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As tribesmen defy State Saleh criticizes inciters of violence

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- In his meeting with Supreme Security Committee members held Saturday July 23 which discussed the impact of the recent riots, President Ali Abdullah Saleh said all inciters of violence must face up the consequences of their actions.

"Malicious individuals who incited violence, chaos and the smashing of government offices during protests against the cutting of the fuel subsidy seized the opportunity to shake the national security, and they must be held accountable for what they did," the President said.

Saleh criticized all those who blocked the public roads and held up oil trucks and confirmed those responsible for this had been captured. He said gas is the nation's possession and not owned by a particular governorate.

On the other hand President Saleh conducted negotiations with tribal sheikhs from Marib on Saturday, reaching an agreement to remove all the tribal checkpoints and allow gas trucks to continue their journeys.

Tribesmen had attacked gas trucks, damaging one and killed its driver. Consequently, drivers decided to stop their journeys and the shortage which followed pushed up the gas price to 1400 rials per cylinder.



People lining up their cylinders, waiting for the gas supply to arrive to one of the distribution terminals in Sana'a. YEMEN TIMES PHOTO BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI

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After riots left tens killed, dozens wounded Yemeni cities on high alert

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- At least 36 people were reported killed and 500 injured in the riots which were accompanied by chaotic acts and violence on July 19-20 in the capital city of Sana'a and other provincial capitals including Aden, Hodeida, Ibb, Sa'ada, Dhahar, Amran, Dhale' and Marib. The violent demonstrations pulled people together into the streets in protest against a govern-

ment's decision to lift fuel subsidies.

Fierce battles took place on Thursday afternoon between citizens and republican guard forces near the Arhab Faculty of Education, to the north of the capital.

Eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times that one military vehicle was seen on fire and another broken down near the Arhab Faculty of Education.



YEMEN TIMES PHOTO BY BASSAM J. AL-SAQAF



Three citizens and a number of government troops were also reportedly killed in the battles.

Numerous citizens used arms in confronting the military troops, who were backed up by a helicopter that fired upon citizens from the air. The helicopter was however forced to land when citizens returned fire.

Well-informed sources say that fierce clashes took place in the northern city of Sa'ada when several locals attempted to raid the police department, leaving a number of fatalities on both sides.

Continued on page 3

Did development make use of economic reforms?

Economic reforms: a time bomb

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Are economic reform a Booby trapped grenade?

During the past few days the people streamed into streets, in protest against the raise of oil derivatives. Most of

these have only one aim, that is, abolition of these increases, which will negatively affect their livelihood.

The People have no confidence in the economic reforms. They think the price hike is a futile corrupted action on the part of the Government. The past economic reforms had no impact so far. The corrupt continued blundering and looting unchecked. The promises to hold them accountable were not carried out, a thing that encouraged them to further spread their anarchy.

Whatever the people's demands are, they should express them peacefully,

without destruction and chaos? Some people and officials are liable to blame for all that happened.

The people were not aware of the benefits of reforms, and they didn't see any outcome from the previous ones. However, they should be aware of the fact that, destroying the streets has nothing to do with the increase in prices.

The government should bear responsibility for failing throughout the past phases to put an end to the plunderers and the corrupt officials.

Continued on page 3

AI: Concerns over possible human rights violations in protest disturbances in Yemen

The Yemen Times has received a statement issued by Amnesty International on the Yemeni Government handling of the recent protests against the lifting of subsidies for fuel derivative products issued last Wednesday by the Government of the Republic of Yemen. The statement was tantamount to an appeal to the Government to abide by international treaties and conventions regarding dealing with protests. The number of deaths (offi-



cially admitted at 39) and reports of excessive law enforcement practices aroused the concern of AI and many international organizations advocating for human rights. These concerns included an appeal that the Yemeni Government should do the utmost to prevent the loss of human lives and avoid the use of excessive force while referring to the relevant various international treaties and conventions

Statement on page 3

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Economic expert Dr. Altarib: The government should resign

In an exclusive press statement from Jordan to the Yemen Times, the economic expert Dr. Abdulaziz al Tarib a well known Yemeni economic expert, commented on the recent demonstrations in Yemen that the outbreak of the people is a new event but it was not organised. He explained that the reason behind this outrage is that the government raised the price of fuel before raising the salaries. He called the salaries strategy a failure and the Central Bank of Yemen's policies were behind the manipulation of currency exchange rate increase. HE President should deal with the issue

immediately through introducing enhancements and accepting the resignation of the government. If the government did not resign willingly it must be forced to resign especially minister of economy and trade, and minister of interior for the loss of lives due to opening fire on the citizens. The administration of the CBY should be forced to resign also for the deterioration it has caused the local currency.

Simultaneously while the parliament talks about increasing their own reserves they should focus more on the needs and requirements of the people.

France warns its citizens not to travel to Yemen

France on Friday strongly warned its citizens against traveling to Yemen, where 39 people died in violent clashes over the past two days, French Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

"At the current situation, travel to Yemen for all reasons is strongly warned against," said French Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman Cecile Pozzo di Borgo.

"Our embassy has taken all necessary measures in coordination with

the travel agencies to ensure security of the French community, as well as French tourists who would be in Yemen," she added.

"We closely follow the situation," said the spokeswoman who wished for a "rapid return to calm."

A total of 39 people, including four policemen, were killed in violent clashes between Yemeni security forces and rioters protesting at fuel price hikes on Wednesday and Thursday.

Japanese supported Girls education project for Taiz governorate inaugurated

The Broadening Regional Initiative for Developing Girls' Education (BRIDGE) project for the Taiz governorate in cooperation with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Education was officially inaugurated this Tuesday in Sana'a. The key-note speech at the inauguration was made by -Salaman Muhammad Hizam Al-Jawfi, the Minister of Education, along with His Excellency Yuichi Ishii, the Ambassador of Japan. A presentation of the BRIDGE project and the discussion with local education workers was chaired by Hassan Baown, the Vice

Minister, General Education Sector.

The BRIDGE project is a pilot program by JICA to improve girls enrolment in primary education and improve mid-level management in the education service. The Japanese team of education experts, jointly from PADECO (an education and aid subcontractor) and Kobe university, are running a series of publicity campaigns and management courses during the three year program. Alongside these they trialing a new system of 'micro-grants' to local education authorities and schools to provide funding to where it is needed most.

Violence and Public Health

Under patronage of Dr. Mohammed Yahya AL-Naemi, the minister of Public Health and Population, a 2-day workshop was concluded on Tuesday 19 July 2005 that centered on fighting violence in Yemen and its effect on the public health.

Dr. Arwa Al-Rabee, the deputy of the ministry of public health and population, said in the opening of the workshop "Violence is an international problem that harvests annually more than million and six hundred thousand person. The violence is considered the third reasons of death among the people 15-44 years old and leads to around 14% dead among the men and %7 among women. So we have to look seriously at this problem in Yemen and try to analyze the reasons that bring about the violence and its effect on the public health and in turn on the development."

Dr. Faiza Abdul Hameed, manger of the woman department in the public health and population, talked about the workshop "Among the goals of this workshop is to exchange experiences

with the all the participating bodies that work in the field of fighting the violence in Yemen as well as launch the WHO's report to fight violence. The workshop is also to discuss the plan of the ministry of public health and population for 2006-2007 to fight violence and put a general framework for a national strategy to fight violence in Yemen through 2006-2010.

She added "Through the workshop we will define the violence and specify the reasons and causes that lead to violence in the Yemeni society in general and discuss particularly the violence against women and children and maltreatment of elderly people besides the consequences of carrying guns and using of light arms."

Through the 2-day workshop a number of papers were presented. Dr. Mona Al-Madhawahi, representative of social affairs and labor, introduced "A brief account about the WHO report about violence and the efforts exerted for elderly people. Mr. Moneer AL-Sheehab, National Woman Committee, presented a paper entitled "The Program of the

National Woman Committee in fighting violence against women".

The Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood gave a paper about, "Violence against children". It was presented by Ms. Abeer Motlaq. Another paper about the "The National Program to fight Mines and Light Arms" was presented too.

The participants discussed the different reasons that lead to violence in Yemen and the efforts and procedures that should be taken by the concerned participating bodies to limit all kinds violence. The workshop came up with a number of fruitful recommendations most of which focused on the importance of building a database about the violence cases in Yemen and creating a national advocacy campaign to fight violence as well as stating laws to prevent violence and exchange regional and international experience in the field of the programs of training and rehabilitation in the field of fighting violence.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

Do you think the government will change it's latest economic policies?

Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do you think the government would react to the price hikes demonstrations?

- No, gvt doesn't care 65%
- No, the demos are gvt driven 7%
- Yes, they are threat to the government 19%
- I don't know 9%

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Nissan introduces new models, scores high sale rate

By Hassan al-Zaidi
Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A- Nissan and Peugeot Cars Company scored very high sale rates during the first day of staging the Fourth International Car Exhibition in Sana'a last week.

Mr. Omar Thabet, Manager of Tehama Trading Company's Sana'a Branch, Agents of Nissan and Peugeot Cars in Yemen, said in a press conference that despite the conditions and events that coincided with the exhibition, the company scored very high sale rates, particularly the Armada and Murano cars, the first model of which is built in 340-HP and 250-HP. This is considered the first car with such power and size to be introduced into the Yemeni Market. All the quantity available at the company has been booked by customers.

Mr. Omar Thabet mentioned that the company reduced the price of cars and set the real tariff that was deducted from the car's value after reducing the custom



installments for four years through the International Bank of Yemen IBY.

The Tehama Trading Company, he confirmed, will introduce the 407-Model of new Peugeot cars, whose old model has been used in Yemen for around 20 years.

fees.

The new models introduced by Nissan and Peugeot have opened the door for real competition with other car trade companies.

The Nissan costumers, he added, include individuals and institutions and that the Nissan Company sells cars in

Mr. Thabet expressed gratitude to the efforts paid by Mr. Ali Abdu Thabet, Managing Director at Tehama Trading Company and the support he offers the Sale Departments, as well as the five branches of the company scattered in different governorates all over Yemen.

Opm (Aden) LLC signs Hapag-Lloyd for Aden container terminal

By RADHWAN ALSAQAF
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF

OPM (Aden) Loc, the operator for Aden Container Terminal (ACT) has recently signed a Customer Service Agreement with Hapag-Lloyd Container Line GmbH to bring in Hapag Lloyd vessels to this historic port of Aden. This landmark agreement was signed by the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Yemen, Hapag Lloyd Line GmbH and OPM (Aden) LLC.

Calling at ACT, Hapag Lloyd's vessels will be part of the fleet of the joint Far East- Red Sea Service with Evergreen Marine Corporation that connects Port Kelang, Singapore, Tanjung Pelepas, Aden, Jeddah and Aqaba in their weekly intra-Asia service.

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A portrait of accomplishment: Mr. Helmut T. Boisch, Director of Operations, Hapag-Lloyd Container Line and Mr. MMJ Subramaniam, CEO, OPM (Aden) LLC penning the agreement in the Hapag Lloyd (Asia) Pte Ltd Singapore office.

and cultures with its global door-to-door transport services and providing compre-

hensive logistical solutions to its customers. In keeping with the times, Hapag Lloyd christened in April 2005 the world's largest container ship - Colombo Express vaunting a length of 335m and a carrying-capacity of 8750 Twenty foot equivalent units (TEUs).

With the stature of Hapag Lloyd, the arrival of their vessels at ACT and their tangerine coloured containers adding to the colour of the landscape of Aden, make this a milestone event for ACT. For OPM (Aden), responsible also for the marketing of ACT, this development is reward for months of intensive negotiation with Hapag Lloyd to make ACT their preferred port of call for the region.

Yemen: Death penalty legal concern

Cleric Yahia al-Dailami was sentenced to death on 29 May. It has recently become clear that his trial fell short of international standards of fairness.

Amnesty International believes he may be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely because of his criticism of the government.

Yahia al-Dailami is a member of the Shia Zaidi community. In his sermons he is reported to have called for peaceful protests against the mass arrests of Zaidis that have taken place since the invasion of Iraq.

Yahia al-Dailami was reportedly arrested on 9 September 2004 and was detained incommunicado for at least a month. In November he was reportedly charged with vaguely worded offences including "communicating with Iran," "conspiring to overthrow the republican system" and "supporting Hussain Badr al-Din al-Huthi" (a Zaidi cleric who was an outspo-

ken critic of the US invasion of Iraq). Yahia al-Dailami is reported to have claimed that he only met al-Huthi once.

His lawyers were reportedly prevented from reading relevant documents, and obtaining a copy of the court file containing the charge sheet and details of the evidence against him. On 30 January they resigned in protest at procedural irregularities in his arrest and detention, stating that the he could not receive a fair trial.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has longstanding concerns about the application of the death penalty in Yemen, particularly as death sentences are often passed after proceedings which fall short of international standards for fair trial.

Cleric Hussain Badr al-Din al-Huthi was a strident critic of the US-led 2003 invasion of Iraq. Hundreds of his followers were detained every week for shout-

ing anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans after Friday prayers. Clashes between government forces and armed followers of al-Huthi began in June 2004, after al-Huthi refused a government request to hand himself over to the security forces. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed. Al-Huthi himself was killed in September.

The security forces are reported to have carried out mass arrests in Sa'da and other parts of the country, particularly the capital, Sana'a, where there are large Zaidi communities. Those arrested include suspected followers of Hussain Badr al-Din al-Huthi as well as religious people who expressed their opposition to the security forces' continuing arrests and other actions against the Zaidi community. Some are said to have been released after at most a month in custody, but those still held are reported to be detained incommunicado and may be at risk of torture.

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Continued from page 1

Yemeni cities on high alert

Other bloody confrontations happened between locals and military troops in Marib leaving a number of citizens and troops killed and wounded.

A source in Marib mentioned that locals are still blocking the highway to Sana'a and preventing oil and gas trucks from leaving or entering their city, which supplies large quantities of gas and other oil products. Also, Tribesmen from Nihm, east of Sana'a, blocked the highway running through their area and stopped all oil trucks owned by the government.

These two acts led to an unprecedented gas crisis in the capital, pushing the price of gas up to YR1200 per cylinder.

The Ministry of Interior issued a statement Saturday July 23rd describing demonstrations witnessed in the capital and other major cities as acts of vandalism and violence, particularly as they led to the killing and wounding of several innocent citizens trying to protect their shops and companies.

Additionally, the Ministry of Interior reported that around 255 security and military troops received different injuries and described those responsible for the chaos and those who opened fire on government troops as malicious actions intending to shake national security.

Since Wednesday, army tanks have occupied the streets of Sana'a and other major cities and the security authorities have been in state of alert that violence may occur once again. After the riots had started government troops were deployed and dispersed the gatherings of citizens who were demonstrating against the government decision to lift the entire subsidy on fuel, which caused an unimaginable price hike.

Informed sources announced that some people attacked the Raida police department, burning a police vehicle and securing the release of some prisoners who have been detained for a long time at the department. The security forces launched detention campaigns and arrested a number of protestors.

Political parties and organizations announced their condemnation of such reforms and accused the government and the ruling party of killing innocent citizens. They condemned the acts of vandalism, violence and the smashing of government and private institutions and called citizens to use civilized means for expressing themselves.

No unified statement has been issued by the Joint Opposition Meeting Parties who condemned the violence accompanying the riots and urged the state to

maintain security and stability. These parties attributed violence and the acts of vandalism to the thoughtless policies pursued by the government.

Some opposition parties claim that elements from different government parties joined in the riots with a view to stirring up any peaceful demonstrations and provoking violence.

Islah, the biggest opposition party, condemned any violation of the constitution and the law during the expression of opinion and said that maintaining security and stability of the nation is the responsibility of the State. Mohammad Qahtan, Head of the Political Unit at the Islah Party maintained however, that the killing of protestors by the security forces is unjustifiable.

Political analysts noted that thousands of citizens were shocked by the sharp rise in fuel prices and this is why they streamed onto the streets venting their frustration, but trouble makers infiltrated the crowds and incited violence. Peaceful protestors were unsure how to express themselves, and were caught in the middle of these violent confrontations. The majority of the protestors who took to the streets did so in the expectation that government forces would only arrest the trouble makers, and did anticipate the violent clashes that took place.

The Opposition Meeting Parties failed to play an effective role in organizing and

leading the angry protestors. While the security authorities were not well enough prepared to maintain security and prevent marchers from smashing government offices. This lack of foresight led to the clashes between the authorities and armed civilians.

However, the heavy rains which fell on the capital city of Sana'a and other main cities on Wednesday afternoon helped disperse the crowds and limit the chaos and battles between rioters and the government troops.

Troops from the republican guard, the first armed division and the central police backed by tanks and armed vehicles dispersed crowds and gatherings in streets. On the Wednesday afternoon, cars vacated the streets and citizens eventually returned to their shops and houses. Life and business came gradually back to normal with complete calm restored on Friday.

Citizens have begun to attack opposition parties who played no role in the organization of marches or stopping the economic reforms. They accused them of acting as an accomplice with the government in exchange for raising their financial allotments and benefits.

Opposition parties maintain that had they shown a firm stand and supported the riots, this would have caused confrontations with government troops and a political crisis difficult to resolve.

Economic reforms: a time bomb

The official media is also to blame for distorting the Government's image and creating hostility. Most of the media antagonized the people when they should befriend them. In spite of the great resources they possess, media outlets failed to prepare the people for the increases. They should have made the citizen a real partner in the economic concerns.

Most of the people don't even know what economic and price reforms really mean. What they listen to in the media is the government-told story about its successes and news about oil discoveries expected to make the people prosperous. The official media often distorts the president's and the government's image. It also tarnishes Yemen's image abroad. The Yemeni individual listens to the news of his country from foreign media. The official media hides the real problems from the people. This will certainly lead to a state of mistrust among their public. It is natural that the public shuns what the formal media says.

Let us tell what triggered this public rage and spread chaos. One would describe the phases of reforms, and try to find out why the public didn't understand them? Were they successful?

Most of the countries suffer from economic hardships, even the major powers. The problem is growing in the developing countries and especially in the middle east, which we are a part of, because the economic concern is controlled by a number of factors. Among these are the increase in population and lack of resources. The population of Yemen are 20 millions, 42% of whom are below the poverty line. Unemployment is 40%. Illiteracy is 50%, according to the World Bank reports. These are fearful facts showing the roots of our economic plight. The Yemeni economy is based on the open market system. But there is the interference of the corrupt government officials. The gross domestic production mounts to 2.8%, whereas oil revenues and expatriates transfers constitute the main resource for the foreign currency. The foreign aids were an important resource for income. The local and foreign reports said that the per capita is \$481 annually. All the above is a diag-

noses of the Yemeni problem.

The Yemeni economic problem started with the 1990 Unity. The political, social and economic burdens emerged substantially at that time. The economy was heavily dependent on expatriates' transfers and some of the aids since the seventies. These aids began to decrease and the expatriates transfers themselves began to decline due to the labor market changes in the Gulf countries. In early 80s, the expatriates' contribution declined from \$2 billions by half before the break out of second Gulf war in 1990.

The Yemeni Unity came at the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union. This led to the retardation of the Soviet economic aids. This disintegration left a loan of \$8 billions.

In early 90s did the Gulf War erupted. About 2million Yemeni expatriates were obligatorily repatriated. This decreased their transfers to \$300 millions. They also became unemployed workforce. There was the influx of refugees from the Horn of Africa. This created a demand on commodities and service. The Gulf aids stopped on the pretext that Yemen backed Iraq during the Gulf war. The merger of the Yemeni establishments after Unity resulted in redundancy in governmental posts. The government was compelled to sell its assets to cover their wages. In light of these disorders in the Yemeni institutions, the government made the reform initiative in 1991, which was known as the national reconstruction. The political conditions which grew into a crisis level, led to the proliferation of corruption and it ended with the crisis of 1994. The cost of this war was \$11-13 billions. This is equivalent of the budget of six years.

As a result of this problem the per capita dropped to \$280 by the end of 1994. The real reforms started with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in March 1995, to rejuvenate the shaky Yemeni economy as the government has asserted then. The reform programs concentrated on by issuing treasury bonds and the establishment of trade courts, and to make an industrial surveys and a number of projects were also to be privatize. The law of customs tariff and production laws were

also to be amended. The import permits are to be cancelled. There were also many important items for the expected reform. The government was earnest in applying these reforms, but economic experts say that it succeeded in some, but there was a negative impact that hit the Yemeni people. There are serious social disorders that are lately aggravating, and they compelled the Yemeni government and the international authorities, including the World Bank, to find suggestions for those countries which think of applying any economic reforms. It is aiming at protecting the poor and the other vulnerable sectors.

Experts now see that the retreat of the government to subsidize the food stuffs led to a social disorder. This also resulted in economic slowing down, recession in gross domestic production and rise in the rate of inflation. Although the aim of the reforms was to enhance the economy, the wrong implementation led to increase of

poverty and unemployment, in addition to deterioration of services.

Some studies owe the disorders to the rare and limited Yemeni resources in addition to the increase in population, to the extent that it became one of the highest in the world. Some of the conflicts, lack of stability, bad, spread of corruption and bribery and the weak follow up and domination of certain persons over the capitals of companies, all these led to the failure of the reform program.

Many reasons flared up the public rage. The most important of this are the spread of corruption and bribery. People think that the resultant of all these procedures will be for the benefit of those corrupts.

The question that arises now is that: is the government going to accompany these reforms with the other important reforms that will fight corruption and bring those who are accountable before the law?

Yemen: International rules on law enforcement must be upheld

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that dozens of people have been killed during violent protests over the last two days. Scores of protesters, including children, are said to have been arrested and may be at risk of torture.

The organization appeals to the government of Yemen to ensure that international standards on law enforcement and the use of force are strictly observed.

This appeal comes following violent protests that have taken place in different cities in Yemen, including Sana'a, Aden and Houdeida, against a recent government decision to increase the price of fuel. People reportedly took to the streets in Sana'a in a peaceful protest that rapidly escalated into violent clashes which resulted in a number of deaths including some members of the security forces. Civilian deaths are said to include children.

Amnesty International urges the government of Yemen to instruct all members of its security forces to abide by international standards for the use of force, particularly the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, and the UN Code of Conduct for Law

Enforcement Officials. Law enforcement officials must be instructed to use firearms only as a last resort, in self defence or the defence of others against the imminent threat of death or serious injury, when less extreme means are insufficient.

All cases of death and all complaints of excessive use of force by officials should be investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially. All those suspected of ordering or committing human rights violations should be prosecuted in proceedings which meet international standards of fairness.

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Demonstrations in Crater, Sheikh Osman and Abian Governorate



By **RUDWAN AL-SAGAF**
MUNEER MOHAMED SAEED
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Aden- Abian- On Thursday 21st July, a reign of demonstrations spread all over Aden. It was calm until seven in the evening, when a large crowd came to Al-Noor mosque street in Sheikh Osman. They started demonstrating and destroying market places in Al-Hashimi area, where there are jeweler shops. One of the jewelry shops was looted. The security forces came and dispersed the demonstrators by shooting in the air and throwing teargas. The Sheikh Osman area was surrounded and isolated, and security forces spread all over the coastal area, and group gatherings were banned. People refused to go back to their homes and gathered in front of their houses. This led to clashes with the security forces, and a number of demonstrators were injured.

Demonstrators burned a number of petrol stations and cooking gas sales centers. There was a wave of panic especially among the women and children who usually go shopping on Thursdays, who were left stranded because there was no transport available. The heavy presence of security forces reminded them of events in 1986, although their motivation this time for deployment was very different this time.

Two people were killed in these demonstrations in Aden according to medics. Eye witnesses said that the demonstrations started with a crowd of hawkers in front of Al-Noor mosque in Sheikh Osman, and number of shops were looted, and 85 of the demonstrators were arrested under suspicion of looting. They were taken to the air base (formerly the rocket base) on Lahg road.

In Al-Mansora thousands of demonstrators headed to the petrol station. They destroyed the windows and the doors. Some tried to remove the petrol pumps.

Other demonstrators burnt the tires inside the stations, and heavy smoke covered the area. The security forces rushed to the area of chaos in their armored vehicles, and fired some bullets in the air, and the demonstrators moved on to Al-Noor mosque. The demonstrations shifted to the streets of Sheikh Osman, Cairo street, Abdulgawi roundabout and the spinning factory. The security forces followed them and fired bullets and Tear gas to disperse them.

After the evening prayers of Friday the 22nd there were demonstrations and looting in each of Sheikh Osman and Crater. There were clashes with the security forces, in Souk Altweel, Crater Square and near the Aden international center. Firing was heard and ambulances were seen rushing the injured to the hos-

pital.

Meanwhile the demonstrators destroyed the advertisement signs and blocked the streets. The Alkorimi exchange branch was also looted. A 21 year old young man called Faheem Hamuod was shot near Al-Bahrain Hotel. He was shot in the head and hurried to hospital. After bleeding for two hours, he died.

Father of three, Saed Ubadi was also hit, and remains in Almansoora hospital, along with other casualties.

Tanks and Military vehicles surround main streets in Abian

The cities of Zebjibar, Ja'ar, Alkoodand Al-Hisn ib Abian witness growing tension. The market places are closed down and the streets are empty. Military vehicles and tanks surround the main entrances to these towns. There were rumors that there would be demonstrations after the Friday prayers, so the military vehicles and tanks moved onto the streets in the early morning.

A large number of people started the demonstrations and stormed the formal government offices. They burnt down the cars of the electricity establishment and also burnt a military vehicle, and a number of market places. Some journalists were detained as they were covering the demonstrations and their cameras were confiscated.

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Yemeni physicians continue to strike until their demands are fulfilled

What are we waiting for?

By Dr. Sawsan Al Refai
Al Kuwait University Hospital
For Yemen Times

Being a Yemeni physician, I find myself obliged to write about the situation of Yemeni physicians and their recent courageous strike.

I, and all my colleagues of Profession, struggled a lot during our college days, due to all the general mismanagement and corruption taking place in the educational system as a whole. But an addition burden was forced on our shoulders after our graduation from the faculty of Medicine. New medical doctors go through a horrifying experience processing their certificates, and if finally received, these certificates do not really achieve much for them. Many new doctors work for at least 2-3 years as unpaid volunteers awaiting their public job. Criteria of public employment is ambiguous and biased. But this is not the issue at stake here. For those who exerts tremendous efforts and spend a whole lot of money to finally get a job in the public health sphere, are in a continuous state of shock because of the unfair wage system adopted by the government for the medical staff.

Al-Kuwait Hospital remains the refuge for the poor and needy patients who can not afford the minimum health services cost, and it is a place where hundreds of students practice their clinical skills as part of their academic requirement. This hospital is one of many that are active in the recent strike announced by the Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate (YPPS).

The strike was resumed on the 4th of this month, when negotiations failed with the government to increase wages for Yemeni physicians. The strike was



suspended on the 4th of March upon promises from the government to settle with the YPPS and introduce changes to the Pension Law to consider physicians as "special staff" entitled for increased pension. A written agreement was signed between Dr. Mohammed Al-Thawr, the previous head of YPPS, and Ministry of Health, stating that measures will be taken to fulfill the demands of the YPPS.

On the recent strike, Dr. Moa'amar Al Ghazali, head of YPPS in Kuwait Hospital said, "We suspended our previous strike because we thought the government was serious in considering our problem. Unfortunately, all we had were verbal promises but nothing was actually achieved. The Pension law has already been approved by the parlia-

ment and there was no mention of "special staff" measures for physicians". On the status of the current strike, he continued: "more than 85% of medical physicians are on strike all around the Republic. Although, we are all under pressure, but we believe in our cause and will continue until the government responds to our demands".

Dr. Al Ghazali explained that the strike will not endanger the lives of patients as only non-emergency health services are seized. He also added that YPPS is not responsible for the medical misconducts practiced in hospitals on strike especially by administrators who insist on resuming work in outpatient departments using unskilled doctors, medical students, and sometimes even nursing staff and techni-

cians to handle patients.

Dr. Mohammed Al Saeedi, is a specialist in plastic surgery at Kuwait Hospital. He said that his monthly salary is YR 23,000, which is only YR700 more than the salary of a general practitioner. He explained that his foreign colleagues of the same academic degree and experience, maybe less, receive a salary ranging \$ 2000- \$ 4000 monthly, in addition to other benefits such as accommodation, utilities, medical insurance, and travel tickets. He clarified that the foreign staff in the hospital form only 2-5% of the total staff and are present in departments where equally experienced Yemeni specialists are accumulated.

Dr. Mohammed Zaid, specialist in internal medicine, added on the conse-

quences of the strike by saying: "all of us are put under pressure. Administrations of hospitals continue to give us verbal threats in order to break the strike. Meetings halls are closed so that we can not meet with our YPPS representatives. Some YPPS committee members were prevented from entering hospitals by security forces".




Dr. Amal Al Shawafi, a radiologist in same hospital, poses a question "What are we waiting for?" She says that the current strike is not only for the doctors who have been working for years without any fair reward, but also for the coming generations who deserve a better standard of living in return for their hard and sincere work. She clarified that the role of the Ministry of Health

is passive but also sometimes rival. She said: "the Ministry is wasting time threatening physicians and the Syndicate by setting anti-strike measures, instead of addressing the issues and problems through serious negotiations with our legal Syndicate whom we all have elected and always will support". She adds: "this strike is legal and constitutional. We aim to draw the attention of parliament, ministry of human rights, and the President himself to our problems and demands".


Dr. Hameed Al Doais, general practitioner, believes that the government is spending more money as a consequence of the strike, than the total sum of pension raise that YPPS is demanding. He exclaims how these demands seem unrealistic to the government when there are Millions of Dollars spent on cars and luxurious items provided for governmental officials.

It is worth mentioning that reform of the medical staff status is considered one important step if not the priority in the process of health reform. The position of the Ministry of Health is questionable especially that the health situation in Yemen is grave and continuing to deteriorate. The problem of Yemeni physicians is part of the massive health challenges in Yemen. Reports show that spending on health decreasing not only as percentage of the budget but also per capita. Only 30% of rural areas have access to primary health care and out-of-pocket contribution to health cost is more than 91%.

Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate members believe that citizens carry part of the responsibility too. The public should be aware that they are also affected by the bad situation of physicians and therefore should support the Syndicate by demanding reform and calling for anti-corruption measures in the government in general and Ministry of Health in particular.

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Blasts kill over 60 in Egyptian Red Sea resort

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (Reuters) - At least 62 people were killed and 200 injured when car bombs ripped through markets and hotels in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday in Egypt's worst attack in nearly a decade.

Shaken European tourists spoke of mass panic and hysteria as people fled the carnage in the early hours, with bodies strewn across the roads, people screaming and sirens wailing.

The regional governor said two car bombs and possibly a suitcase bomb had rocked the resort, popular with divers and European holidaymakers.

One blast tore the front off the Ghazala Gardens Hotel in Naama Bay, the site of most of the resort's luxury hotels. People were feared trapped in the rubble of the lobby.

A car broke into the hotel compound and exploded in front of the building, South Sinai Governor Mustafa Afifi said. Egyptian tourist hotels always have police guards at the gates.

Egyptian television quoted Health Minister Mohamed Awad Tag el-Din as saying the death toll had risen to 62.

Along with Egyptians, the dead or wounded included 13 Italians, five Britons, French, Spaniards, Dutch, Saudis, Qataris, Kuwaitis and other nationalities, police sources said. Al Jazeera television quoted Interior Minister Habib el-Adli as saying there were eight foreigners among the dead.

Adli said it was too early to say whether al Qaeda or other Islamist groups had any connection with the bombings but there was probably a link with attacks further north last October.

In the October bombings, 34 people were killed, most of them at the Taba Hilton on the Israeli border.

Egyptian authorities blamed them on a Palestinian leading an unaffiliated group. Last month Israel stepped up warnings to its own citizens, saying the risk of another such attack had risen.

The attacks on Saturday were the worst in Egypt since militant Islamists trying to bring down the government killed 58 tourists at an ancient temple near Luxor in 1997.



Egyptian security personnel and forensic experts examine the rubble of a hotel after it was destroyed by a bomb in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh July 23. More than fifty people died and 200 were wounded when car bombs ripped through a bazaar and tourist hotels in Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday in Egypt's worst attack in nearly a decade. Photo by Mona Sharaf Reuters

Fireball

Ahmed Mustafa, a waiter at a coffee shop near the first of the explosions, said a massive fireball tore through the car park outside a shopping mall in Sharm el-Sheikh town. It was about 1.15 a.m. (2215 GMT on Friday).

The explosion turned cars into skeletons of twisted metal, blew down masonry on nearby buildings and shattered windows for hundreds of meters (yards) around.

Officials said a car had exploded there but an eyewitness said a man had walked into a crowd with a large travel bag and announced in Egyptian Arabic: "I have a bomb."

Some people moved away but others thought he was joking, said the witness, who asked not to be named. Two minutes later an explosion took place where he had put the bag, she added.

"I saw a car flying up in the air, people running," restaurant owner Yehya Mohammed said by telephone. "I do not think I will ever forget this in my life. This is a horrible setback for tourism here."

A rescue official said many wounded were Egyptian workers gathered at a cafe in the old market. Seventeen of the dead were burned beyond recognition.

Sharm residents said they heard two more explosions coming from Naama Bay in quick succession, blasts that could be felt 10 km (six miles) away.

Witnesses said the first of these hit the hotel and the second a taxi rank.

The blasts came at a time when many tourists were still out in bars and markets in the popular and hitherto safe resort.

Confusion

"The whole area was quickly covered in debris. There was a huge ball of smoke that mushroomed up. It was mass hysteria," Charlie Ives, a London policeman on holiday, told the BBC.

Tourist Fabio Basone said: "People were trying to run in any direction to get away but were not clear where to go."

Security sources said at least one car that blew up had special plates indicating it had come over the Israeli border at Taba on the Sinai peninsula.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak cut short a holiday on the Mediterranean coast and flew to Sharm el-Sheikh, officials said.

Tourism Minister Ahmed el-Maghrabi said: "These incidents will have an effect in the short term (on tourism)."

Foreigners have been targeted in Egypt in earlier attacks.

Tourism is a major source of revenues and employment in Egypt, which needs to create about 650,000 jobs a year for its youthful population. Some analysts say Egypt attracted extra visitors this year after many avoided tsunami-hit Asia.

Three British soldiers charged with Iraq war crimes

LONDON (Reuters) - Three British soldiers charged with abusing Iraqi detainees are to be tried for war crimes, the British government said on Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for Attorney General Lord Goldsmith said the servicemen would stand trial in Britain under the International Criminal Court Act 2001.

One of the soldiers, Corporal Donald Payne, of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, was charged with unlawfully killing Iraqi detainee Baha Musa, who died in British custody in September 2003 in the southern city of Basra.

He was also charged with the inhumane treatment of Musa and eight other Iraqis and perverting the course of justice.

Lance Corporal Wayne Crowcroft and Private Darren Fallon, both of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, were jointly charged with abusing Iraqi civilians in September



2003.

Seven other British soldiers face courts martial charged with the alleged abuse of Iraqi detainees, the Attorney General's statement said.

Britain, Washington's key ally in Iraq, has launched more than 130 investigations into deaths and injuries of Iraqis

since joining the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

The incidents range from combat deaths to road accidents and Iraqis who died in custody.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has repeatedly condemned allegations of abuse by British soldiers.

Moderate earthquake shakes Tokyo, no tsunami risk

TOKYO (Reuters) - An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.7 shook areas near Tokyo on Saturday, Japan's Meteorological Agency said, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The epicenter of the moderate quake, which struck at 4:35 p.m. (0735 GMT), was 90 km (56 miles) deep in Chiba prefecture

near Tokyo, the agency said, adding there was no risk of a tsunami.

The quake led to the stoppage of some bullet train services, public broadcaster NHK said.

Earthquakes are common in Japan, one of the world's most seismically active areas. The country accounts for about 20 percent of the world's earth-

quakes of magnitude 6 or greater.

In October 2004, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 struck the Niigata region, killing about 40 people and injuring more than 3,000.

That was the deadliest quake since a magnitude 7.3 tremor hit the city of Kobe in 1995 that killed more than 6,400 people.

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Rice meets Palestinians to discuss Gaza pullout

RAMALLAH, West Bank (Reuters) - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met Palestinian leaders on Saturday to try to preserve a truce shaken by violence and ensure militant attacks do not blight Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.

The hastily arranged visit, Rice's third this year, was itself a sign of the importance Washington places on the removal of Jewish settlements from the occupied Gaza Strip as a step toward reviving peacemaking.

Rice held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at his ranch on Friday to push for close coordination with the Palestinians on the withdrawal, set to start next month.

She was due to meet President Mahmoud Abbas and other Palestinian officials in the West Bank, who complain that Israel is keeping them in the dark about crucial issues.

"We need information how the disengagement will take place, when, where will it begin, what is the fate of the border crossings, what is the fate of the Palestinian airport," Abbas told Reuters in an interview. "We're not getting any answers."

Rice waved as she arrived at the Muqata compound in Ramallah, headquarters of the Palestinian leadership.

On the way from nearby Jerusalem, Rice's motorcade slowed to allow her to view Israel's construction of a barrier it says it needs to keep out suicide bombers, but which Palestinians call a

land grab that could deny them a viable state.

Rice's visit followed the worst flare-up in violence since Abbas and Sharon announced a ceasefire in February.

A senior State Department official said that in meetings with the Palestinians, Rice would: "encourage continued effective use of the security forces to enforce the 'calm'."

"The goal is to spur them on to effective action (by the security forces) and effective cooperation (with the Israelis)," said the official, who did not want to be named.

Militant challenge

Abbas has pledged to do all he can to ensure calm when Israel withdraws from the 21 Gaza Strip settlements and four of the 120 in the West Bank, but his forces face a challenge from powerful militant groups like Hamas.

Abbas favors persuasion to win over the militants, who agreed to respect the truce, rather than crushing the groups as Israel wants.

But police trying to stop rocket fire at Israel fought with militants this week in the worst internal clashes for years. The Palestinians eventually agreed to stop fighting each other while Israel put an offensive on hold as rocket attacks ebbed.

Abbas said he would tell Rice "I intend to impose the rule of law."

Sharon has vowed to carry out the

Gaza withdrawal as a way to "disengage" from conflict with the Palestinians even if there are militant attacks, but he has threatened to use massive force to prevent them if Abbas does not.

Sharon's opponents on the far right say the withdrawal will reward the militants, who themselves claim it as a victory for their uprising. Religious ultranationalists also see land occupied in the 1967 Middle East war as a gift from God.

While Palestinians welcome the first withdrawal from settlements on land they seek for a state, they also fear Israel is using the plan as a cover for strengthening its hold on the West Bank rather than a step to peace.

Some 8,500 settlers would leave Gaza, home to 1.4 million Palestinians, but only a few hundred of more than 230,000 settlers will be removed from the West Bank where they live alongside 2.4 million Palestinians.

The United States wants the Gaza pullout to help revive negotiations on a "road map" for a Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel. Israel Radio said it was possible Rice could return to the Middle East again before the withdrawal starts.

Her Israeli-Palestinian agenda was interrupted on Friday by a surprise trip to Beirut, the highest-level U.S. visit since Syria ended its 29-year military presence two months ago.

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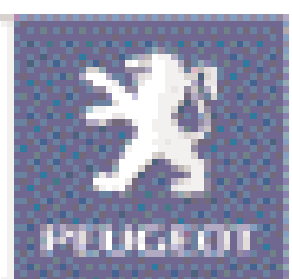
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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is

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

OUR
OPINIONWhere do we
go from here?!

They were barely living, now all they have left is to die...
They were hardly laughing, now all they can do is to cry...

Is this the Yemeni government's idea of good governance? Is it their idea of reform? Instead of having millions of people digging trashcans for food, and curing their diseases with prayers, the Prime Minister should have thought better and cared more for the people. Where would these people be heading now? By doubling the prices more corruption will result and more hunger and more crime. More than once the president urged for more education, but now families will not send their children to schools anymore because of transportation costs. Women will not seek medical care because of medical costs. And the youth who is already unemployed will become more frustrated will start attacking people and throw their wrath on the community. The latest violent demonstration have proved this fact, when people have got nothing to lose they have got nothing to lose. Life will no longer be safe or secured, it wasn't that much in the past but people had hope, now they don't.

When in the eighties the citizens went on demonstrations against the banning of fruit and agricultural goods imports in order to encourage the local production, Al-Iryani's government resigned in order to calm the public wrath. Then how come this government is thinking too high of itself? Moreover where are the international organizations, and the World Bank who in the first place was the main drive against eliminating the oil subsidies, where is their humanitarian responsibility towards what happened? How come the president did not come in public with any speech to condemn the massacre of normal citizens by the live bullets of the army? Are their lives by any standard cheaper than human lives elsewhere in the world?

The government has vowed to strive to do the best of the people's interest. In every event we celebrate our achievements throughout the years. Is this what is called achievements? If the goals of the government are to starve the people then yes they have achieved it. Especially when facing the rage of the public with canons and armed soldiers and live bullets. Even in Israel the Zionists don't aim live bullets on the Palestinians, they instead use rubber bullets. People don't need a grand glorious celebrations, and empty talks, they need their basic rights. The priorities of the government do not seem to coincide with the people's priorities and I wonder why? And I wonder moreover what is the government going to do about it? For the hungry cries of your people will become louder and more aggressive. We all are disappointed with the Yemeni government and unless they feel for themselves it seems there is no other way for the people than to make themselves heard through violence and destruction. When people do not know how they will survive the next day, any one who is well off would be their enemy. And the people will turn against each other drawing a scary pessimistic picture of the future, where will the Yemeni people be heading next? Where do we go from here?

The Editorial Board



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Political training
and presidency

The fuss in the Yemeni society, and in western countries, regarding the next year's presidential elections shows clearly a partisan and political vacuum. We are in a bad need for politically trained and intellectual-

ly qualified leaders who can partake in the coming presidential, local and parliamentary elections. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss this issue with full candidity for the public life over the recent decades have not given birth to leaders who conform to the spirit of the age and the nature of developments thereof.

The Constitution or Parties and Elections Laws can be of no use of we do not take into account regional developments and Iranian elections' results, and believe in dialogue until we get convinced that any party may run for presidency. Indeed, this is a culture and continuous training and education. This may salvage us and make us pinpoint our weak points and discover the deficiency resulting from the inadequate political education and absence of the required training for partisan and non-partisan elements.

I say that a political man expresses an instinctive nature and innate aptitude no matter of his academic qualification, his scientific specialty or his being civilian or military. What is important ultimately is his ability to manage things, study aims and achieve goals. We perceived during the last weeks how people looked around themselves to realize that the stillness was the outcome of nothing but the negligence of political training. It is an issue of which democratic nations and developed communities take care. No one should think that political training is something unessential and peoples do not need it. I also do not mean that political training is oration or the ability to talk and chant slogan or being fanatic



By Prof. Dr.
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

about one's attitude. What I mean can be inferred from the following remarks:

First: The tactics of political suppression and the successive control of the region by foreign rulers have made the citizen unwilling to participate, turning him into some sort of spectator. This finally has made the citizens remain in their cocoons, or go out to chant or justify.

Second: The logic of revolutionary legitimacy which the region's countries adopted reflected itself on the political life and displaced intellectuals and qualified people in different fields. Here, I charge nobody. However, I really believe that the absence of political training is behind the hazy view and incomplete outlook. Late Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf, founder of the Yemen Times, had underscored this point right from the start of issuing his paper. On the other hand, we should head for fair elections and activate NGOs' role in the politics.

Third: We have to courageously admit to the weakness of our political parties for a host of reasons which we will not tackle. Most of the causes fall beyond the power of these parties and are related to the prevalent political atmosphere and existing local conditions. A political party ideally comprises a group of individuals bound by the same defined goals. They should be looking forward to rising to power in order to achieve the agreed goals. A party has to believe in the philosophy of the transfer of power and rotation of the leaders. Parties are basically schools for educating personnel and producing qualified politicians.

Fourth: Advocating the "power seeker should not be enabled" slogan went against the enthusiasm for political education and preparation for public service especially with the fact that key post nominations largely excluded political personalities and qualified individuals due to certain

temporary considerations.

Fifth: Yemen used to be a country famous for producing many intellectuals, thinkers and politicians with valuable political visions. After years of lack of real practice, Yemen is facing the crisis helplessly, being unable to inject new blood and push forward new bright leaders.

Sixth: The relation between culture and politics shouldn't be disparaged or underestimated. A mature community is the one that bridges the gap between the thinker and the ruler and establish a balanced relation between the intellectual elite and the powerful elite. Yoking the mature intellect with power is the decision that best expresses the legitimacy of regimes, their efficiency and their clear vision.

Seventh: Without constitutional and political reform, being impetuous about economic reform is against the norms and the logic of evolution. This may confiscate liberties, lead to little political participation and lack of desire to join public service.

Eighth: Pre-revolution regimes were familiar with the political minister and partisan official. A Cabinet's member was politically in charge of the outlines of the sector assigned to him. Technical experts were available to help him, ready to implement the policy. A health minister was a legalist and a minister of defense was a civilian, modeling the democratic system in parliamentary countries. I still remember that Andrina Ghandi kept the defense portfolio for her. The French minister of defense is an esteemed lady. The civilized world approves mingling of specialties. Malnamar, former US Defense Minister, was later appointed president of the World Bank. A deputy defense minister in the same country was appointed in the same position. Countries are galore that mix political, academic and press qualifications. However, in our country, a minister intervenes even in an officer's leave, endorse checks and move officers around the ministry's offices. Will we learn? When?

Ninth: It is time to seriously think of a real political education for the youth, not to make them politicians and leaders but at least participants in the public life concerned with political developments. A physician with a comprehensive view, an engineer with an integrated vision, and a scientist who knows what is going around him are better than specialized people detached from the events around them.

Tenth: Reluctance to get involved in politics and public life are two phenomena worth study. I sincerely believe that what breeds them is the lack in seriousness and confidence between the two concerned sides in our contemporary political life.

These are remarks meant to uncover the truth, clear the vision and predict the future. I know well that the president's post is a unique position that needs a special preparation, political training, and talent. Going towards construction and reform, Yemen should first pay attention to vitalizing the political life, represent different forces and contain the currents in our country. We have the model of the current president who led the country and achieved the Reunification along with a number of his comrades. Yet, such a crisis should not be repeated in the future. We have to have qualified experts in politics and governance, people who can yemenize transfer of power under the authority of law and public liberties.

We should ponder on the Iranian experience and how a former president who ruled the country lost to an inexperienced young man. It is truly a democratic practice worth the efforts of Arab research centers, academies, symposia and studies in order to evaluate and get benefit as we are approaching forthcoming presidential, local and parliamentary elections.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Tanks and
excessive force
are not the answer

The events of the last few days have certainly been a clear indication that all is not nice and rosy, as the Government media would like the world to believe. Most certainly, the large-scale and widespread public protests reflect a high degree of discontent that is obviously not centered in one location or social or factional grouping. Furthermore, the handling of the demonstrations by the Government could never be described as being exemplary by any means or language. Too many people, most of whom are probably innocent, were killed wounded or arrested (Exact figures are hard to come by). Surely the Government was not so naïve as to expect the latest economic bombshell or "dose" to be implemented, as part of the obviously unsuccessful reforms, which the Government has been fumbling through over the last ten years, to be taken with applause and acclaim. Needless to say, the latest catapulting of prices was viewed as catastrophic by the majority of the Yemeni people, most of whom are subsisting below the poverty line or very close to it, up or down. Yes, the people took to the streets, not so much because they were hit with a stroke of anarchy or desire to disturb the peace. The tens of thousands of citizens that were demonstrating last Wednesday and Thursday (and probably even now) were only trying to tell their government, "Hey you guys, where are you taking us to with these crazy price hikes? We simply can't go any further down the pit, because we have already reached rock bottom". Why did the demonstrations get "unruly"? There are many postulates that are circulating, including some that suggest the involvement of government agents that are deliberately inciting the demonstrators to switch to "violent mode". Moreover, because the Government has literally closed all normal channels for public expressions of opinion, which are open to citizens of a supposedly democratic society, one is bound to see public reactions be shown in the loudest and sometimes even most physical of ways.

The observer is not at all here trying to justify violence or civil disobedience, for surely no sane mind would ever suggest that it is all right to go wild in the streets and destroy property, etc. But then again, what channels could the people have used to make the government realize that this is one dose, which is beyond what they can handle? With one decision, the Government may have added at least a 150% rise in prices (on average) for just about every major essential commodity on an already struggling people trying to survive, let alone make ends meet. If we can buy the argument that the demonstrators overreacted somewhat (notwithstanding their legitimate gripes), surely the reaction of the government was even more flabbergasting! For the government to send all the military hardware at its disposal to the streets was beyond what anyone has seen in any country, where civil disturbances have arisen. This was not war that we witnessed last week. However, the extreme overreaction of the Government would normally be taken only when the country is threatened by a foreign invasion or an organized attempt to overthrow the Government, neither of which were close to happening. Surely the Government could have considered several more civilized alternatives to dealing with the demonstrations turned disruptions. The first exclusion would be putting the tanks and heavy military gear on the streets. These tanks and other high handed military displays, created the impression that the Government was telling the people, "If you want war, we are ready". The Yemeni people are not prone to violent disruptions on a massive scale, unless they have become really fed up with Government failure in managing their affairs. Even then, had they found a listening ear, the extent of violence in the demonstrations would have remained significantly subdued. But with overzealous reactions and the random use of firearms on a large scale against mostly unarmed demonstrators, this only fuelled more discontent and is certainly bad public relations for the Government, locally and internationally. No one is sure of the number of casualties, beatings or arrests, but according to various eyewitness accounts here and there, the scale was beyond what the demonstrations deserve in any context.

Power and muscle are never a remedy for dealing with popular discontent and Yemenis are by their nature even more resentful of its excessive use against them, when they feel they have a right to express their opinions against what they see as a legitimate gripe against the Government.

Part of the trouble lies in the fact that the opposition and independent press has been warning for years that the people of Yemen are not really getting their proper dues from their Government in just about all aspects of management of public affairs. But rather than heeding such warnings, the Government harnessed all of its resources towards clamping down on press freedom and political pluralism, under all kinds of moribund rationalities, while carrying on pretty much on a "business as usual attitude". The social contract is a give and take arrangement and unless there is give and take coming from the Government as well (the people see themselves now as really not having any more things or leeway to give, and see themselves as hardly enjoying anything on the "take side"), then what should the Government expect from a disgruntled population? The fact that the protests were simultaneous - almost throughout the country - should be a clear sign to the Government that there is something definitely wrong on the Government's performance end of the social contract. The Government's overreaction and reliance on firepower will not remedy the problems at hand. When will the Government seriously and transparently start looking inward for solutions to most of the problems that Yemen is currently facing and start initiating real genuine reforms in its own apparatus and modus operandi? The people said last week that, as far as they are concerned, the Government has exhausted all the means that are at their disposal. The public is unable to bear any more burdens emanating from the continuous inefficiency and incompetence of Government and the horrendous corruption that has characterized all facets of its functioning for far too long now. All the tanks and firepower in the world can do nothing to address these legitimate gripes.

Letters to the Editor

Arab American
Heritage Week

Tuesday, July 12, 2005 was a historical day that will forever be remembered by Arab Americans. This day changed the lives of more than 200,000 Arabs residing in the NYC region. It is the day that NYC's Mayor Michael Bloomberg officially declared Arab American Heritage Week as a part of NYC's history and to be celebrated for one week yearly throughout the city.

Arabs came together from 22 different countries and different religious beliefs to celebrate this great moment in their life. Throughout the Arab American Heritage week, Arab American organizations and museums hosted events in order to introduce New Yorkers to the vast diversity of Arab people, their cultural traditions, customs, cuisine, art, music and dance. Arab American Heritage Week was kicked off with an Arab street festival in one of NYC's busiest boroughs (Manhattan) which was sponsored and coordinated by the Network of Arab American Professionals and the Algerian Cultural

Center. Throughout the week the city celebrated Arab Heritage in many ways such as Comedy workshops, Cultural Arts, concerts, Arab Community Tours, etc...

Finally, Arab American Heritage week concluded with an amazing Park festival sponsored by the Arab American Association of NY, Arab American Family Support Center, and The Yemeni American Association. The Festival had approximately 500-600 attendees from different Arab regions in the Middle East and was combined of several performances representing many Arab countries. Amongst the performers/performances was an Iraqi Singer (Firas Al-Iraqi), Yemeni singers such as Sham' a...Syrian DJ, an Egyptian skirt dancer, Puppet Show, Yemeni Traditional Dances (Bara'a, Sana'a dance), Youth Dabke Dancing, etc. The festival also had food vendors selling food and sweets, Arab Calligraphy writing, Henna, face painting, etc.

This whole week brought great change and a sense of pride and dignity to many Arabs

especially the younger generation who have been feeling torn between two cultures and afraid to represent their Arab ethnicity because of certain stereotypes and lack of understanding from their peer groups and larger community.

Faozia Aljibawi
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Price Hikes

I think everybody knew what happened in Sana'a roads, streets. Fighting and shooting guns bomb destroyed areas in all the governors in Yemen country, shall we ask ourselves why people in Yemen doing those things, we only have one reason for that its the Petrol the Oil its going to be huhh? its really done its 1300RY!!

Why the government don't decide to make rules and why its going to be high.

Always I'm asking my self...look at Yemeni people they got hyper just for two days then they got cold and forget anything that happened, we must decide and thinking in good ways.

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Yemen Press Review

Review By Abdul-Slam Al-Korari

office for 27 years.

There is a need for substantial arrangements to ensure amicable exchange of authority in the light of the current vacuum in the political arena in which non of the political parties has got that political leader who can replace the president Ali Abdullah Sale at this critical moment.

الوسط Al-Wassat, July 20, 2005.

Main Headlines:

- The PGC Mounts Pressures on the President to Drawback of His Decision not to Run for Presidency.
- Unprecedentedly, in a Courageous Decision the President Announced that He Would not Run for Presidency.
- Endowment Deputy Minister Criticizes Spending 11 Billion YR over Qura'an Learning
- A Trap Envelope Blast at the Face of Al-Nahar Managing Editor.
- Administrative Corrupt in the Cancer Charitable Foundation.
- Al-Huthi Grandchild Denies Receiving the Financial Relief and Confirms the Mediation's Efforts.

Al-Wassat,s editorial stressed the necessity of changing the current situation before it becomes too late

The paper stated the president's decision not to run for the presidency is an issue pertaining to the future but what the commons are concerned about is the current situation.. the economic "dose" has become a reality, while no practical measure has been taken to fight corruption.

Things have come to a pretty pass and the first step for changing the status quo is to recognize that there are many imbalances need to be addressed and there is corruption ought to be eradicated sooner not later.

The next steps, then, are represented in dealing with the others as partners in the building process and not necessarily in the ruling

The editor continued, talking elaborately about disadvantages doesn't mean there is no advantages in the country and nobody can deny president Sale key role, however the man's noble traits and good nature neither prevent the government's wicked officers from stealing the

public funds nor help establishing effective institutions could share in building a genuine institutional state.

Many observers and analysts might be agreed that the president had lost several historic opportunities to build the state of law and institutions, the last one was the war of unity Now there is another one seems to be the final chance, would the president grasp it to change the country into better?

الانصار Al-Ommah, July 21, 2005.

Main Headlines:

- Yemeni Peoples are Boiling over the Dose and Government Faces out with Bullets.
- Citizens Staged Protestations Against Raising up Fuels Prices and Transport Comes to Standstill Throughout the Country.
- Detainees Relatives of Kuhlman Regions Appeal to the President.
- Arab Journalists Union Condemns Assassination Attempt Against Al-Gahafy.
- President Meeting with Sada's Sheikhs Fails to Settle down Suspended Issues.

Al Ommah came out with an informative report about the demonstrations swept several major cities throughout the country on Wednesday July 20.

The paper reported that the capital secretariat and a number of Yemeni cities witnessed furious popular demonstrations on Wednesday as huge masses took to streets to protest against the government's decision to lift subsidies to fuels The demonstrators had stormed through the streets of the capital secretariat and the cities of Dhamar, Al-Dhale'a', Marib and Amran where they had chanted the slogans anti government policy and surge of oil and fuel prices. The demonstrations were met with fierce confrontations from the security forces and anti-riot teams. Rampageous clashes between protesters and security men had claimed the lives of several people and sustained injuries of dozens.

In the capital secretariat five people had been killed, two reported killed in Dhammar and three in Al-Dale'a'. The demonstrations coincided with violence and chaos acts cause heavy

Within the Bush administration, Director of the Office of Management and Budget Josh Bolten "has been virtually invisible," while "the president and vice president...avoid talking publicly about the budget."

Let us be clear on this point: it is not that politicians who wish to take the lead on fiscal consolidation are failing to gain traction; it is that there are no politicians - at least none with any agenda-setting influence - who are even trying to steer the US towards adopting a more responsible fiscal policy.

This is a grotesque failure of leadership. Governments that pursue policies - whether US fiscal laxity or China's exchange-rate peg - that create unsustainable imbalances do so for what they regard as important political reasons. Appeals to them to change their policies, and thus contribute to the common global good of financial stability, are fruitless unless others are seen to change their policies, act responsibly, and so contribute to the common good as well.

International policy coordination requires a leader, a first mover. But, while the US, as the world's largest economy, is best suited for this role, it has so far failed to play its part. Treasury Secretary John Snow has spent almost no public time on the



material loses

الاسبوع Al-Osbou'a, July 21, 2005.

Main Headlines:

- Popular Rampage Against Antepenultimate Dose.
- Sada: Tribesmen Undertake to Stage Riots.
- Ba-Jammal Demands Waiting for the Dose's Results.
- Shabbwah Governor: Military Personnel Withhold to Intervene.
- Hospitals Managers on Duty Instead of Doctors

Al-Osbou'a Published a critical article by its Editor Hussen Al-Odainy who slashed out the official media, Radio and TV-in particular, for their poor performance.

He stated that Yemeni media kept on its outdated manners and couldn't keep up with the changes took place in the field of media He cited an examples for Yemeni Media backwardness as follow: the state run Radio and TV haven't so far updated their old manners in dealing with the new, they are now as they used to be in the past, they always feast on every morsel about the government's officers activities and have little appetite to report about the serious news locally and internationally.

Writer give to For instance, Yemen's Satellite Channel coverage of the demonstrations had come very late after the international media outlets had finished and when it did, its performance was very poor

البراقع Al-Balagh, July 19, 2005.

Main Headlines:

- The president is the First Democratic Man and an Exceptional Case amid Arab Rulers.
- The Two Clergies Moham'd Al-Munssor and Humoud Al-Mouay'ad are Brighter Beacons.
- 10 Women Killed and 200 Sustained Burns in a Fire Caught

up a Wed dying Hall
- The Clerics of Sada Express Surprise over Putting an old Man in Custody

Al-Balgh's editor wrote the two clergy men Mohammed Al-Munssor and Humoud Al-Mouay'ad are very famous for their piousness and purity and so on of believers morals It is too regretful that some writers tried to smear their fames and good reputation.

No surprise if the two Sheikhs subjected to such malpractices since the Prophet Mohammed himself, peace be upon him suffered the same problems.

SILVER LINING
By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

Will the President do it?

Like many millions of Arabs, I was appalled when I heard president Saleh declaring that he will not run for the presidential elections in September 2006. We are still in a state of awe as we have never experienced such a decision for many years in the Arab world as Arab rulers either go through cope d'etat, death or by foreign forces like what happened to Saddam Hussein. Many Arab intellectuals hailed the courageous decision taken by Saleh and appealed to him to go ahead with it.

I believe if Saleh means it and is serious about it, it would be a great achievement for him, Yemen and a good model for the Arab totalitarian regimes. This is because if he insisted on leaving the power, he would have started an initiative that must live in the Arab world and would have hit the nil on the head in choosing a peaceful transfer of power. But, if it proves to be a political maneuver and an early campaign for the elections, it would be catastrophic as the man would appear fooling not only the people but also the world.

We should build on that historical decision and consider it so till next year. This does not necessarily mean that we do not like the man who commanded the respect of all by taking such an unprecedented courageous step.

Saleh has done many good things for his people and nobody denies this. But, because we like him, we want him to set such a model for the Arab regimes in laying the foundation for a peaceful transfer of power, making Yemen command the world respect and appreciation.

I know that the cronies around him will strive very hard to get him overturn his decision because such corrupt crooks can not survive without him

and his tolerance with people like them. They just know nothing but lip service and kissing to get more and more enriched by exploiting their positions.

Hey guys, it is enough for you and Saleh can serve the country even if he is out of power. He himself said that he would continue to work with the new leadership despite its political affiliation or tendency and will never hesitate to give his good and wise advice to the next generations. I believe the man is tired and bored and wants to leave power commanding the respect of everybody which really shows his political shrewdness. I think the man can do a lot during the remaining period of his term in office till next elections. He should embark on projecting a strategy to breathe a new life into the society plagued with corruption, poverty, lack of law and order, tribalism and many others of such stuff. He can lead a drive for change, introducing real reforms into the political, educational, economic, social and cultural systems of the nation. The recent riots and violent acts that swarmed the country reflects the suffering of the people whose anger will not be subdued and calmed down by tanks and armored vehicles next time despite the fact that we all disagree with the way they showed their resentment over the price hikes which was totally unacceptable. Yet, it is a good signal that things are not on the right track which means that Saleh can start reform by curbing corruption which is a pervasive problem and a headache for all of us, holding corrupt officials accountable. He can also strive hard to ensure that the next presidential election be competitive, fair and free despite of who is going to win so as to enhance and nurture the emerging democracy which is, of course, the future of the country. It is in this way the man will be immortalized in the hearts of the people. Don't you think so?

Inviting the avoidable

By J. BRADFORD DELONG

Maybe it is excessive skittishness, or perhaps it is the result of global financial volatility in recent years - crises in Mexico in 1994-5, East Asia in 1997-98, Russia in 1998, and then in Brazil, Turkey, and Argentina - but we economists are more concerned about monetary affairs and possible future disasters than we have been in many decades.

This month, the Switzerland-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS) was the latest to worry aloud about the financial risks that the world seems to be building into its future. "[A]ll the countries hit by financial crisis... experience[d] a very sharp slowdown," the BIS says of the recent past. It then cites "global current account imbalances," particularly "the US external deficit," describing it as "unprecedented for a reserve currency country to have a current account deficit of such magnitude." In short, the world has become "increasingly prone to financial turbulence."

The BIS hints at the possibility of a financial crisis that, with the US at its center, would dwarf by at least an order of magnitude all crises that have

occurred since 1933. Yet, in response to this risk, the BIS issues the standard textbook recommendations. Countries whose policies and economies are out of balance should change their policies, thereby restoring balance: "deficit countries should reduce the rate of growth of domestic spending below that of domestic production. Allowing their currencies to depreciate in real terms would make their products more competitive, and also provide an incentive for production to shift out of non-tradables into tradables."

This is economists' polite code for the message that the US must gradually cut its budget deficit, while other countries - like China and Japan - must gradually let the value of the dollar fall and that of their own currencies rise. So the BIS proposes nothing new or particularly attention-grabbing.

But if we turn to America's government, we see an enormous pretense that the current budget deficit is not a problem. As Stan Collender, a noted observer of the US federal budget, has commented, "No one with federal budget responsibilities actually seems to be interested in the budget." This is not "because the budget committees are too busy....[T]he House and Senate...are not doing much of anything...[because] they don't want to."

Reflections of Tahiris' scholastic achievement

Amiriyah School

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Located in the center of Rada' Town, about 90 kms north of Sana'a, the Amiriyah School is believed to have been built by Sultan Salah al-Din Amer bin al-Mansour and Abdul-Wahab bin Dawood al-Tahiri in 910 Hejri. He assigned his vizir prince Ali bin Mohammed al-Ba'dani to supervise the construction of the historically famous schooling center.

Later, Amir bin Abdul-Wahab endowed the Amiriyah with lands in the areas of Rada', Damt and Juban.

Amir bin Abdul-Wahab is one of the prominent Tahiri monarchs, a dynasty spanning 90 years. Tahiris are said to have descended from Baidha tribes. They built their state on the collapse of the Rasouli State and expanded their rule to cover as far as Aden and Shahr cities.

The Tahiri State came to an end but their School survived the centuries not only as a reminder of the State but also as an evidence of the esteemed scientific status of the Tahiris under the reign of Amir bin Abdul-Wahab who succeeded his father in 894 and died in 923 Hejri.

Amiriyah School's sections

The School is a two-storey building. The first floor used to be the residence of students containing 20 rooms and two big halls used for lecturing. This floor also contains a praying space, and bathrooms for washing and ablution.

The second floor contains a mosque with a great dome surrounded by six smaller neatly built domes. To the north of the mosque, a water canal brings water from Ghayl al-Mahjiri (spring of al-Mahjiri).

There are two towers, each of them consists of one chamber called "Sultan's Rest Room."

Two yards lie in the east and west and are being grassed. They are fenced with a frame having decorations called *sharanifs* that fit in the building.

Neglecting the past, conserving the present

In addition to natural erosion forces, negligence, and intentioned sabotage made to the School, lands around the mosque have been looted by locals throughout the School's history. It became financially unsupported and that drove students out of it. Until recently, buildings diminished the open space and are now pressing on the walls of the School on all sides.

International interest in rehabilitating the School

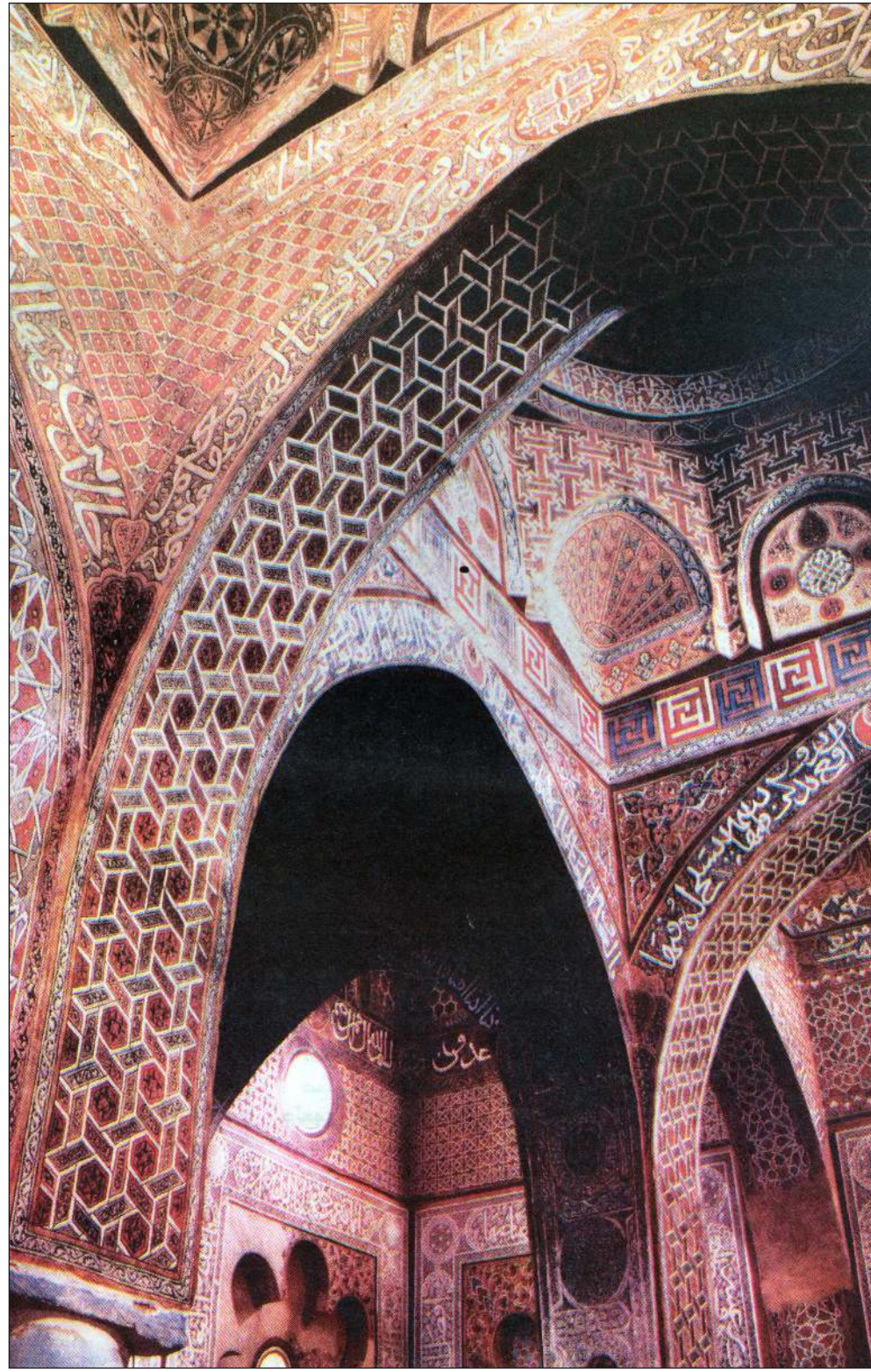
No one attempted to maintain this ancient edifice which dates back to the sixteenth century. On the contrary, many people continue to maim it and loot its endowments. The parts that survived time and destructive forces have been maintained by virtue of the Dutch support during 1983-1986. The support was resumed in 1997 funding the wood-work costs at an amount of YR 21 million.

From 83-1999, the government spent no more than YR 8,056,000 on the School which slowed down and hobbled maintenance, said Yahya al-Nusairi, Baidha' Archeology Office Director.

Since 2000, some YR 154 million, funded by the Dutch, Italian and the Social Development Fund, had been spent on the School before it was inaugurated last month. The maintenance was conducted by the Italian Center for Conserving Rome Archeology. 25 experts worked on the School for about 10 thousand days, restoring an area of 600 square meters covered with the most magnificent Islamic decorations.

Amiriyah: unique architectural style

The Amiriyah School is a finely chiseled piece of art. Its majesty lies in the domes, distribution of its components, smooth movement within its sections, and the wonderful decorations. It seems the builders were affected by the Ottoman, Moroccan Persian styles, perhaps also Chinese



and Japanese.

Sultan Amir bin Abdul-Wahab must have hired the best craftsmen, embroiderers, and carpenters, and spent large amounts of money. The construction materials were costly. The timber and stones must have been brought from a far distance because they are not indigenous to the area. This explains why the Amiriyah School has survived over five centuries despite negligence.

German photographer

Yahya al-Nusairi explained, "The School has been restored to its state before 910 Hejri. No strange materials are used in the restoration. The bases of the School remained intact. However, the lost parts were known from documents and chronicles. The building has been restored into its shape at the threshold of the 20 Century based on the photos taken by the German photographer who visited the area between 1910-1909.

Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

The structure of dreams (1/3)

Subject Book: The Structure of Dreams (in the Story of Joseph and His Brethren)
Author: Dr. Riyadh Al-Qirshy
Language: Arabic
Publisher: Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Year Published: 2004
Number of Pages: 140

the context under discussion. One will find Moses, Ibrahim, and even Jesus Christ in a number of Surahs or Chapters of the Qur'an¹. The only Prophet, who has one chapter fully dedicated to his full spiritual journey in this world is Joseph, in the Chapter that bears his name. The story is a beautiful masterpiece of literary finesse. This is not so much from a linguistic point of view, but from the overhanging spiritual implications intended to be reflected, as we follow the pure and innocent Joseph evolve from a favored son of an already established Prophet, to a boy thrown into slavery and a whole new life and culture that is different from that of his original nomadic horticultural background.

The Holy Qur'an is indeed a literary masterpiece unequalled by any published human or otherwise originating manuscript. The critic would not delve into the Holy Qur'an as a whole here, for it would take far more than this corner has room for and would be meaningless in the light of the topic under analysis here. But it is important, before getting into the book under review here to point out that the Holy Qur'an delivers the Heavenly Message to mankind in a unique style (actually many unique styles packed into one) that allows for the sustainability of the Heavenly Revelations as an unalterable document, while at the same time, keeping its beauty and power of expression attractive to the reader, no matter how many times it is read.

The plot of the story and all the spiritual, social and psychological venues are given in 111 verses of superb prose that certainly give this chapter its unique distinction. It is a tragic tale of a family that is tied by strong spiritual orientation to be broken up, as interrelationships between members in the family become sources of jealousy and contempt between the brothers, not so much for the mundane or the material basis for such jealousy, but for the paternal love of a father, Ya'acoub (Jacob), son of Ishaq (Isaac), son of Ibrahim, who has already obtained the favor and blessings of the Lord, and is bound to have someone inherit him for the leadership of a rapidly growing favored nation of God, then.

One of the most fascinating features of the Holy Qur'an is the way the Lord reveals His ordinances to the Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and hence to all of mankind. To underscore the interrelationships of the major monotheistic faiths of Christianity and Islam, the Holy Qur'an is embedded with many stories about the very same prophets and messengers that are revealed in the Old and New Testaments (including the Jewish Scriptures). This includes the long list of prophets of the Ancient Nation of Israel, starting from Ibrahim (Abraham or Avraham) down to Jesus Christ (PBAUH), who is also a revered Prophet of Islam. It is important to emphasize that Islam actually views Christianity and Judaism as really part of the continuing development of religious doctrine that eventually led to Islam. In other words, they are all the same religion, per se, while man made intrusions have brought on the current differences between them.

Many readers of the Old Testament will recall that Joseph (or Yusuf, in Arabic) is the next to last son of Jacob's twelve sons. Being as he was accorded a greater affinity by his father than all the other sons, the other brothers plotted to remove him away from his father. They conspired to kill him at first. Then they decided to simply throw him away in some well to either die or get picked up by any wanderers who perchance make use of the well, which is apparently situated along a frequently traveled route. They would excuse themselves from their father's anger, by claiming that he was eaten by wolves, bringing a shirt stained with the blood of a sheep home to back their alibi.

The stories of the different prophets and nations of history are told in the Holy Qur'an are not merely a narrative biographical description. They are actually texts that flow and blend into the mainstream of Heavenly revelations, either to manifest the relevant text as example or to emphasize the many ways the Lord Al-Mighty has nurtured mankind to see the light of succumbing to the will of God. Some of the prophets were mandated with certain missions of delivery to their people (i.e., messengers of Allah), and some, by their lives and behavior, provided exemplary human behavior to guide mankind as to the kind of faith and submission to His will that God expects of mankind. In a true masterpiece of language structure and semantics, the Qur'an makes these stories so full of movement and human inspiration, that one does not merely read a plot and maybe a theme thrown in here and there. One is compelled to see movement, emotions and spiritual guidance all thrown in, in just a few arranged words, which evoke a wide spanning meaning and enlightenment to the reader.

The reader is also familiar that Joseph was eventually taken in bondage to the land of Egypt where he was purchased as a slave by a wealthy member of the ruling establishment in Egypt. There Joseph grew up to be a handsome young man, with whom the wife of the Egyptian noble that bought him has become irresistibly infatuated. Seeing him resist her attempts to seduce her, just as her husband entered the chamber, she accused him of attempting to seduce her. Thanks to the wisdom of a member of the household, Joseph was vindicated, when it was seen that the back of his shirt was torn meaning that he was really trying to avoid her. When it was found that all the other Egyptian women of high society then were also infatuated by Joseph, the young, but already pious and conscientious man, Joseph asked his Lord to allow him to be imprisoned, rather than to be allowed to be insulted by such persistent sensual prodding. The rest follows in the next issue.

Most of the prophetic jorneys of the Qur'an are broken down in more than context in the book, and quite often to be in harmony with

"The critic is actually more inclined to call them "themes" rather than chapters, because they are not really a partition based on size or number of verses, etc, but tend to evolve around a certain theme evoked by the relevant Surah.

Tehama steals the show in the auto expo

In the recently held Auto Exhibition at the Sana'a Expo Centre, Tehama Trading Company, stole the show by exhibiting the largest Sports Utility Vehicle - NISSAN ARMADA - and by displaying other Nissan Brand vehicles in a Yemeni scenario.

Ignoring the modern gimmicks of showmanship for such exhibitions, Tehama went for a village scene, maintaining Yemeni surroundings. The heavy duty 4x4 station wagons SUPER SAFARI and PATHFINDER were



H.E. Mr. Omar Mohsin Al-Amoudi, the Minister of Transport with Mr. Omar Mohd. Abdo Thabet inspecting NISSAN ARMADA.

displayed in rocky and rural parking area with the usual items seen thrown around in a village. The double meaning message "TAKE ME WHERE YOU LIKE" for the Pathfinder brought a smile on everyone's face.



Tehama also focused the front reception area with the display of ARMADA, the largest vehicle available from Nissan range and their banners ROOM FOR EVERYONE captured everyone's attention.

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Sanaa, 23.07.2005

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Who will fight cancer?

BY HASSN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen undergoes high rate of cancer infection. The statistics refer that annually 5000 cancer patients travel aboard, regardless of those who aren't able to pay the cost of medicine, one dose costs about 20,000 YR. The statistics expose that there are 20,000 cancer cases in Yemen.

Although these dangerous signs, there are no scientific studies to find out the reason behind such cases. Dr. Nadeem Mohammed Saeed said that there are many factors that lead to cancer infections. In Yemen the most current cancers are "mouth cancer" "pharynx cancer". This is most likely because of Khat "AlShama", the excessive use of herbicides besides the chemical materials in victuals, and the wastes of factories and industrial establishments.

Petroleum companies cause cancer

A father of a patient called Ahmed Naji from Marab said "there are 70 cancer patients in my village, my son is one of them. When I went to the

Cancer Center in Cairo, doctors confirmed to us that the reason behind my son's disease is the pollution in the region where we live. The pollution is coming from the petroleum companies that work their. Therefore the doctors from the Medical Center wrote a report to the petroleum ministry in Yemen and mentioned that companies must follow safe measures to protect the environment and life of people.

Cancer center

A Cancer Center was established in 1996. It was a small room. The medical equipments that cost millions of dollars were stored to the extent that some of the equipments were damaged. In 1998 the National Committee of Atomic Energy NCAE group of doctors and specialists tried to get international approval of radioactive therapy. Dr. Ali Al-Ashwal was one of the doctors who accompanied us in the center to explain the functions of each equipment.

Dr. Ali said that the construction of the center was established by the design of NCAE to fit the radiation use.

Night and day working

Many doctors, such as Dr. Nadeem and Dr. Ali insisted that the center still

need a lot of supplies. Although the center capacity is narrow and small and can not receive all the patients that come from different governorates, it is working from 8 a.m until 12 a.m, receiving 80 patients daily. 49 patients receive chemical treatment daily, whereas the center have 46 beds for men and women. Many patients are sleeping on the floor waiting for their turns.

There is a charitable firm that does huge efforts to supply cancer centers. It provides medications and buying expensive equipments. However I am afraid that the charge of this charity will find itself alone, since the retreating of local and official support. Al-Haj Abdullwasa Hail, chairman of board of trustees of the charity said "the charity was declared in 2003, October, 19th. It began its human mission by establishing an abode of the charity, opening accounts in many local banks to receive the donations and contributions. The charity is cooperating with the state to provide the equipments, requirements and medicines to the centers. The charity spent more than 120 million YR."

Mr. Ali Al-khawlani secretary general of the charity said that besides the donation, the charity does many educational activities to arise the awareness of



The cancer center capacity is small, and cannot receive all the patients that come from different governorates.

this disease and how to discover it in its first stages. "We have to realize that the patients of cancer needs the charity more than others."

Although these charitable efforts,

many patients' life are still at risk. While there is a confirmation that 60% of them can be cured. The suffering which begins with sending the medical tests abroad to check them and ending

with the lack of medical care because there is no enough doses or medication. In this situation the patient and his or her family keep on counting the days and the months to pass away.

Health practitioners at risk

BY AMAL MOHAMMED AL-ARIQI
AmelHariqi@yahoo.com

"Many times I felt that I was neglected" said Dr. Sameera, who discovered that she has infected of HIC though of her insist on following the medical protective measures that prevent infection transmission. She is working as a specialist in woman and birth section in governmental hospital.

"When I discovered that I'm sick I

went to the ministry of health with the report that mentioned that I got the virus during my working, trying to get my right of getting medicine. The response was from a principal in the ministry "drink honey". I realized that time that was no benefit so I sold my properties and my husband's possessions to get the medicine which consists of many injections are taken irregularly. The cost of each injection is 45,000 YR. "she said sadly.

Dr. Huda, a dentist said "I live constant horror state. Although I wear protective gloves, I come home every day to find my hand full of scratches.

I feel scared of getting infected disease. However I try to forget these fears to keep on working"

Rabab a nurse, referred to bitter reality when she said "there are many infected nurses. However that can not discovered easily whether because of the delay of the appearance of the symptoms or the attempts of the nurse to hide her infection fearing administrative procedures. The absence of periodical medical tests for the cadre is the reason of this neglect"

These are examples of the medical risks that face the worker in medical departments. According to 2004 statistics 16357 persons have been reported to be infected out of which 2393 are accounters and 8787 nurses, woman's share of these number reaching 51 percent.

Medical risks and contiguous diseases threaten women and men in medical sector all the same, however according to Dr. Yusra Murit of the Family Care Association woman's situation differs from men because she is a mother, housewife and health practitioner, this means so many lives depend on her and hence she must be careful, especially in the presence of infectious diseases like hepatitis, typhoid which may be transmitted through using towels and sharing the same house appliances.

Abandoned health practitioners

The measures taken when discovering an infection are that the infected doctors are prevented to dealing with patients and are given executive tasks to do instead of practicing medicine. Usually their salary does not change, according to Dr. Yusra. She added "the wages that medical cadre get are not enough to cover living expenses. I, for example, have been working for 19 years and my salary is supposed to be 22,000 YR but I get 19,000 YR less than 100\$. The irony of this is that the deducted amount is for "medical insurance. Where is this insurance they are talking about?"

There are no available studies that indicate the number of infected workers among the Yemeni medical cadre. However, international studies show that among the 35 million health workers worldwide about 3 million receive percutaneous exposures to blood borne pathogens each year, two million of those to HBV, 0.9 million to HCV and 170,000 to HIV. These injuries may result in 15,000 HCV, 70,000 HBV and 500 HIV infections.

"Yemen's status is different" said Dr. Yusra Murit "because there is no medical insurance for the citizens or the workers in medical sector"

Dr. Awath Hunish -deputy manger

of work health hazards department of the ministry of labor confirmed on Dr. Yusra's argument confessing that the department does not have any protection and treatment measures for the medical staff although they are

subjected to immense risk of infection. He added that some medical centers neglect the periodical medical tests in addition to the lack of training all of which that increase the possibilities of these infections.

Appeal

Ms Fatima Mohammed Yahya is suffering of uterus cancer and heart disease. She went to KSA to recover but because of the expensive medication she couldn't finish the treatment. Her son Jaber Ali Ahmed is handicapped and poor and cant cover the expenses of her treatment so he appeals all the charitable good people to help him. Please call on 73584865 - or 73337601



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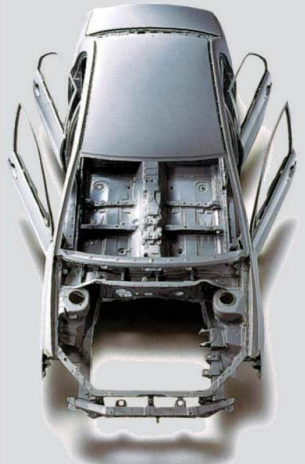

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Rename Noqum Mount: intellectuals

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dr. Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh, the President's Cultural Advisor, has suggested changing the name of Noqum Mountain into Ghayman Mountain.

Dr. Al-Maqaleh and Abdul-Karim al-Khamisi said the name does not "fit one of the most important Yemeni mountains." They said the Mountain's name should not continue to be associated with "niqmah", the Arabic word for "wrath".

"There is some sort of consensus in the literary and intellectual community that the name 'Noqum' does not suit as proud a mountain as this, which stands on the eastern side of Sana'a, even if the name was 30 million years old," added Dr. Al-Maqaleh, who also runs the



Yemeni Center for Research and Studies. "Sana'a itself, in which many generations have lived, has had its name changed four times: Sam City, Azal, Dhamar, San'an." Historians confirm that old Ethiopians who occupied Yemen and built a Kaaba in Sana'a, gave the Mountain its name which meant "mountain" in their language. An historian said that, on their way to invade the real Kaaba, they passed by this mountain and cried "noqum," meaning "mountain".

Dr. Al-Maqaleh stated that renaming the mountain is in the public interest: "Many things in our country need to be reconsidered, to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation." On the other hand, there have recently been calls for making nearby mountains and heights available for picnics and walking for tourists instead of limiting them to military camps around which signs read "Don't approach. Military area."

It is interesting to note that the plans drawn up for Sana'a tower planned to situate it at the bottom of one of the mountains. However, the concerned sides are still trying to negotiate which mountain is to be relinquished by military commanders at the project's expense. Many of the key heights around the city are being distributed to military commanders to build their palaces while the city's residents don't find enough green spots and open areas for picnicking and recreation. The resulting lack of recreational areas means some Sana'a residents are being forced out to valleys far away from the city to escape noise and find fresh air.

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