capita growth target was 2.5 percent. Poverty most likely didn't decrease, thus failing the targeted 13 percent reduction. According to Qasim, corruption in Yemen affects citizens both in the long

and short run. Spreading administrative and financial corruption in state institutions has negative consequences for economic growth. This, in turn, affects citizens' living standards, as evident in increasing poverty, illiteracy and unemployment.

With a population of approximately 20 million, 43 percent of Yemenis live below the poverty line, which is \$2 per day. As a result, steady economic development in Yemen has been deterred.

In its 2005 annual report, the YCSS criticized the government for such rampant corruption, stating that abuse of executive power by the nation's ruling system was a key reason for corruption. The report pointed out that government measures undertaken within its reform program during the past 10 years had failed to eradicate financial corruption in public institutions. Additionally, judiciary isn't independent and political interference is widespread in the courts. All of this helps extend Yemen's culture of corruption, the YCSS report added.

Fighting corruption requires serious political will on the government's part, Oasim notes. Constitutional observational, judicial and auditing institutions also must be activated. Additionally, the government must issue clear laws to punish corrupt individuals and treat corruption's causes, enact the Financial Disclosure Law and appoint honest figures to high-ranking posts, he asserts

In its report, the YCSS cited several examples of development projects that suffered due to corruption, with Watani Bank for Trade and Investment a case in point. Failing to meet its financial obligations to its customers, as stipulated by Articles 43, 44 and 46 in Law No. 38, Watani declared bankruptcy in December 2005.

A bank source affirmed that the bank-



Development projects are some deterred due to corruption.

ruptcy came about when hundreds of contractors didn't pay their debts to the bank because the government delayed paying them their dues from implementing some projects.

Also, on Dec. 11, 2005, the World Bank announced that it would decrease its subsidies to Yemen by 34 percent from \$420 million to \$280 million over the next three years. Christiaan Poortman, World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa region, explained that the World Bank had to decrease subsidies because Yemen's performance indicators fell remarkably and didn't show progress and urged the Yemeni government to fight corruption.

To avoid criticism from donor nations and international organizations, the Yemeni government decided to establish a committee to combat corruption in 2005, by the end of which it had endorsed the idea and established the National Supreme Committee to Combat Corruption.

Being the public's demand, the issue of fighting corruption recently has gained steam in Yemeni society and become a daily topic for journalists.

As mentioned in his campaign platform, President Ali Abdullah Saleh promised to fight corruption and issue the Financial Disclosure Law, which he vowed will "be applied to everyone without exception.

"We'll continue fighting corruption and corrupt individuals and absolutely won't hesitate to send whoever is convicted of corruption to justice," he stated Sept. 26, addressing Yemenis on the revolution's 44th anniversary.

Post election issues

elections have come to an end and Yemen has returned everyday life.

We are not in Los Angeles or in Chicago.We are also not in London where the political party announces the end of its leaders, as what happened to the leader of the Conservative Party

Margaret Thatcher and now the process for Labour Party leader Tony Blair.

We are not even in the villages of the south of Lebanon or the refugee camp of Jenin in Palestine where the municipalities undertake everyday affairs of the

We are in Yemeni governorates with provincial capitals without clean water distribution in addition to incomplete paving of streets in even the rich residential quarters, let alone the poor areas of the town.

We are in Yemen where the presidential house is more important and more expensive. Small business shops, built into the sides of houses, pay high rent and have trouble staying in afloat. But in the presidential house billions of dollars are gathered and spent in the blink of the eye similar to the princedom house in Kuwait or Abu Dhabi and the King's Palace in Rivadh.

The meaning is that we are a weak country not just in its financial capabilities but also in infrastructure. This is not the main problem. We are talking about the biggest political activity in the region, but also we talk about a country the politics in it has relationship with the daily life of the citizens except if we were to consider the providing of a theoretical substance for qat-chewing sessions as a national task.

I listen to a cassette of a fluent preacher talking about excessive wealth as a cause of evil and know he has brought cassettes to a country different from his own. Nonetheless, his preaching finds a good market where the poor segment of the people listens carefully to warnings of richness though there is no one rich among them. I wonder how to compare properties of the group of Hayel Saeed inside the boundaries of Yemen to one of the companies of Bin Laden in Saudi or Ammar the Emirates? I can say that the profits of one year of Natco or the National Dairies Company can be compared to profits of their similar ones in the neighboring countries in one month. What is meant in the two cases is to say that our problems are fully separated from our culture, whether religious or administrative or financial policies.

Re-arrangement of awareness

We have to, after the winning of the presidency slogan of 'New Yemen and Better Future', put again the issues on our table and we have to object the president's insistence that Yemenis voted and elected him for fear from a destiny similar to Iraq or Somalia.

Democracy is the entrance to develise a national duty in order to achieve a

Medicines Smuggling

opment and stability and not the chaos in any counwhatsoever. Said Barre of Somalia and Saddam Hussein of Iraq are themselves who sowed what is happening now in their countries, it is a result of the policy with which they ruled. They have not preserved By: Nabil Al-Soufi development or sowed freedom. On the other

hand do we have the right to be ambitious or will we find ourselves as we are now after the next seven years? Will it be just speeches and wrangles while the real Yemeni owner of the interest, who is poor today although he is the one who possesses the electoral voice, lives in more tragedy and disaster? I am optimistic not because of partiality to the president or naivety, but because I want to keep what I will say in the future and to not aggress on the strategists or the fortune-tellers, both of who are specialized in talking about the invisible.

Before the opposition

Away from soothsaying of the brothers in the General People's Congress media who, as a journalist without a partisan stance, I find myself these days as close to them, except in the fortune-telling, such as the collapse of Al-Yadoumi the shock of Al-A'nisi and dismantle of the Joint Meeting Parties. I think all have tasks to do. By the end of his post as secretary general of the GPC, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryany, gave some suggestions to the opposition parties calling them to be busy with their basics and their own performance instead of chasing the ruling party and to nourish on its mistakes. Some of us then attacked him because he had only to be liable to advice and not to advise as well.

Time has come now to give the opposition the same advice. The interest of Yemen is in a strong opposition even if President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his party do not want opposition. is the only new thing that the country has not witnessed sine the imam Yahya had undertaken the rule the beginning of the last century. We want opposition concerned with weighing the loaf of bread, the layer of asphalt in the streets, problems of rent. We want an opposition that knows what goes on in corridors of courts, what small tradesmen are exposed to, the sufferings of peddlers and details of daily life in the villages and countryside, the mountains and the valleys. They should support the youth of the village to build a sport club, the young girls for founding a social society and residents to have cooperative societies. This is done not through statements or orders to the press to tackle the problems just to avoid the blame but rather realization for which the days of the organization are devoted. To sum it up, there are great duties awaiting the opposition parties, the official policy does not encourage but we cannot wait an official permission for such an act. It

popular balance preventing the ruler from tendencies of despotism.

Re-building alliances

An important subject can now be discussed and the opposition can take the initiative in this regard, it is the re-building of alliances. The question is not about the existing political alliances: JMP versus the GPC, but rather alliances not related to elections. They are about issues and for restoring balance in the general street. Our detailed general issues are the biggest loser, such issues like the freedom of expression, health and medicine, management of residential quarters and villages, prisoner rights, management of border crossings and administrative rights of employees. I think the opposition initiative towards those details will protect it from getting suffocated in talking about the presidential house and would support any positive directions inside the GPC concerning those issues for the general interest.

The rule also has duties

The rule with its three powers is need of stopping speeches from above and to think of bases of the crises and allowing the society to discuss these challenges and all what we have heard from the president of the republic about formation of government and outside government committees to implement his election platform. In fact such a trend might arouse fears from two orientations.

The first fear is from doubling the power of the presidency at the expense of executive power centers which means paralyzing this post by a group of more authorities and duties and which consequently come from canceling parliamentary elections. These elections are the element that actually decides the government program because the majority party wins the confidences from the legslative power.

The second fear may be confusion of government institutions that work according to annual or five-year plans through and giving them an excuse to delay. I think it's important to emphasize the general direction of the Yemeni state represented by the approach mentioned in the platform of the GPC's candidate by which it has won confidence.

Activation of local administration, an urgent priority

Before I have written this paragraph I searched for a long time for the developmental unit that is the most important in any society. It is the medium institution between the higher and lower levels and in our country I think they are councils or offices of the governorates. It has been apparent the extent of this unit's effectiveness in the electoral battles. The governors, though they hid behind a temporary official, namely the head of the GPC's election campaign, were themselves the technical tools of victory. I have searched about their last meeting as governance council and I was shocked that I did not find any meeting of them as a council or individuals during the past two years and a half.

ment is these units must double its affiliation to local society. Some governors have nothing to do with activities of their local society. They do not know about the biggest sector of employees or the needs of social organizations and political divisions. I attended two meetings on fishery and electricity concerning Hadramout, attended by ministers under organization of the governor Abdulqader Hilal in Sana'a, unfortunately the two meetings and what they discussed of activation of relationship and interest between the local societies and their issues was not an object of the media interest.

I asked whether each governor has an understanding his governorates. Are they the teachers, the soldiers, the fishermen or the workforce or vehicle drivers? Does he have any relationship with branches of the political parties? Where is the governor who we saw at offices of any of the political parties in his governorate discussing with that party its role in the public life in enlightenment in the national campaigns?

I think Yemen is in need of taking interest in the council of governors or to follow up their relationship with needs of their local society. Surely that does not mean the government is in a better situation. There are some ministers who do not think they are running ministries lacking work strategies and poor administrative situation. I believe if their present head, Abdulgader Bajammal, got more authority he will achieve with them. It is a wish to see a government shuffle removing some of the faces that are actually against the new approach.

Fighting corruption

Although the talk about fighting corruption in Yemen has become an international demand the issue is not a repetition of Arab experiments where fighting corruption means ending what has remained of the institution and building a new force whose task is building a new despotism under the pretext of development. Can we remember achievements of totalitarian parties that fight corruption with tools of political conflicts?

Corruption in Yemen is not just the corrupt persons and an ethical address. In statements they would have been a cause of worry pushing some to pay the price for the absence of institutions and malfunction of mechanisms.

Fighting corruption in Yemen is only through building concerned institutions managing contracts and finances and protects legal duties. Any selection under any influences will lead to failure and rather to harming complications. We have witnessed some experiments, though few, but they disclosed the possibility that the regionalism becomes the first protector of those accused of corruption. Here when the local society does not see a general institutional and quiet performance it would find itself forced to defend his corruption even while it is complaining of the impact of

Nabil Al-Soufi is a Yemeni journalist and I think the real instrument of develop- Editor-in-Chief of News Yemen website.

COMMON SENSE

From one failure to the next

In remembering how the United States was just before the turn of the Millennium, the observer is inclined to believe that American might and hegemony is facing its worst challenge in history. This remarkable phenomenon in the metamorphosis of power is that this challenge was brought about, not so much due to outside enemies being able to outdo the United States in all the elements that project its formidable might economically, militarily and even socially – to a certain extent. This challenge is more the result of failure in the inside and moreover an moot display of poor leadership - the worst of its



kind in American history. The underlying factor in this unusual turn of direction in American political configurations is that this did not come as a result of change in American military and economic capability. Nor for that matter is it due to the ability of foreign members of the international community to make it hard for the US to maintain its ability to dictate its own terms of international behavior. The stark reality is that the United States has been goaded to pursue policies that first of all have little relations to the convictions most of the people of the world have been led to believe underline all foreign policy pursuits of the United States. In fact, one is inclined to believe that for the first time in the history of the United States a new slate of convictions have taken over the foreign policy ramifications of unchallengeable world power. This new basis for pursuing foreign policy does not stem from a desire to stand for the principles that supposedly have given the United States and the American people distinction. Rather than that, American policy has become guided by the beliefs and suppositions that American power is a God given right to serve the interests of the minority of stakeholders in the US, who have methodically taken over all the elements of power and decision making, and in a sense deprived the overwhelming majority from the right to influence policy and the strategy to achieve questionable aims that are as far away from American interests as they are distant from bringing about world peace and harmonization.

The results of this reliance on a dog-eat-dog perception of the international theatre are obvious even to the most uninformed of observers, including some of the elements of the American right that has in the past saw logic in some of the pursuits of the Administration of President Gorge W. Bush. The driving force supposedly of these pursuits have been a so called "War on Terror", that seems to not have even gotten off the ground, let alone make the world feel any closer to any sense of peace from the symptoms of extremism and inclination to violence. On the contrary, the forces that supposedly stood for the "terror" that the Administration has directed all its pursuits towards and asked the world to join it in pursuing are still almost intact and are probably able to unleash their venom wherever they like. Its icons are all still intact and are able to make their presence unquestioned, with appearances in the media anytime they like, with the White House having the least of idea where these icons are staying. At least, that is how the world sees it on the surface. Of course, there are the many questions this raises as to the possible linkage that could be existing between these mysterious forces and the very forces that give the Bush Administration and their colleagues in the International Zionist Establishment their relentless drive to stir up world instability and international conflict, on the supposition that this keeps the world busy while the latter pursue their myriad selfish motives of world domination. Well if such conspiratorial thinking is not credible. then how does the Bush Administration explain its failure in bringing about the end of these dubious icons of world terror.

In looking at what is happening in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine these days, one wonders what successes the Bush Administration can proudly give to history as hallmarks of foreign policy with serious good intent. The fact of the matter is that if there is anything that the foreign policy pursuits of the Bush Administration is lacking, it is just that there really are no serious good intents that underline such pursuits. Accordingly one can see that the world has become so much messier because of this obvious reliance on irresponsible and devious pursuits deemed to make the rich richer and the vanquished of the world to forget about any help coming except from God Al-Mighty.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

Letters to the Editor

sent you a letter sometime before as I asked you to specify a part to talk about the problems of medicines in Yemen, but today I would like to participate in this problem and talk about Medicines Smuggling From Other Countries to Yemen, I will be happy if you could release or unfurl it in your newspaper AND I hope to have a reply on my email address if you agree to publish my essay to add more lines to this essay, my essay under the title of (Funding plea to fight smuggling):

An increase in the smuggling of medicines is leading to lost revenues and more organized destruction in the medicinal Yemeni market:

in addition to lost revenue, smuggling also had wider effects on society including:

1-Large firms or the multinational companies lose their strategy, their long term planning ,their creditability in the market as the prices of smuggled items or medicines are too low in comparison with the normal prices of that products in the Yemeni market in addition to many problems include deterioration of the smuggled products due to bad circumstances of smuggling (heat,humadity,etc) and healthy problems as the patient may use that products by wrong result in affecting on the reputation of the product or the original company manfactures that product.

2-small firms or generic companies may presume or buzz the (bad reputation of the product or the original company manufactures that product)leading to more and more destruction of the excellent products .Actually there are more and more problems but I liked to say that in brief so I beseech the Minister OF Health to do anything about this big problem that will harm patients ,society and the noble purpose of medicine as the medicine primarily is a service to help patients to feel better not a juice, yoghurt or a fake clothes that may worn or not.

Finally I would like to thank you for allowing me to say What I hoped to say and to what must be said by every one interested in this field.

Pharmacist Ammar Almadhagi pharmaever2006@hotmail.com London, UK

Is the Yemeni government actually interested?

s the Yemeni government actually interested, let alone determined, to upgrade the ordinary Yemeni people's lives? The present leadership has been in power over a quarter century, and are the Yemenis living a better life, after all these years of the same leadership and government? Where has all the aids and assistance gone? Even the very basic amenities, such as water are always in short and interrupt-

ed supply in Yemeni cities and towns. Saudi Arabia has provided continuous aid to the Yemen government undoubtedly geared foremostly for upgrading the general public living standards by way of proving better and more accessible educational, health and amenities. What has happened to all that? Plus, many other non-Arab and also Western Government and NGOs give aid.

With a population of 22 million and aid could have helped rebuild and expedite general Yemeni welfare in the future.

What more, basic social, economic, educational and health conditions are worse off for the ordinary Yemeni citizens. I daresay fair and equitable distribution of amenities from Foreign aid has been thoroughly been sorely neglected.

Is government mismanagement of all affairs in Yemen the rule, the normal practice?

Mimha Ali Fnunya inaham5@hotmail.com

Republic of Yemen Ε T C Н E D 0 P N The portending 0 coming period! N By: Samer

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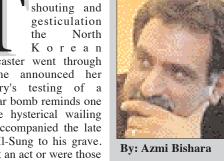
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The North Korean nightmare

shouting and gesticulation North Korean newscaster went through as she announced her country's testing of a nuclear bomb reminds one of the hysterical wailing that accompanied the late Kim Il-Sung to his grave. Was it an act or were those real tears? Were the tears



triggered by the occasion or did the occasion merely offer the opportunity to vent her personal misery? Was the newscaster such a consummate actress that she was carried away by her role or is it more the case of a person thinking that as long as one has to spend all of one's adult life performing a role, with no hope of ever changing it, then you might as well act to the best of your ability? The human

psyche offers endless possibilities.

What is certain is that there was nothing in the North Korean announcement to merit jubilation, not even the kind of Third World bravado that makes some rejoice at the fact that Pakistan has the bomb. Whatever the feelings of despair or frustration that might make people long for displays of independence in the face of the US they pale next to the revulsion we should feel for the North Korean

It is only madness of the sort that afflicts Bush, madness that screams I'm crazy so you'd better watch out, and which has conveyed itself to Ahmadinejad via the Europeans, that can place North Korea in the same basket as Iran and Iraq and call them the "axis of evil". These regimes have absolutely nothing in common, neither in terms of the levels of repression, nor the types of economic and social controls they use to perpetuate themselves. There is a difference between the authoritarian state and the totalitarian state, between having prisons and turning the whole country into a prison, between a theocratic state and a state that has turned atheism into a fully-fledged religion complete with its own rites and rituals. Only Bush and Hollywood could lump Islam, Al-Qaeda, Hamas and Hizbullah into a single basket and then place Iran, North Korea and Saddam's an axis of evil. Syria was not an original member confederacy.

North Korea's official ideology is Juche (selfreliance), a political philosophy initially produced and directed by Kim Il-Sung, the self-appointed sage, inspirational leader, father of the people and

national god. The tenets of this philosophy have been taken to their logical conclusion by Il-Sung's son, the weird looking and super eccentric Kim Yong-il, since his appointment as the ruling Communist Party's secretary of cultural indoctrination and propaganda. It was at the hands of this father- and-son duo that the ideological cover for perpetuating a state of poverty coalesced as they engineered the tragic transformation of their country, severing their people from the rest of their countrymen, separating them from their closest relatives by a border that not even a rat can cross. They have turned their country into a huge concentration camp. It has become a kind of electrified chicken coop, run to the beat of incessant martial music, where the uniformed citizens are issued orders to move from one city to another, forced into training to perform athletic feats, subjected to compulsory birth control, rented out as unpaid labour in exchange for hard currency from countries such as Russia or else pressed into corvee labour in North Korea itself. This is a country that killed 10 per cent of its own population -- an estimated two and a half million people -- in the space of four years. North Korea boasts the third largest death toll from starvation in modern history, having been surpassed only by Russia and China. This achievement, moreover, is not the result of drought, famine or other natural catastrophes but rather of experiments in economic planning conducted on farmers and agriculture. We do not know that much about North Korea, but what we do is sufficient to rank it somewhere between Pol Pot's Cambodia and Stalinist Russia at its worst.

The president of North Korea is not a president in the ordinary sense; in

fact, he doesn't even go by the name of president but by a title that translates as Dear Leader. In practical terms he is treated as a demigod. In advancing his cult official propaganda falsified the place and date of his birth. Instead of 1941 and a remote Siberian village where his father lived in exile he was officially born a in 1942 on top of the highest mountain in North Korea. The narrative also has it that a previously unknown star sparkled in the firmament at the moment of his birth and a double rainbow appeared in the sky. All that was missing was a visit by three wise men.

After considerable searching, I found an official North Korean website which offered a description of Mount Paektu, on the ethereal heights of which Yong-il had his miraculous birth. The mountain has long been sacred to the Koreans, a symbol of youth, might and immortality. The official version, however, runs thus: "The highest point in Korea, its peak is covered with snow year around and it is regarded by the Korean people as their most sacred mountain because of its association with the revolutionary activity of President Kim Il-Sung and because it was honoured by the birth at its summit of the Leader Kim Yong-il." What an honour it must be for a mountain to have seen a fictitious birth on its peak.

Thanks to the application of a perversely literal interpretation of a version of Marxist Leninism, a predistorted import from China and Russia and superimposed on an Asian dictatorship prone to militaristic regimentation, the people of South Korea have been transformed into work battalions and military regiments in one of the largest, and the poorest, armies of the world. Equality has been reduced to identical daily routine, identical dress bearing the picture of the Dear Leader on the chest, identical beliefs and attitudes and a pace of life so monotonously predictable as to rob life of all meaning. It is totalitarianism gone wild. This is a far cry from secularism, which keeps the private realm wide open to religious diversity; it is a system of lockstep conformism in which religion has been replaced by hero worship, religious rituals by communist party rites and emblems and patriotism by abject allegiance to the leader. Worldly political religions are ephemeral phenomena. After they pass societies are left entirely hollow, with no moral reference points and no traditional structures, such as the family, to fall back on. They have all been destroyed by the pseudoreligion's uncontested priests-cumgods who in their vainglory have reduced their people to slaves, to a commercial commodity.

The psychological profiles of Yongil vary. He has been described as perverted, demented, a sexual degenerate and hedonist who indulges in the bodily pleasures in the luxury palaces that are sealed off to his people and known only to his personal guards, nurses and mistresses. Other more sympathetic reports refer to him as the prisoner of a system that he inherited and is unable to alter without the system collapsing. The current situation in the country certainly lends some credence to the second view.

Some heads of state have remarked on how impressed they were by his ability to hold a coherent conversation, as though this talent for talk absolves him of the horrors he has perpetuated upon his people. If anything such observations reflect poorly on the state of international diplomacy. He can't be that bad, some president or minister thinks, if he's a connoisseur of wine and likes his cognac. The fact that he can comment at length about some film or other (he is said to be an avid film buff) and can express cogent views on classical music is insufficient to declassify him as someone off their rocker and turn him into an intelligent, really a nice guy after all. Since when has a discriminating taste for cognac or a passion for music so deep that he composed six operettas in two years, or so his people are told, become the defining characteristics of a competent head of state?

All dictatorships, sultanates and other authoritarian regimes have availed themselves of their own instruments of domination and control in addition to the ones that have become so widespread that no one can claim a patent. What sets the North Korean system apart and visits such a tragedy upon its people is that it uses all available instruments at once and to their fullest capacity. It has a propaganda machine that has sealed off the country entirely from all other sources of information and that

constantly drums home the message that the country is a symbol of progress, even as mass starvation forced it to appeal to UN relief agencies. It has 200,000 political detention centres according to the estimates of human rights agencies and a per capita income lower than that of the occupied West Bank. Meanwhile it is holding the world at gunpoint, using every form of weapon, including the biological and the nuclear, to demand it hand over food and money with no strings attached since those strings would be an affront to the state philosophy of self- reliance.

The greatest danger North Korea poses, however, is to its own people. This enormous prison is crushing its 22 million inmates, producing a human catastrophe of greater proportion than that which would be inflicted by the nuclear weapons it is using to terrorise the world.

Due to strategic concerns, including the unpredictable madness of Yong-il and the fact that it would be the first to be hit by a war with its northern neighbour, South Korea's policy has been to handle North Korea with kid gloves and it is prevailing upon the West to do the same in the belief that maybe North Korea can be changed by subtly inducing it to open up. Apparently the logic is to play along with the madman so he doesn't go

North Korea, for its part, is engaged in nuclear blackmail not only to keep others from meddling in its domestic affairs and maintain the status quo but also to coerce its wealthy neighbours into helping preserve regional stability by handing over financial aid.

It is a situation that gives rise to some existential questions that go beyond North Korea to include the meaning and conduct of politics as a whole. Why is it, for example, that governments seem to behave on the international stage as though they are autonomous individuals indifferent to the lives of the real individuals they are meant to represent but who are instead brainwashed, intimidated, impoverished and starved, sometimes psychologically by creating a desperate want for consumer goods, at other times controlled, regimented and reduced to something less than human? An equally if not more horrifying question pertains to the

mental stability of governments that possess nuclear weapons.

Something is hovering over us like a spectre and we are determined to pretend it does not exist. Nuclear weapons have been used only twice in history. The power that used them had no strategic reason to do so. It cannot claim it did so as an act of desperation for it was on the offensive and victory was in reach. Nor was it a renegade state whose insane leader had his finger on the button. It was a democratic state -- the democratic state par excellence according to some -- and its leader was the symbol of the rational president, a president whose popularity has yet to be surpassed. When the US dropped atom bombs

on two peaceful Japanese cities at the end of a war that everyone knew it was soon to win it either wanted to avenge itself for Pearl Harbor and hasten victory, or to send a message to the other major victor of the war, the Soviet Union. The madness is that the decision was taken so coolly. Factor out the desire for revenge and it was entirely calculated in terms of profit and loss, as one might calculate an endgame in chess. The tragic cost in innocent human lives did not figure.

No nuclear weapon has been used since this madness was unleashed against Japanese civilians. This is not because sanity has come to prevail in modern times, or because of democracy, or because democracies are more rational than dictatorships when they go to war. The reason is that the monopoly on nuclear weapons was broken and allowed for a balance of terror. If history tells us anything it is that there is a greater risk to mankind when one nation possesses nuclear weapons than when two rival nations possess them. This lesson, I believe, applies to the Middle East, where Israel's monopoly of the nuclear weapon constitutes a greater threat than that which would exist if there were a balance. Of course we would all be better off if no one possessed such weapons, though that would mean that rationality had prevailed. It would be unwise to hold your breath and wait for that to happen.

Azmi Bishara: is an Israeli Arab politician and an elected member of

Source: www.ahram.org.eg

Don't antagonize a potentially nuclear Iran

By: Reza Zia-Ebrahimi

he recent North Korean nuclear test demonstrated two things. First, by overfocusing on Iran, the international community gave Kim Jong-Il significant latitude to defy the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Second, it is absolutely clear today that a decade of threats has encouraged - rather than deterred -North Korea to pursue its nuclear ambitions. The same mistake must not be committed vis-a-vis Iran.

A nuclear Iran is an inevitable outcome of current trends. By nuclear what is meant is not an Iran with actual nuclear weaponry, but an Iran actively pursuing research in the nuclear field and passively letting the international community believe that it can quickly acquire the bomb if it is threatened. This was the policy of India and Pakistan for a long time, and Israel's policy of "constructive ambiguity" serves largely the same purpose.

Indeed, such a "passive nuclear policy" does come with a number of benefits. It provides deterrence and it gives prestige and negotiation weight; in sum it affords its adherent all the benefits of an actual nuclear arsenal.

Iranian leaders have often asserted that they do not seek nuclear weaponry. One may think that they cannot be trusted. But the International Atomic Energy Agency has also repeatedly declared that there is no proof whatsoever of a nuclear weapons program in Iran.

In 2005, the media did not pay much attention to the significant fact that the Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, issued a fatwa against the production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons. A fatwa is a very serious affair, and Iran will not violate a fatwa issued by her highest authority without due consideration. The Iranian political elite is extremely wary about its international credibility and would not sacrifice it until a real and

immediate threat is posed. Here is the line that the US administration should

A number of factors have energized Iran and its endeavor to exert its influence in the region and beyond. High oil prices have given the Islamic Republic extraordinary financial means. A power vacuum in Iraq has given strategic depth to its political and economic aspirations, allowing Iran to fulfill its primary foreign policy goal: ensuring a long-term presence in the affairs of its western neighbor. America's current weak hand in the region - chiefly caused by the Iraq imbroglio - and the increasing assertiveness of Russia and China have removed some constraints on Iran's behavior.

More decisively and perhaps paradoxically, the antagonizing attitude of the US administration and some European governments over the nuclear issue has created a wide consensus within Iranian society on the country's nuclear policy. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's increasing popularity among Iran's educated and wealthy upper class - a puzzling trend - can be at least partly attributed to the fact that when the president is antagonized, he can fiercely say "no" to the US administration, and in turn appeal to the formidable nationalist sentiments of Iranians. Antagonizing Iran is the main strategic mistake in this standoff.

The more Iran is antagonized, the more the Iranian public backs its grandiloquent president, the stronger the consensus becomes, and the less cooperative Iran proves to be. Public opinion and its impact on the formulation of Iran's foreign policy should not be underestimated. Although Iran's political elite would pursue its goals in spite of adverse public opinion, a favorable public opinion gives it significant additional

In sum, Iran is powerful and its power is growing. The question for the US administration and its allies is "can

we curtail Iran?" If the answer is no, then the question becomes "what if we cannot?" And it is precisely at the juncture of these two questions that we find ourselves today. Given the trends of negotiations, it is rather clear that Iran will not give up its right to enrich uranium, a right that is embodied in the

A number of factors seem to prevent the US and its allies from putting significant pressure on Iran. Russia and China oppose tough measures and their stance - which is understandable from both a political and an economic perspective - prevents serious action by the Security Council. Even if we witness a genuine breakthrough in the coming weeks and if the Iranians agree to suspend enrichment activities for a limited period of time, it is expected that they will resume.

Iran will likely become a passive nuclear power, because the options for curtailing it are scarce. War is not an option for the time being. The Bush administration - whose approval rate on the Iraq situation is at a record low - is not in a position to conduct such a costly war, and has recently repeated that diplomacy is the only viable option. Furthermore, America's 16 intelligence agencies have joined the chorus of experts expressing doubt about the efficacy of a military attack.

Therefore the longer-term strategy for the US and its allies should not be how to curtail Iran, but how to deal with a nuclear Iran. It would be wise to consider how to deal with the worstcase scenario, and develop options in case this scenario becomes reality. And there are options, including the number-one option: engagement. Despite Ahmadinejad's tough stance, the supreme leader - i.e. the highest authority in terms of security policy - is pragmatic and keen to bargain. Blazing overestimate Ahmadinejad's role. Iran has the potential of becoming, if not an ally, at least a de facto partner to the US. If resistance from hardcore elements on Capitol Hill, who are against any rapprochement with Iran, diminishes or is restrained, cooperation between Iran and the US on some critical dossiers - including Iraq, Afghanistan and transnational violence - would be a mutually beneficial

If the US can transfer nuclear technology to India, a country that acquired actual nuclear weapons outside of the NPT regime, it can accommodate a nuclear Iran. If the US can back General Perez Musharraf's military (and nuclear) regime under the pretext that Pakistan is an ally in the so-called "war on terror," the US can equally get along with Iran.

On the other hand, an antagonized Iran can be an implacable enemy. A powerful and influential Iran, increasing its influence in the region with the possible prestige of nuclear technology, can be a true headache for US policymakers.

وظيفة شاغرة

تعلن شركة أجنبية مقاولة في اليمن تعمل في مجال الغاز عن حاجتها إلى الوظائف التالية

1 - FINANCIAL MANAGER

2- DEPUTY FINANCIAL

MANAGER 3- SECURITY MANAGER

٢– مدير أمن المشروع

4- CAMP BOSS

٤- مدير المخيمات (الكمب)

5- FACILITIES DEPUTY

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

٥- نائب مدير إنشاء المرافق

6- SCADA TECHNICIAN

٦- مختصي إتصالات(اسكادا)

SECURITY COORDINATOR

٧- منسق أمن المشروع

EQUIPMENT TRANSPORT COORDINATOR

SURVEYOR

11- PIPE WELDERS

10- FIREMAN

٠٠- رجال إطفاء ١١- لحامين أنابيب

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Yemen reaffirms commitment to transparency

By: Raidan Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf Alsaqqaf@gmail.com

international community seems to be very concerned with the 'resource-curse' countries with considerable mineral resources such as oil, gas and minerals, yet continue to suffer from extreme poverty and underdevelopment. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Oslo included a serious discourse on the resource-curse by the international community with delegations from countries suffering from the curse. Yemen sent a high-level delegation and actively participated in the conference.

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative has a specific and a tangible objective - creating transparency in revenue streams. In line with that objective the President of the World Bank Paul Wolfowitz has illustrated the example of Nigeria, a resource-rich country which has lost US\$ 300 billion or oil revenues due to corruption and lack of transparency during the last few decades, as a reminder of the size of the problem: "...can the benefits from extractive industries be a blessing for countries or is it in fact perhaps sometimes a curse?" Wolfowitz asked in his opening address in the EITI Oslo conference.

Many development agencies were represented in the Oslo EITI conference, as well as western donor countries sharing the same concerns as Wolfowitz, along with delegations and representatives of some 60 developing and underdeveloped countries which have considerable mineral resources, including Yemen. However the nonpresence of Asian representatives was noted in spite of the great developmental and Economical interests of Asian countries such as Japan and China with many participant countries which suffer from the resource-curse.

Nevertheless, the fundamental principles underlying EITI are universal, as it focuses on transparency



Ministers Al-Arhabi and Bahah participating at the EITI conference in Norway

and disclosure and requires the cooperation of three parties involved, governments, oil and extractive companies and the civil society for the EITI to succeed in any country and in the 22 countries which have vowed to implement the initiative, only two countries have made significant progress, while the other 20 are still lagging behind.

Key governance lessons of relevance to EITI include the fact that improving accountability helps tighten revenue collection and expenditures to increase transparency, freedom of information and public disclosure of expenditures. Corruption happens because of weak regulatory frameworks, low public sector wages and poor service delivery, and low levels of participation in political and economic activities emerges when there is little citizenship involvement in planning and monitoring of public expenditures.

"The EITI process has given key stakeholders a global stage to make commitments to help ensure that natural resource revenues alleviate poverty," said Henry Parham, International Coordinator of Publish What You Pay, which campaigns for

and disclosure and requires the full transparency revenues. "To take cooperation of three parties involved, governments, oil and extractive than words,"

To motivate governments even further to endorse and implement the EITI, Robert Jenkins, Chairman of the Board of F&C Asset Management indicated that a group of over 70 international investment institutions representing combined assets of US \$12.3 trillion will signal its strong support for an inter-governmental effort to boost transparency standards in the oil, gas and mining sectors of developing countries through investing in countries which endorse the EITI and exhibit a high commitment to transparency.

"EITI can bring more stable government and prosperity for the citizens of resource-rich developing countries, a safe and attractive business climate for extractive companies, and cheaper capital for the governments who are seeking to lift their people out of poverty," said Jenkins.

At the conference, participants reaffirmed their commitment to EITI principles, Minister AbdulKarim Al-Arhabi presented a paper on the recent economic and socio-political

developments in Yemen, as well as the judiciary, legislative and administrative reforms package being implemented as a part of the third national plan 2006-2010. He said Yemen already enjoys a high level of transparency and disclosure of its oil and other revenues from extractive resources on timely bases, while emphasizing that the government has become highly transparent and has adopted a policy of disclosure not only in extractive industries but also in other sectors including the net worth of government officials.

Al-Arhabi also met with several representatives from Norwegian Organizations and the government of Norway and discussed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing the developmental cooperation between the two countries.

The Minister of Oil, Khalid Bahah, met with the CEOs and high level administrations of Norwegian Oil companies such as Statoil, Hydro and DNO and invited them to take part in the bidding for off-shore blocks in Yemen which are deemed to have substantial oil reserves in order to increase Yemen's oil production. He has also taken advantage of the conference to network with oil executives.

Yemen was represented by a delegation headed by the Minister of and Planning International Cooperation, Abdul Karim Al-Arhabi, and the Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, Khalid Bahah, along with Assistant Undersecretary of Planning Jalal Yaqoub, Nabil Shaiban, Director of the International Cooperation Unit in Minister of Planning, and Najib Al-Sharafi, Special advisor to Minister of Oil. And as representatives of Civil Society Ramzy Al-Ariqi, President of the Yemeni Auditors Association and Raidan Al-Saqqaf, Economic Editor of Yemen Times.

Business In Brief

US\$ 48 billion for Millennium Development Goals

International Cooperation Mr. AbdulKarim Al-Arhabi has indicated that Yemen needs US\$ 48 billion in order to achieve the millennium development goals, adding that there is a gap in financing of US\$ 17 billion in order to fund reaching the goals. His Excellency has also indicated that he had fruitful discussions with the Millennium Development Fund's Administration, and is optimistic about the upcoming donors conference to be held in London in two weeks.

14 Oil blocks up for grabs

International Oil companies have qualified out of 63 companies to compete for 14 Oil blocks through a tender process in which the highest bidders for each block will be awarded the respective blocks. This is the first time off-shore blocks are being offered in the tender, while sources in the Ministry of Oil has previously indicated that Yemen's oil production is bound to substantially increase in the coming few years following the current 372.000 barrels per day.

IDB finances electricity-generation projects

he Islamic Development Bank has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Planning to Finance Electricity-generation projects in 21 districts in Hajja and Hodieda governorates with a total cost of US\$ 10 million. The two governorates has a considerable rural population with majority living under the poverty line.

GCC Secretary-General promises huge investments

pon his arrival in Sana'a,.
Secretary-General of the Gulf
Cooperative Council Mr.

AbdulRahman Al-Ateya has indicated that the GCC is looking forward to investing in Yemen and that are currently assessing 20 investment schemes and 85 feasibility studies in order to invest in Yemen's infrastructure and participating in establishing industries aiming at sustainable economic development.

Plan to increase livestock production

Agriculture has indicated that Yemen has laid down a plan to boost agricultural production in rural areas through the increase of livestock production by 7 percent annually for red-meat productions, 10 percent for poultry, and 5 percent for Milk & Milk productions, Eggs and Honey. The Plan includes setting up cooperative societies for farmers as well as feedmaking plants for the livestock dependent on locally-available resources.

GCC discusses single currency

he Financial and Economic cooperation committee within the Gulf Cooperative Council is holding a meeting to discuss the steps implemented into realizing the single-currency of the region, the meeting with discuss six issues researched as well as the outcomes of last year's meeting in order to ensure that the single-currency of the Arab Gulf is adopted by January of 2010.

17,136 Tons of exports last month through Aden port

ver 17,136 tons of locally made products were exported from the Mua'allah port in Aden during the month of September 2006, the products included fisheries, sweets, milk and milk products, honey and Coffee on 36 vessels. While Imports reached 417,210 tons constituting mainly of foodstuff such as Rice and wheat as well as several industrial items and raw materials.

EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen is seeking to recruit for its offices in Sana'a qualified personnel to fill the position of:

ASSISTANT TO OPERATIONS SECTION

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chargé d'Affaires, the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

- 1. Assist with all stages of the project cycle for development activities in Yemen (programming, identification, formulation, implementation and evaluation)
- 2. Assist in monitoring and follow up of implementation of on-going development activities in Yemen in the different priority sectors
- 3. Maintain good and effective contacts with local operators in the field, national authorities and donor representatives
- Assist in producing and dissemination results of EC-funded projects and programmers
- 5. Undertake field visits to monitor project's progress and performance

Qualifications and skills required:-

- Post-Secondary education or secondary education and relevant working experience of minimum 3 years
- Proven working experience with donor-funded activities
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (oral and written); knowledge of a second EU language is considered and advantage
- Good capacity to present complex matters clearly
- Ability to work within a team, high sense of responsibility and initiative
- Excellent computer skills

Candidates are requested to send their application along with curriculum vitae to:-

Dr. Ralf DREYER, Chargé d'Affaires e-mail:Delegation_Yemen@cec.eu.int Or fax :(00 967 1) 440887

Applications received after 15 November 2006 will not be accepted.





sk around. Better yet, just look around. Some pretty amazing things are going on right here. Not just our innovative products or our breakthrough technology that are changing the world, or the ideas winning the market share across the globe. At Motorola, it's what people just like you are doing with their talents, careers, and above of all, their futures.

Speaking of your talents, Motorola's Networks and Enterprise Business is currently looking for highly talented professionals to fill the following positions in Yemen:

Area Sales Managers

You will be working with key retailers, dealers, and distributors to drive sales and improve brand positioning in key retail environments. Providing clear direction, working on key engagements and ensuring that sales forecasting is conducted with accuracy. Accountable for the execution of sales plans to meet or exceed set objectives.

To succeed in this position you will need to be a highly focussed and driven individual.

Requirements:

You must have a demonstrable and successful Sales Management Track record within a Blue-chip FMCG sales environment (3+years of experience). A good academic background (Bachelors degree) is essential. Marketing experience would be beneficial.

We give you freedom to **INVENT YOURSELF**; we offer you the opportunity to contribute to great things. And from day one, we invest in one future that matters most.....Yours. What do you say? What do you think?

Are you ready for Motorola?

If the answer is yes, then send your CV with Cover Letter to: Ahmad@lqselection.com Please note that direct applications to Motorola will not be considered.



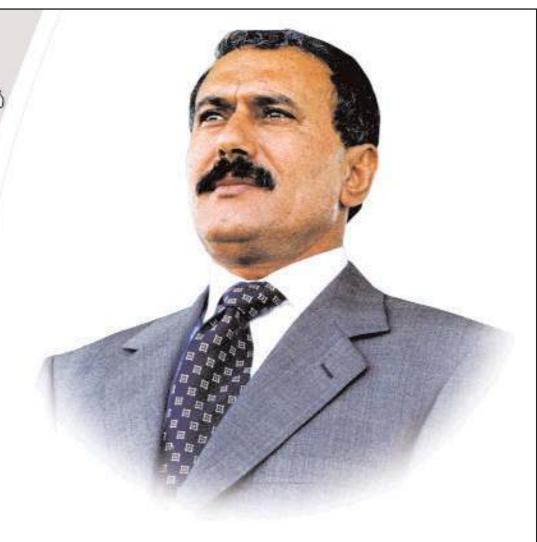


فَقَقَهُمْ بِأَجِمِلُ النَّهَانِيُ وَأَطْبِبُ النَّهِبِرِيكَاتَ إِلَى بِالنِّي فَيْضَادُ الْبِيمِنُ الْحِدِيثُ وَصَائِعِ الْإِنْجَازَاتُ صَاحِبُ المُخَامِدُ الْرِيْسِيُ //



رٹیس الجیبیوریاۃ و الی کافاۃ ابناء الشعب الیبئی الکریم پیناسیۃ حید الفظر البیارات وکل عام و الجیبیع پھیر ،،

جبیع و جبیع التنائیطی الشرکاتی صافر التنائیسطی الشرکاتی حالت و التنائیسطی التنائیلی و التنائیس البحیسان موالئی و التنائیس و جبینی موطافی و آلبشرکاتی



عين الفظ النابراء

We present our hearty congratulations to the pioneer of modern Yemen and achievements maker

18 is 18 cellency, 19 resident

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

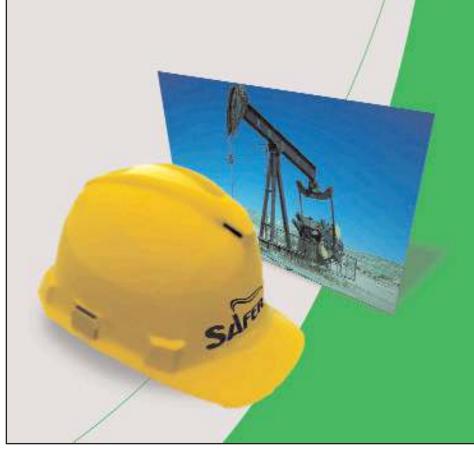
and to the Yemeni People
On the occasion of the blessed Eid Al-Hitr
Many happy returns

Executive Manager of Safer

Exploration and Production Operations Company and

His Deputy

and all Employees





شركة صافر تعمليات الاستكشاف و الإنتاج Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company (SEPOC)

Have an aim and get it done

By: Mohamed Mutahar Al-Sayaghi alsayaghi2003@yahoo.com

t is essential in this life to determine your aim, to know what you want to be, I mean what you really hope to be, even if your aim is a mere dream taking into consideration that nothing is impossible. Whichever aim you have, it will definitely be reachable.

As a matter of fact, defining the aim in life is the most important step that would set your course of life well.

In my opinion the person whose career has met his aim would have been happier than that whose career has not. Naturally, the former will perform his duties perfectly, never get bored with his work and become patient as well.

Having an aim whatever this aim is you will reach it God's willing with will and hardworking. Yet one has to consider that his aim should also bring the good to other people and his home country and at the same time fulfill the teachings of the almighty Creator.

Even if you face any difficulty or problem, never give up or get desperate, try more again and again. To conclude with, pray to Allah to help you and be sure that He only helps those who help themselves. Never stay waiting for a chance doing nothing. In short words do not be aimless.

vision

By: Mohammed Ali Al-Ra'awv Email: alraawy007@yahoo.com

> When I loved you The sky appeared quite blue Roses began to grow Rivers started to flow When I loved you My past died And I am born new When I loved you My tears turned out To be dew When I loved you, I reached the sun,

I grasped the glow When I loved you, I became the prince of love The king, the emperor And all titles old and new. When I loved you, You were the only woman Others disappeared In my view. When I loved you, We mingled in one identity You, love and me. That's what I always knew.

That's what I always knew.

I ruled the moon

Come back to my heart

By: Abdulkarim Ahmed Dida

My love got angry at me I don't know why!! And I don't know What I have done to her!! When I saw her in that situation My heart stopped beating And stopped feeling!! It feels sad for the best love And for the honest heart !! My age, Allah knows!!

I have never done any mistake Because I love you And never felt something like that !! My love, my only dream My best one !!! Forgive someone whose Love lives in his mind !!! Come back to my arms !! To my heart !! I'm yours !!!

All of me belongs to you!!

Don't forget me!

By: Amira A. Al-Haddad **Taiz University, Faculty of Arts** qamar_yemen@hotmail.com

Before my sleep, While I Still find out, My lost sleep, Where is it?! How Can I get it? Yes! there is only A magical way to get it! As fast as the giant returns it back to

As per my command, While I looked at the moon; that night, I shut my eyes.

And asked my-self, "What does human beings need?" I only want man,

And think about it, carefully! When you hear the winds sing,

To keep coming musical words with

Keep your heart free from hate; When you think on peace; Keep your mind relaxed, When you take in the serenity of the

> sea. live simply, expect little, give much, sing often, pray always,...

When your feet touch the wormed sand,

Fill your life with love, Scatter sun shine, Forget self, Think of others, When you dream, Do as you would be!! But!!!!

When life closes doors to your face! And you see every-thing changed to

> And many people are killed; When you feel lonely,

And no one could help. When you lose your desire slowly, And nothing stops, When there are no peaceful places! When you could no more survive,

A song of sunset melody

Then; Life to death, you drive. So that:

We can imagine, Only imagine,

How to send our jolly morning sad smile; Our joyful tears which are in

eyeballs, To...

To the occupied Palestine; And the following Lebanon, Send our revolution anger, To Judaism Israel. And the cursed, arrogant

Tell: we can sing together, "The melody of sunset". So, my only excuse to you, is that you have to make your future;

America.

Connected with the Arabian nation; And not with their leaders. Because;

You and me.. Are... Human beings!! And for them, I will seek the help of great words,

By the greatest poet in the past, Which are: "Go ,teach eternal wisdom

how to rule, Then, drop in to thyself, And be a fool!!"

May be they are the colonialisms themselves!! Who knows that?!!

Who knows the truth except God?! "That is only imagination, Yes!!

Only imagination, To compose a new song of the Melody sunset." So, I started too..

To sleep!!!

Yemen's fathom

By: Fuad Noman fn_0012000@yahoo.com

> Look at that eagle Setting up A majestic soaring flight His wingspans drawing out Balanced up with great eyesight His twinge overfed

By man's blight But so swollen with pride The secrets can't be exposed or bare to a tiny doubt

How striking warble's thrill Letting the wings of gentle angel Hover beside your eyeball's sparkle Motivate my heart sinews To sing his sole single

Without equal for his twinkle Look how many tidbits abound Bird songs, No one can print out Or scrutinize his sound

But, I make out something so nice Once I follow its waves I think it dives It never goes down But, it goes at highs Impossible to drown If I forget to spell it Its scripts are written Within the dream's eyes It comes calm and wise With the dew it slickly flows Starting to touch,

to strum and dance

Calvin and HobbEs

Once more, Its being tries To be closer to your love's size Perhaps its being is the kindest race As usual, I think your true sense On your sun-drenched cheeks And your debonair suave lips So brave on horse-riding as prince

That's all My name's letters I scrive In her eyeball My life's crisped gut deeply dives In her soul After a long wait, In dream's eyes I ascertain Still greater, Yemen's fathom and

rise

Before I quit

By: Shokry Abdo Ali Al-Qubati

You should Baby comprehend! When I bend.

When my heart to you I send; To you I lend, Not to make you condescend,

But to attend; To be with me where I wend Before I Quit,

I wana append. You are Baby my Godsend, But you should also apprehend.

If you are a start, I am the End.

THIS IS GONNA

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 White as a ghost 6 Remove, as one's hat 10 Casino opening? 14 Town north of Bangor
- Pervasive quality
- 16 Shade17 Burning the dinner, say?19 Rib-tickler
- Insolence
- New Year festival Preindication
- Machinelike
- Steps fancily Reality checkers, to Freud
- Ripken of baseball
- 32 Tell all
- Burn soothers
- 35 Sappy substance
- 37 Slithery killer
- 40 Tierra ___ Fuego 41 Bunch of lecherous lobbyists?
- Dr. Seuss' "If I Ran the 44 Beirut-to-Jerusalem dir.
- 45 Ease up 46 Author Zola
- 48 Enterprise rival
- 50 Go off course 52 Med. school subject

- 53 Revered monuments
- Some front porch furniture
- Authors
- Like many a wallflower
- Feel sorry about
- Part of Btu 63 Mandate to spend every
- penny? Columbus caravel
- At any time Baked brick building
- They can hold their beer
- Type of job 73 Tribute to raise your spirits?

DOWN

- 1 Jim-dandy
- Lanka Peppery
- 4 Corral
- 5 Like an extraordinarily pitched
- Old Tucker in an old folk song

"K-RATIONS" by Lynn Lempel

- Kick out
- 8 Fast food favorite
- 9 Disney film with the Philadelphia Orchestra
- 10 Virgin Islands island 11 Bathroom reading?

- 12 Correct, pitch-wise

 - "Smallville" crowd, e.g. Of majestic proportions Proves one's literacy
 - Makes goo-goo eyes at
 - Scorn an education?

 - Rhea's role on "Cheers" From that time
 - Southpaw
 - Lover
 - Stone Age weapon Type of energy Well-versed folks?
 - Utterly preoccupied
 - Manages Panoramas
 - In need of patching, e.g.
 - Mettle
 - Figure skater Sonja
 - Remove the stubble, e.g.
 - Rumba King Xavier Actor Montand
 - Annoy
 - Feathery frill Muscles in the middle, briefly 67 Clear, as pay

12



WHERE DID ALL BED PILLOWS GO:















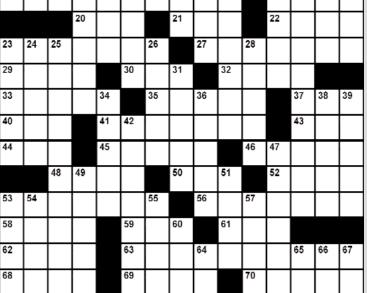












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Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

Halloween

alloween is a tradition celebrated on the night of October 31, most notably by children dressing in costumes and going doorto-door collecting sweets. It is celebrated in parts of the Western world, though most commonly in the United States, Canada, the UK, Ireland, Puerto Rico, and with increasing popularity in Australia and New Zealand. Halloween originated among the Celts in Ireland, Britain and France as the Pagan Celtic harvest festival, Samhain. Irish, Scots, Calan Gaeaf in Welsh and other immigrants brought versions of the traditions to North America in the 19th century. Most other Western countries have embraced Halloween as a part of American pop culture in the late 20th

Q. What is a Mummie's favorite type of music? A. Wrap!!!!!

The term Halloween, and its older spelling Hallowe'en, is shortened from All-hallow-even, as it is the evening before "All Hallows' Day" (also known as "All Saints' Day"). In Ireland, the name was All Hallows' Eve (often shortened to Hallow Eve), and though seldom used today, it is still a well-accepted label. The holiday was a day of religious festivities in various northern European Pagan traditions, until Pope Gregory III moved the old Christian feast of All Saints Day to November 1 to give Halloween a Christian interpretation . Halloween is also called Pooky Night in some parts of Ireland, presumably named after the púca, a mischievous spirit.

Halloween is often associated with the occult. Many European cultural traditions hold that Halloween is one of the liminal times of the year when the spiri-

tual world can make contact with the physical world and when magic is most potent (e.g. Catalan mythology about witches, Irish tales of the Sidhe)

Halloween is most popular in Ireland, where it is said to (and most likely to) have originated, also known in Irish Gaelic as "Oíche Shamhna" or "Samhain Night". The Celts celebrated Halloween as Samhain, "End of Summer," a pastoral and agricultural fire festival or feast, when the dead revisited the mortal world, and large communal bonfires would be lit to ward off evil spirits. In Ireland they continued to practice their deep-rooted, ancient pagan rites well after the arrival of Christianity in the middle of the sixth century.

Symbols and colours The imagery

Hallowe'en is largely an amalgamation of the Halloween season itself, nearly a century of work from American filmmakers and graphic artists, and a rather commercialized take on the dark, diaria and mysterious. This art generally involves death, magic, or mythical Commonly-associated monsters. Hallowe'en characters include ghosts, aliens, ghouls, witches, vampires, bats, owls, crows, vultures, haunted houses, pumpkinmen, black cats, spiders, goblins, zombies, mummies, skeletons, werewolves, and demons. Particularly in America, symbolism is inspired by classic horror film, which contains fictional figures like Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, The Wolf Man, and The Mummy. Homes are often decorated with these symbols around Hallowe'en.

Black and orange are the traditional colors of Hallowe'en. In modern Hallowe'en images and products, purple, green, and red are also prominent. The



surrounding an amalgamaan amalgama
A Jack o' Lantern made for the Holywell Manor of the house (who might themselves dress in a scary costume) will then hand out small candies, miniature

use of these colors is largely a result of advertising for the holiday that dates back for over a century. They tend to be associated with various parts of Hallowe'en's imagery.

Q. Why didn't the skeleton dance at the party?

A. He had no body to dance with.

Elements of the autumn season, such as pumpkins and scarecrows, are also reflected in symbols of Halloween.

The carved jack-o'-lantern, lit by a candle inside, is one of Halloween's most prominent symbols. Although there is a tradition in the British Isles of carving a lantern from a rutabaga, mangelwurzel, or turnip, the practice was first named and associated with Halloween in North

America, where the pumpkin was available, and much larger and easier to carve. Many families that celebrate Halloween carve a pumpkin into a frightening or comical face and place it on their home's doorstep after dark.

Trick-or-treat

The main event of modern US-style Halloween is trick-or-treating, in which children dress up in costume disguises and go door-to-door in their neighborhood, ringing each doorbell and yelling "trick or treat!" Although this resembles the older tradition of guising in Ireland and Scotland, ritual begging on Halloween does not appear in English-speaking America until the 20th century, and may have developed independently. The occupants of the house (who might themselves dress in a scary costume) will then hand out small candies, miniature chocolate bars, and sometimes even

soda pop. Some American homes will use sound effects and fog machines to help set a spooky mood. Other house decoration themes (that are less scary) are used to entertain younger visitors. Children can often accumulate many treats on Halloween night, filling up entire pillow cases or shopping bags.

In Ireland, great bonfires were lit throughout the breadth of the land. Young children in their guises were gladly received by the neighbors with some "fruit, apples and nuts and of course sweets" for the "Halloween Party", whilst older male siblings played innocent pranks on bewildered victims.

In Scotland, children or guisers are more likely to recite "The sky is blue, the grass is green, may we have our Halloween" instead of "trick or treat!". They visit neighbours in groups and must impress the members of the houses they



visit with a song, poem, trick, joke or dance in order to earn their treats. Traditionally, nuts, oranges, apples and dried fruit were offered, though sometimes children would also earn a small amount of cash, usually a sixpence. Very small children often take part, for whom the experience of performing can be more terrifying than the ghosts outside.

In England, trick or treating does take place, particularly in working class neighbourhoods. On the whole, however, it is frowned upon as a menacing form of begging and as a negative part of American global culture.

Tricks play less of a role in modern Halloween, though Halloween night is often marked by vandalism such as soaping windows, egging houses or stringing toilet paper through trees. Before indoor plumbing was so widespread, tipping over or displacing outhouses was a popular form of intimidation. Casting flour into the faces of feared neighbors was also done once upon a time.

Games

There are several games traditionally associated with Halloween parties. The most common is dooking or bobbing for apples, in which apples float in a tub or a large basin of water; the participants must use their teeth to remove an apple from the basin. A variant involves kneel-

ing on a chair, holding a fork between the teeth and trying to drop the fork into an apple. Another common game involves hanging up treacle or syrup-coated scones by strings; these must be eaten without using hands while they remain attached to the string, an activity which inevitably leads to a very sticky face.

Q. What do you call a witch who lives at the beach?

A. A sand-witch.

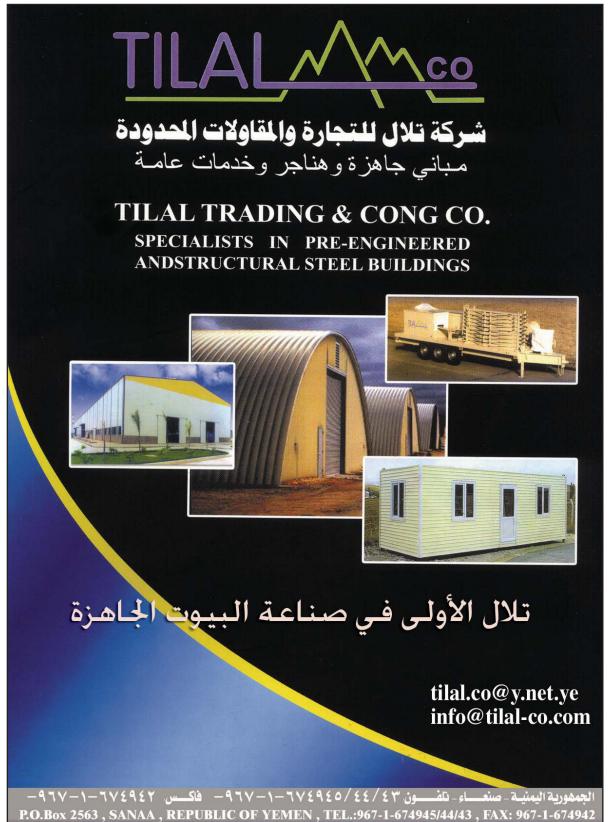
In North America, unmarried women were frequently told that if they sat in a darkened room and gazed into a mirror on Halloween night, the face of their future husband would appear in the mirror. However, if they were destined to die before they married, a skull would appear. The custom was widespread enough to be commemorated on greeting cards from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Because the holiday comes in the wake of the annual apple harvest, Candy Apples (also known as toffee, taffy or caramel apples) are a common treat at Halloween. They are made by rolling whole apples in a sticky sugar syrup, and sometimes then rolling them in nuts.

Source: holloween.com & wikipedia.com



Halloween in Dublin





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