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Inside:

- 7** How American learners of Arabic changed after 9/11
- 10** Ikebana: Japanese flower arranging
- 12** Yemen's most common cancers are treatable, doctors say

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Do you think that the various election monitoring bodies will be given a chance to actually monitor the electoral process?
 Only international monitors (22%)
 I don't know (12%)
 Yes (8%)
 No (58%)

This edition's question:
 Do you think that the kidnapping tribesmen are taking advantage of the elections fever to get away with their demands?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

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

"We came for change," Bin Shamlan said

By: Glyn Goffin in Taiz & Nashwan Dammaj in Ibb

TAIZ, Sept. 10 — With the election campaign heating up, Taiz gets to see the two leading candidates back-to-back.

Making his impression on Taiz on Sunday was Faisal Bin Shamlan with a ten minute speech in the heart of the city, but his election promises won't have much time to settle in people's minds before President Ali Abdullah Saleh counters the JMP candidate's speech on Monday.

The JMP rally was an exercise in democracy with roughly 15,000 supporters braving the sun and crowds to hear Bin Shamlan openly attack the president with his message of wishing to clear out corruption.

"It's time for a change in the country



Despite heavy security and scrutiny, hundreds of men and women gathered in support of Bin Shamlan in both Taiz and Ibb.

and the corruption is blocking the country from moving forward," said Bin Shamlan, before his throngs of supporters.

The JMP candidate brought on a chorus of cheers as he chanted for

more schools, more hospitals and more roads.

Many in the crowd came to listen to the JMP candidate out of interest and to see democracy in action.

Continued on page 2

"More investment on Socotra," Saleh declared

By: Yemen Times Staff & Agencies

SOCOTRA, Sept. 10 — "I call for more investment on Socotra Island while maintaining the island's environment," General People's Congress presidential candidate Ali Abdullah Saleh declared Sunday at a Socotra rally.

"The Kuwaiti government will fund a community college on the island," he announced, adding that a sports stadium is due to be established this next year, in addition to a modern electricity network covering various parts of the island.

He concluded, "Socotra is nice and calm. Like Hadramout, Socotra is char-

acterized by calmness, security, stability and obedience to law and order."

In Shabwa, Saturday

In his campaign in Shabwa, which was held on Saturday, President Saleh directed security officials to allow the audience to come closer to where he was addressing them on Saturday. Saleh twice moved closer to the audience prior to speaking, at which crowds chanted enthusiastically for him.

Additionally, NewsYemen reported, "When an audience member fell, President Saleh ordered his private doctor to give him first aid."

Continued on page 2



President Saleh addressing the crowds in Socotra (left), while in Shabwa local people were allowed to come closer (right).

GPC official killed in Amran

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri

AMRAN, Sept. 10 — Financial Manager of the General People Congress (GPC) branch in Amran was shot dead in the main street of the city on Sunday. Eyewitnesses told Yemen Times that Mujahed Fatah was killed before the noontime in front of the Cooperative Agricultural Credit Bank.

Local sources said that Fatah was murdered by Sheikh Nabil Hubeish, from Bani Sureim Tribe, after a dispute over sums of money belonging to GPC Branch in Bani Sureim and dedicated to the elections campaign. Until the time of writing this report, Sheikh Hubeish is still free and that other Sheikhs from Bani Sureim are surrounding the governorate's security office.

Gas station burns in Sana'a

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Sept. 9 — The Mismar gas station at the Siteen-Hadda Street intersection burned Saturday evening, destroying many parts of the station.

Eyewitnesses said the fire began aboard an oil tanker that was supplying



Asharq showroom at Siteen-Hadda Street intersection was burned completely.

oil to the station. Fire ignited when a taxi driver started his car somewhere near the tanker, thus sparking the incident.

The driver was able to get the tanker away from the station, but close to a building containing a wedding hall and a furniture shop, most of whose belongings the fire destroyed. Firefighters arrived half an hour later after fire destroyed most of the tanker as well as the station. Initial losses involving the gas station, oil tanker, wedding hall and furniture shop are estimated at YR 30 million.

There were no injuries, except minor ones for two gas station employees who



The oil tanker burned for two hours from 11.15PM until 1.13AM.

tried to extinguish the fire manually.

The Yemen Times requested a meeting with the station owner, but his assistant said he's tired and unable to meet with anyone presently.

French tourists kidnapped

By: Yemen Times & Agencies

SANA'A, Sept. 10 — Armed Yemeni tribesmen kidnapped four French tourists in the east of the country on Sunday to demand the release of their relatives from jail, said local tribal Yemeni sources.

According to Denis Douvneau, the deputy chief of mission at the French Embassy who addressed the media, the tourists were captured as they were heading to the southern port city of Aden.

The French envoy added that they received a phone call from one of the hostages "he told us they were treated well and were healthy, physically and mentally."

Continued on page 2

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Home Coalition financially supports women candidates

SANA'A, Sept. 9 — The Home Coalition to support women candidates in local elections organized a festival last Thursday to provide financial support to more than 89 women candidates in governorates and districts across the republic.

According to one of the prominent leaders of the Home Coalition, Raufah Hassan, each female candidate was granted YR 100,000. "This sum was provided to every independent woman candidate as part of a collective act after women felt like they were alone and the parties withdrawn their support of them," she noted.

Hassan further expressed sorrow at lack of party support and called upon all women to back their fellow candidates. She also hinted that the coalition won't confine itself to financial support, but also will provide necessary media support to enable women candidates to compete in the elections.

For her part, the coalition's Wameedh Shaker thanked all those who supported women candidates and further exalted independent women candidates' struggle amid difficult circumstances they face.



Dr. Roufa Hassan hands a check to one of the independent female candidates

The highest number of independent women candidates was registered in Hajjah with 17, followed by Taiz and Dhamar with 15 candidates each. Hodeidah has nine female candidates, Hadramout, Sana'a governorate and Sa'ada have five, Marib and Ibb have four, the capital, Lahj, Abyan and Al-Mahwit have three and Aden, Shabwa, Al-Jawf and Amran have two.

The coalition has formed committees to support independent women candidates as well as opened a bank

account to collect donations to assist them in the upcoming elections.

The group further indicated that it will financially support only independent women candidates, while supporting all other women candidates in other ways, regardless of their partisan affiliation.

Established May 26, 2005, the Home Coalition aims to increase women's elections participation, particularly in local council elections. Its members include a number of leading female personalities.

Minerals and oil future in Yemen

MUKALLA, Sept. 9 — There is a thirst for knowledge about the oil industry, according to Khalid Bahah, Minister of Oil and Minerals.

As part of the move to open the Ministry of Oil and Minerals to society and media, held a symposium themed the "Present and Future of Oil and Minerals in Yemen" on Sep. 7, at Balfaqih Cultural Center.

Bahah says his ministry is determinate to open its doors and give information with full transparency joking that they have no nuclear weapons to hide.

"The aim of this symposium is the absolute transparency between the ministry and society. The ministry is open to all through our symposiums, leaflets as well as the ministry's web site. Any one can know the amount of production, exploration process and the way by which oil is marketed, we have nothing to hide," noted Bahah.

Bahah added that the oil wealth represents nearly three-quarters of national resources thus the ministry also faces great challenges.

"Common people focus always on the Ministry of Oil and we say frankly that



At the opening ceremony of the symposium.

oil is in honest hands and will remain so," affirmed Bahah.

He also revealed that there are 14 oil sectors under promotion and further the ministry has new standards to be applied to new companies wishing to explore oil in Yemen.

"Twenty years ago, we were searching for companies and we were signing with any conditions these companies put, as we were compelled to convince others to come to Yemen under complex economic circumstances," said

Bahah. "Last month, we put new standards excluding small companies or those whose environmental record is not clean."

In spite of the strict conditions, the requests for exploiting the available sectors were imaginative and this can be attributed to the new investment atmosphere in Yemen, according to Bahah.

The new year will see a focus on the environment, Yemenization and maritime sectors, Bahah assured.

Hundreds of soldiers demonstrate seeking reinstatement

SANA'A, Sept. 9 — More than 800 soldiers demonstrated Saturday in Hodeidah, seeking reinstatement to their military units according to a general amnesty resolution following the 1994 Civil War.

Raising banners requesting swift reinstatement to their military units, the demonstrators were encircled by military cars.

Media sources reported that the soldiers came from the south after being referred to Hodeidah. They've been staying at the Central Security camp more than 45 days, hoping the arrival of concerned committees would contain the situation; however, the committees' arrival has been suspended.

According to the same sources, the soldiers claim they face difficult living

circumstances and that some are afflicted by skin diseases due to lack of health care.

They further allege that Central Security leadership treats them badly and threatens to dismiss anyone objecting to the camp's poor conditions. Regardless, the soldiers declare that they'll continue their demonstration until the presidential resolution is applied.

UNHCR warns about deadly human smuggling from Somalia to Yemen

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Sept. 10 — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) issued a warning Friday about what it called the "deadly business" of human smuggling across the Gulf of Aden from Somalia to Yemen. The warning follows the drowning deaths of four illegal migrants during the "first wave" of refugees attempting the crossing so far this season.

According to the UNHCR web site, four overcrowded fishing boats carrying 363 people between them have reached Yemen in less than a week, the UNHCR reported Thursday. Survivors from one of the boats stated that four other passengers died when the crew forced them overboard while still far from shore.

The boat that arrived in Yemen last Saturday had 97 survivors aboard, 54 of them Somalis and the rest from Ethiopia.

"Survivors said the crew beat passengers. They also forced them out of the boat last Saturday while still in deep water, causing the deaths of four. Only

two bodies were recovered and they were buried, nameless, at the coast," said Adel Jasmin, representative of the U.N. refugee agency in Yemen.

Two days later, a second boat with 87 passengers — 85 Somalis and two Ethiopians — arrived in Yemen. Two more boats arrived Tuesday carrying 179 people: 111 Ethiopians and the rest Somalis. As is often the case, survivors said the boats carried no food or water.

UNHCR officials voiced fear that a boat carrying approximately 100 people likely will arrive daily in Yemen during the September to April sailing season, thus jeopardizing the lives of countless individuals. During the three previous seasons, hundreds of Africans died on the crossing.

"Though the sea is still rough, the sailing season has begun. Hundreds of people, looking for refuge or better economic conditions, are believed to be lost at sea every year when they're exploited by smuggling rings," Jasmin said.

"Most of those interviewed by UNHCR said they were leaving Somalia because of the continuous state of insecurity, drought and economic

hardship," he added.

Smugglers operate from Bossaso, the chief commercial port of Puntland, a self-declared autonomous area in northeast Somalia that's one of the world's busiest smuggling hubs. UNHCR has worked with Puntland authorities to inform people about the dangers of using smugglers to cross the Gulf of Aden. Last January, the U.N. refugee agency produced a video and radio program to raise awareness about the risks of such crossings.

Additionally, the UNHCR has called for international pressure on local authorities in Puntland to crack down on the hazardous traffic. But at the same time, it has called on donors to support efforts by the international community to improve protection and assistance to internally displaced people in Puntland, where very difficult living conditions encourage desperate measures like using smugglers to reach Yemen.

Yemen is one of few countries in the region that signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and it has been generous in receiving refugees. There are currently more than 88,000 registered refugees in Yemen, of which 84,000 are Somalis.

Developing media education in Yemen

SANA'A, Sept. 10 — The outcomes of Sana'a and Aden Universities' media faculty aren't up to professional standards. This is what most participants at yesterday's discussion at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) agreed upon.

The discussion was triggered by a European team's visit to Yemen headed by Professor John Tulloch, head of the Lincoln School of Journalism in the UK. Nasr Taha Mustafa, YJS chairman and director of Saba News Agency welcomed the initiative, sponsored by the Joint Yemeni Media Development Program, and agreed that there's a problem with current media curricula and education methods at Sana'a and Aden universities.

"We know the university products aren't good enough from firsthand experience. For example, we recently advertised for a vacancy at the agency, for which we received 30 applications from media college graduates. Only five of those passed the verbal and written test, some barely exceeding the passing mark."

Taha said it could be the curricula or maybe it's the professional practice because most Yemeni newspapers depend on politicized opinion and commentary articles where not much investigative reporting is done.

YJS deputy chairman Sa'eed Thabet agreed with this point, adding that Yemeni journalists launch into a journalism career without the least preparation, such as knowing the legal and professional aspects of their job. He added that Yemeni media also lacks sufficient professionals in newspaper design and layout.

"It's not just about reporting. We have a shortage in technical training in media management as well. Moreover, many of



Journalists discussing media education with the European team at the Syndicate.

those working in the media haven't had adequate refreshment courses, so their knowledge becomes stale. For example, I've had only one real refreshment course since 1991," Thabet noted.

Tulloch explained that his team's purpose in visiting Yemen and meeting with Yemeni journalists is to get a feel for what they can do to improve the curricula at Sana'a and Aden Universities. "This process might take four to five years because we need to have the right staff with the right resources and we also want Yemen to take ownership of this project," he said.

During the discussion, several participating journalists talked about their personal backgrounds and how they became journalists. Many weren't media college graduates, but even those who were explained that they hadn't learned much there anyway.

Yemeni journalist Abdulalim Baggash is a graduate of Sana'a University's Media College. He commented on the situation at the college, saying, "There aren't sufficient resources. We don't

even have any good books to use as references. At times, we thought we were just wasting our time. I wouldn't be exaggerating if I said we really didn't respect our teachers because we felt they didn't know much to begin with."

The European team, including Peter Karstel from Zwole University in the Netherlands and Henrik Joergensen from the Danish School of Journalism, acknowledged these problems and mentioned that there's usually a debate between working journalists and university professors worldwide.

"Every culture and society has to have their own ideology and model for what journalism is for. There are many other issues that we may agree or disagree upon, but we all agree that a journalist should have an inquisitive mind and accurately report facts," said Tulloch.

The delegation currently is visiting Aden University's media faculty and will return to Sana'a before reporting to the Joint Yemeni Media Development Program about their visit and ways to move ahead with the project.

Continued from page 1

"We came for change," Bin Shamlan said

"I came to support my freedom, I came to support democracy in Yemen and not to support the candidate, but just support myself and my freedom," said Tiaz pharmacist Dharim Nahgabi. "Democracy in Yemen is working in spite of the activities by the government, but the desire of the population has the right to choose our own candidate."

For those who attending the rally the ideals of democracy were clearly evident, but not everyone was able to contribute.

According to some reports roads surrounding Taiz were closed and many people were not allowed to enter the city and some were denied entrance into the city center.

There were reports of people being targeted for having Bin Shamlan posters on their cars.

For Jamal Mohammed Abdul he knew he needed to get to the rally and nothing would stop him.

"The president's party forced people to come to this rally because of starvation," said the Taiz resident. "We need change to get rid of the cancer in this country."

It's the idea of change that has Yemeni's talking in Taiz, but it's a new idea for a country with the same leadership for the past 28 years.

With end of the Bin Shamlan rally many look forward to seeing what Saleh can deliver under his "New Yemen, Better Future" campaign slogan.

Azid Ahmad Mohammed walked away from the Bin Shamlan rally excited about Yemen's future.

"I think this election will bring change

and we will improve our country in the near future and it will happen with either leader," said Mohammed, saying that he planned to attend both the Bin Shamlan and Saleh rallies before making up his voting mind.

Bin Shamlan in Ibb

In Ibb, addressing tens of thousands of supporters from numerous districts coming to support peaceful change, Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) presidential candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan declared at a Saturday rally in Ibb, "We came for change!"

I hope you will assess the current situation. You have many qualified individuals in this governorate who can't find work, which forces them to migrate to other countries."

He continued, "What has the regime done for us? What has the regime done for millions of Yemeni expatriates scattered in numerous countries worldwide?"

Bin Shamlan indicated that YR 54 billion of the state's 2005 general budget was allocated for projects in various governorates, but was spent on projects other than those planned. Moreover, only YR 31 billion of the allocation was spent on substitute projects."

Supporters jointly confirmed that Sept. 20 marks a turning point for change and improving Yemeni citizens' living standards.

Dr. Mansour Al-Zindani spoke on behalf of the JMP, declaring, "We want a new Yemen free from poverty, starvation, corruption and fraud."

Noting that Ibb is the original home of

revolution and as the Yemeni Revolution also broke out in September, Al-Zindani ascertained that a revolution against corruption and wasting of public wealth will erupt this month.

Commenting on the situation of women, Bushra Al-Shaddadi, Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Secretary and head of its Women's Sector, remarked that Yemeni women nationwide continue experiencing real problems and challenges.

"Despite the establishment of many federations like the Yemeni Women's Union to address women's issues, the ruling party's policies have emptied such federations of democracy and women's representation," she remarked, "Yemenis — both men and women — should come together to back change and eradicate corruption."

Clashes and confrontations erupted between JMP and ruling party supporters outside Ibb's Al-Kibsi Stadium where Bin Shamlan's rally was being held, with both sides exchanging insults and tearing candidates' pictures. Witnesses said such behavior is immoral and doesn't reflect the conduct of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC).

According to eyewitnesses, security forces at checkpoints along roads leading into Ibb city searched citizens coming from numerous districts to support Bin Shamlan in an unprecedented way, aiming to heap scorn upon them and hold them up. Gunshots erupted at a checkpoint near Kihza area and both Bin Shamlan's pictures and the JMP's election symbols were torn.

"More investment on Socotra," Saleh declared

The president asserted that Yemeni Socialist Party and Islah Party leaders and members will vote for "moderation against extremism and for development along with all other Yemenis."

"They will refuse to join neither the left nor the right," he added, hinting at Islah Chairman Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar's support.

Saleh further told citizens in the oil-rich governorate that 90 percent of oil firm jobs will be 'Yemenized.'

Fathi Al-Azab campaigns at Sa'ada rally

Independent candidate Fathi Al-Azab continues to garner increased interest in Sa'ada on Saturday, where area residents crowded the Cultural Center and surrounding hall to attend his election rally.

The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) had planned to conduct Al-Azab's rally at Al-Sa'eed Complex, but when he wasn't allowed to enter, it moved to the Cultural Center.

French tourists kidnapped

Elderly tribesmen began mediation efforts with the kidnappers, who were demanding the release of at least four fellow tribesmen jailed by the government for more than six months.

The sources said that the kidnappers are related to al-Abdullah, the same tribe which abducted and then released five German tourists last year.

Other news referred that the kidnapping happened in Shabwa province.

Hussien Ashaal, a police officer in Shabwa province, where the tourists were snatched said that the Four tourists were kidnapped near Kasr Osiran and "we were informed they were French," told Yemeni media. Kasr Osiran is a historic site popular with tourists.

Confirming they were French, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Paris said: "Our ambassador there is in

touch with Yemeni authorities at the highest level and the Yemeni authorities said they are fairly confident that a solution will be found in the next hours."

Scores of tourists and foreigners working in Yemen have been kidnapped over the past decade by tribesmen demanding better schools, roads and services, or the release of prisoners. Most hostages have been released unharmed.

Iran nuclear talks 'constructive'

Ali Larijani, Iran's nuclear negotiator and Javier Solana, the EU foreign policy chief, have had "constructive" talks and will resume them on Sunday, both sides have said.

The talks between Solana and Ali Larijani have widely been seen as possibly being the last chance to avert UN Security Council moves to impose sanctions against Tehran over its atomic programme.

Larijani said: "We have had good and constructive talks and we have made some progress in some areas."

Cristina Gallach, Solana's spokeswoman, said: "The talks were constructive and positive and will resume on Sunday morning."

The talks came after two days of uncertainty reflecting doubts over whether they would achieve anything.

The Solana-Larijani meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday but postponed at the last minute.

Uranium enrichment

The reluctance of both sides to commit to the talks betrayed a war of nerves that has intensified since Iran ignored a council deadline of August 31 to stop enriching uranium, a process that could yield atomic bombs.



Negotiations will continue on Sunday.

Neither side provided details about what had been discussed at the meeting.

Before the talks, Solana had wanted Larijani to clarify Iran's 21-page reply to an offer of trade and other incentives to halt its nuclear fuel programme.

Specifically, Solana was expected to home in on hints in the response that Tehran could curb the programme if engaged in negotiations to

implement the benefits on offer.

Larijani meanwhile was expected to again rule out the precondition that enrichment be suspended indefinitely.

A diplomat from one of three EU states, France, Britain and Germany, in the sextet of powers who made the offers said: "We don't think this meeting will provide a basis for negotiations."

Diplomatic sanctions

Regardless of the Vienna talks, Nicholas Burns, the US undersecretary of state, said after a meeting of the six in Berlin on Friday that Washington expected the council to begin deliberations next week on a draft sanctions resolution.

But key EU allies as well as Russia and China voiced growing doubt about the speed with which Washington wanted to pursue financial and diplomatic sanctions against Tehran, its arch-foe but also the world's fourth-biggest oil exporter.

To various degrees, they prefer further talks to explore a compromise that would save face on both sides.

Wen Jiabao, the Chinese premier, speaking after a China-EU summit in Helsinki on Saturday, urged the international community to exercise caution over sanctions and reiterated his government's call for Iran to "take seriously" concerns over the programme.

He said: "Sanctions or pressure will not necessarily bring about the goal of solving the Iran nuclear issue."

"Our objective is to promote an ultimate peaceful resolution of the Iran nuclear issue."

Source: Al-Jazeera

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Putin tells experts he will step down in 2008

By: Guy Faulconbridge

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday vowed to step down in 2008 and said he would recommend his successor fight poverty and

ensure strong economic growth, said experts who attended a lunch with the president.

Putin spoke for nearly four hours to a group of about 50 foreign experts over lunch at his Novo-Ogaryovo residency outside

Moscow, according to people who attended the meeting.

"The most interesting point was that he reiterated that he does not plan to run again for office in 2008 as he believes he has a moral duty not to break the constitution," said

Angela Stent, director of the center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies at Georgetown University in Washington.

A Kremlin spokesman confirmed the meeting but said he could not immediately give comments.

Putin, 53, declined to give any details about who could succeed him in 2008, when he must step down after two four-year terms in office. Because the Kremlin has so much power, the issue of his successor is the hottest political topic in Russia.

During the lunch of artichoke soup, octopus carpaccio and sea bass, Putin did not say what he would do after he stepped down but at one point even expressed weariness with politics and said he had not been successful in rooting out corruption.

"He spoke about things he would recommend his successor do," said Nikolai

Zlobin, director of the Russian and Eurasian project at the World Security Institute in Washington.

The recommendations would include the struggle with poverty, the creation of a real multi-party system, regional reforms, the diversification of the economy and high levels of growth, said Zlobin, who sat next to Putin at the lunch.

Answering dozens of questions, Putin ranged across foreign and domestic policy, speaking out against sanctions on Iran, implicitly

opposing independence for Kosovo and heaping praise on Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko.

He said it was his job to improve relations with the United States, which have cooled because of differences over gas supplies to Europe, accession to the World Trade Organization and competition for allies among ex-Soviet nations.

"My impression was that he was doing his best to improve relations with his international counterparts," said Marshall Goldman, professor of

economics at Wellesley College, Massachusetts.

"He tried very hard to make positive comments about President (George W.) Bush and he did not have to make such positive comments."

But he criticized Bush's "bad advisors" and said the European Union "was very difficult to deal with", although the Kremlin wanted a closer partnership with it, people at the meeting said. He also praised Russia's relationship with China.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin prepares to depart on an airplane after meeting Morocco's King Mohammed VI at the King's palace in Casablanca September 7, 2006. Putin on Saturday vowed to step down in 2008 and said he would recommend his successor fight poverty and ensure strong economic growth, said experts who attended a lunch with the president.

REUTERS

Dozens dead in Sri Lanka army advance

The Sri Lankan army's advance across Tamil Tiger frontlines has left 28 soldiers and dozens of Tamil fighters dead, according to a military spokesman.

Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe, a Sri Lankan army spokesman, said on Sunday "We have suffered 28 killed and 119 injured. Troops are consolidating this morning."

Samarasinghe said around 130 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighter may have been killed, but the figure was unconfirmed.

The army blames the LTTE for starting the latest round of fighting by shelling their frontline positions in the Muhamalai area of the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The military responded with artillery and air strikes before advancing around 600 metres across the heavily-mined frontline on Friday to capture Tiger bunkers.

"It's not about capturing land, it's

only the neutralising of their frontline," Samarasinghe said.

'Declaration of war'

The army captured a Tiger stronghold on Monday near the strategic Trincomalee harbour in the northeast of the island after days of artillery battles.

On Friday senior Tiger leader S. Puleedevan told Reuters the seizure of Sampur, the first major capture of territory by either side since the ceasefire was signed, was "tantamount to a declaration of war".

The Tigers' political chief, S.P. Thamilselvan, said it had brought an end to the ceasefire agreement.

But the government says it was forced to take Sampur because the insurgents had been using it to shell a naval base in Trincomalee and disrupt a maritime supply route to the besieged, army-held Jaffna peninsula.



Hundreds have been killed in fighting since July.

Hundreds of civilians, troops and Tiger fighters have been killed since Sri Lanka's two-decade civil war erupted in late July, and more than 200,000 people have fled to refugee camps across the island's rural northeast.

Source: Al-Jazeera

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Yemen Times ELECTIONS Update

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

Feverish race

By: Sheima Mahmoud

Yemen's 9 million voters have less than 10 days until they vote in these competitive presidential elections. Observers unanimously agree the coming polls will leave behind a fingerprint in Yemeni life at the democratic political level.

After the Parliament and the Al-Shura Council approved five candidates on July 24, voters were divided into supporters for independent contenders, Ahmad Al-Majidi and Fathi Al-Azab and those who support General People Congress and Joint Meeting Parties and National Opposition Assembly candidates: Ali Abdullah Saleh and Faisal Bin Shamlan, Yasin Abdu Sa'eed.

As usual, voters are hesitant for whom to vote. The majority of them believe independent candidates don't form an alliances.

Media seem to align the candidates together counting Sa'eed and Al-Majidi as GPC and Al-Azab as JMP. This eliminates those three and makes the electoral process a competition between Saleh and Bin Shamlan.

Competition for presidential power is more than a competition for votes and the highest political office. Through the following survey, we found that there is strong competition for gaining votes, and each party works hard for attracting the opponent's voters in order to depict a picture in the minds of those supporting the other party and confuse them.

Former President of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, Abdulbari Taher, commented that the opposition took a commendable step by naming a single candidate to compete with Saleh. By all means, this step broke the hurdle for real competition, but the competition is still not equal.

Taher confirmed the opposition must not feel Bin Shamlan's nomination is enough; it has to insist on purifying voter registers from violations and influence by media, army, police and public officials. Taher believes Yemen has taken a great step toward the future because the race for the country's highest political post, even for the first time in the Yemeni history, opens a new window to a better future.

"Elections, although 100 percent free



During election campaigns, political parties use different means to promote their candidates. YT PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN

and fair, don't mean democracy, but competition for the highest post is of crucial importance and provides an indicator of the possibility of competition in different areas, including political opposition parties, unions and administrative units," said the YJS expert.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Fakih, Professor of Political Sciences at Sana'a University, said: "Irrespective of the vote result, the coming two months are due to see redesigning of the political map. Opposition victory is not the issue of these elections. What does matter is that opposition proves that it has a large number of supporters, as well as to pressure the ruling party to admit it is a partner in the political work, particularly as the ruler himself is not convinced that opposition and citizens are partners."

Al-Fakih feared vote-fraud will occur or the ruling party may refuse to submit to the vote results. Consequently, the country will enter a civil war. He called nations to pay attention to risks and abide by the national principles particularly after tribesmen besieged a voting center after the killing of a center manager.

"The opposition's competition to threaten the ruler is more valuable than the principle of winning and losing," he noted.

The days to come will have more election battles. Abdulmalik Al-Fuhaidi, a journalist, is of the opinion it is not possible to talk about harmony between Bin Shamlan supporters. This expression exceeds the limit of facts and is away from reality. He justified his viewpoint by saying: "Harmony comes from analogy or at least similarity in ideological ideas and viewpoints. JMP regulations lack the requirements and standards of harmony. It is impossible for the Islamic extremist ideology to comply with the Marxist thought."

Al-Fuhaidi says the JMP devoted its media to popularizing other leaders without any hint about Bin Shamlan who suddenly appeared to voters and opposition parties.

"Why did these parties not nominate Mohamed Al-Yadoumi, Mohamed Qahtan, Yasin Sa'eed Nu'man or Sultan Al-Atwani whose photos and statements topped pages of newspapers dur-

ing this year and the year before?" he inquired.

Al-Fuhaidi added that forcing all those who belong to JMP to vote for Bin Shamlan is not possible, as there are independent candidates who belong to these parties, particularly Al-Azab, who may gain more Islah Party votes than Bin Shamlan.

Mohamed Al-Ghubari, a journalist, said the JMP selected the best candidate to run for president saying Faisal Bin Shamlan can deal with the two primary problems: the regional claims and the spread of corruption.

"Bin Shamlan confirms this time the presidential elections are not a play, of which the hero is the ruling party alone. As it is clear, the opposition candidate who adopted the comprehensive political reform project, announced by JMP, will be one of the presidential equation poles," the journalist added.

He indicated there are two primary forces to compete for voter's will and trust. The first force calls for reform and wants to help Yemen avoid the risk of collapse and division while the other adheres to its policy that is responsible for the bad political, economic and

social situations. Therefore, international reports warn these situations will drive the country to catastrophe.

Hana Al-Salahi said: "Faisal Bin Shamlan is a good man and I respect him, but I will vote for Ali Abdullah Saleh since he is wiser to rule the country in the meantime."

Commenting on the capacity of candidates, Lawyer Mohamed Naji Allaw said: "the two parties of the battle are not equal. Therefore, the ruling party used all the state facilities for its electoral campaign, which was crowned last week at Al-Sab'een Square. As it is the habit of the party, as well as the Arab rulers, the GPC will use all these facilities in favor of its candidate, even at the expense of election laws.

Allaw expected Yemeni people, including government employees and security and military recruits to possibly surprise because they proved in the parliamentary polls they don't submit to pressure by the ruling party.

Many educated people comment on the Yemeni elections by saying they will be a replica of last year's Egyptian presidential polls as the closest rival to Mubarak won only half a million votes.

Su'ada Elayah, a journalist, says all parties, without any exception, are attending training courses in Egypt to benefit from the democratic experience in the biggest Arab country. "I expect the polls to be a replica of the Egyptian presidential elections with a little difference. There will be nothing new under the sun."

Aws Al-Eryani, an electronics company owner, believes voters will protest the poor situations in the country, regardless of what the coming ruler will do for the country. Supporting Bin Shamlan, JMP leaders and members want to oppose the ruling party and its regime.

Asking Maha Al-Absi, a government employee, about who is closer to winning. "Of Course, Ali Abdullah Saleh," she replied.

"How is it possible for a president, who have been ruling Yemen for 28 years, to relinquish power easily. No one can argue competition will be strong as the JMP has a strong candidate and a large number of supporters, but Saleh controls all the state's facilities, and because of this I doubt the integrity of the polls," Al-Absi said.

Flag	Country	Election	Date
	Austria	Presidential	January 15, 2010
	Belgium	Presidential	January 18, 2010
	Bulgaria	Second Round	January 22, 2010
	Cape Verde	Parliamentary	February 27, 2010
	Canada	Parliamentary	January 27, 2008
	Czech Republic	Parliamentary	January 24, 2008
	Denmark	Parliamentary	January 27, 2008
	Ecuador	Parliamentary	January 27, 2008
	Estonia	Parliamentary	January 27, 2008
	Finland	Parliamentary	January 27, 2008
	France	Parliamentary	February 5, 2008
	Germany	Parliamentary	February 5, 2008
	Ghana	Parliamentary	February 7, 2008
	Greece	Parliamentary	February 7, 2008
	Hungary	Parliamentary	February 7, 2008
	Iceland	Parliamentary	February 12, 2008
	India	Parliamentary	February 27, 2008
	Indonesia	Parliamentary	March 5, 2008
	Ireland	Parliamentary	March 12, 2008
	Israel	Parliamentary	March 12, 2008
	Italy	Parliamentary	March 12, 2008
	Japan	Parliamentary	March 16, 2008
	Kazakhstan	Parliamentary	March 16, 2008
	Kenya	Parliamentary	March 19, 2008
	Latvia	Parliamentary	March 19, 2008
	Lithuania	Parliamentary	March 19, 2008
	Madagascar	Parliamentary	March 26, 2008
	Malawi	Parliamentary	March 26, 2008
	Maldives	Parliamentary	March 26, 2008
	Mali	Parliamentary	March 26, 2008
	Mauritius	Parliamentary	March 26, 2008
	Mexico	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Moldova	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Mongolia	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Morocco	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Nepal	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Netherlands	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	New Zealand	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Norway	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Oman	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Pakistan	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Panama	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Paraguay	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Peru	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Philippines	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Poland	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Portugal	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Romania	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Russia	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Slovakia	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Slovenia	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	South Africa	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Spain	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Sweden	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Switzerland	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Taiwan	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Thailand	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Turkey	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Ukraine	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	United Kingdom	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	United States	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Uruguay	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Venezuela	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Vietnam	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008
	Yemen	Parliamentary	April 2, 2008

Contesting against Saleh is unislamic, says cleric

Yemeni cleric's stance saying it is religiously not permissible to compete with the president and democracy is unislamic, has triggered angry reactions in opposition circles.

"To compete with the ruler is an illegitimate act. This is a Mohammedan fatwa [edict]. It is not eastern or western democracy," the Salafi scholar Abu Al-Hassen Al-Maribi, said during President Ali Abdullah Saleh's election rally on Sunday in Marib, in the east of the country.

Al-Maribi, who runs a Salafi school in Marib, said the Islamic history did not witness any kind of competition with the ruler. He considers democracy unlawful or haram and illegitimate.

"All religious scholars are with the President Ali Abdullah Saleh," he said in his speech which was aired by the state-run TV within the time allocated for the ruling party's candidate,

President Saleh.

Such a fatwa sparked angry reactions among politicians and opposition leaders who considered it against the constitution and laws in force.

They called the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER) to ban such fatwas.

Zaid Al-Shami, chairman of electoral campaign of the opposition presidential candidate said, "This is an affront to the constitution which provides for democracy, the multi-party system and peaceful transfer of power. And releasing such fatwas means non-recognition of constitution, laws in effect and elections."

"This is a very dangerous indicator. We are astonished that the SCER did not stop broadcasting this propaganda speech. We do not know whether or not the SCER believes in this speech. If yes, what is the importance of SCER as long as the electoral competition is forbidden and illegitimate according to the fatwa," he added.

Dr Mohammad Al-Mutawakel, university professor said, "The GPC always criticises using religion for political purposes, but now the GPC itself uses religion for political purposes. The GPC and its candidate should have refused this fatwa."

The fatwa is violating the constitution and law, and SCER should stop such things, he added.

Mohammad Al-Sabri, from (Joint Meeting Parties of the opposition) JMPs said, "This is an obvious rejection of competition and it certainly will have bad consequences."

"The speech of the Salafi Shaikh goes beyond talking on behalf of scholars; he should not have spoken for the other scholars. This fatwa will create a lot of problems and it contains a lot of abuses to the religion and scholars," Al-Sabri added.

He demanded SCER to stop such practices and violations saying it damages democratic experience in Yemen.

"This man has been always issuing fatwas that election is haram, illegitimate, since we knew him, but no one believes him," said Abdu Al-Janadi, SCER spokesman.

Smooth power shift 'if Bin Shamlan wins'

A senior official of the ruling General People's Congress said his party would hand over the power smoothly if the opposition candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan won the election. But the official called the opposition to stop predicting elections results in advance.

"The GPC is ready to hand over the power if the JMPs candidate wins the elections, but the JMPs should stop misgiving the results of elections in advance," said Mohammad Abu Lahum, member of general committee of GPC, in a symposium on the challenges of the presidential elections.

In the two-day symposium which concluded yesterday a participant said

peaceful transfer of power will be the biggest challenge if the opposition candidate won the elections.

"The first challenge that will face Yemen during the coming presidential period is that there is no tradition or law organising the peaceful transfer of power, especially as we are confident that our candidate will win the presidential elections but we in the JMPs are feeling worried about this matter, as to how power will be transferred peacefully from President Saleh to Bin Shamlan," said Mohammad Qahtan, JMPs spokesman, who attended the symposium which was organised by the Political Development Forum in cooperation with the German organisation Fredric Ebert.

"The main investor if Bin Shamlan wins will be the GPC because this will give it a chance to rebuild itself and dominate the Yemeni street in future," Qahtan added.

Source: Gulf News

www.electionguide.org

In memory of the good old days:

How American learners of Arabic changed after 9/11

By: Yehia Abdelmobby

Aluding to the post 9/11 difference in the type of students who are interested in learning Arabic, a graduate student at George Washington University told me in an eloquent Arabic accent, "The good old days of students are over!" He added that most students these days choose to study Arabic primarily to enhance their resumes when seeking job opportunities in the U.S. intelligence community, Department of Defense, or Federal Bureau of Investigation which have increased hiring as a result of the demands of a post 9/11 America. Similarly, his comments echoed those of Emad Rushdie, coordinator of University of Pennsylvania's Arabic Language Program, who described the sharp rise in the number of UPenn students interested in the language as a clear indication of the natural realization of this period as the age of Arabic learning and a time when job opportunities abound in this field.

Who is learning Arabic in the United States?

According to the statistics of the Modern Language Association of America, the number of Arabic language students at U.S. universities in currently 12,000 which represents nearly 7,000 more students than the academic year prior to events of 9/11. In an interview with Voice of America on February 17th, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Batal who is an Arabic language professor at Emory College in Atlanta, Georgia, said that the number of students enrolled in Arabic language departments increased by 100 percent following 9/11. Alongside the increase in students, the number of universities and institutes who offer Arabic courses has also increased.

In the light of this unprecedented, historical rise in the field of Arabic language learning in the U.S., the team of the Washington Report took to the various programs available to interview both students and professionals about their views on the reasons for this huge increase in demand in addition to their opinions on the motives and aims of students for studying Arabic post 9/11. Beginning at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., Dr. Shukri Abed who is the director of its language

department which enrolled over 950 students this year alone classified the types of Arabic students as follows: (1) experts and professionals who are employed by either government or private entities dealing with the Middle East region (such as diplomats, military personnel, etc.); (2) college students with interest in academic research; (3) heritage speakers with Arab roots who want to connect with their culture; (4) students whose interest stems from a social relationship such as an interracial marriage; or (5) Muslim students of non-Arab origins wishing to read and comprehend original sources in the Islamic sciences.

In agreement with the view, Dr. Mohssen Esseesy who is an Assistant Professor of Arabic at George Washington University and the Coordinator of its Arabic program said that, indeed, Arabic students in U.S. universities have a wide range of backgrounds, coming from almost everywhere. He added that there is a growing number of Americans who study Arabic for academic or vocational reasons like members of the diplomatic, military, or business communities whose interests are associated with the Middle East region in addition to Arab and Muslim students who want to reinforce their cultural and religious identities emphasized this view saying that Arabic language learners at American universities and institutes come from everywhere. He provided ARAMCO Petroleum Company in Saudi Arabia as one example of those students from the business sector. Much like the other Arabic programs in the U.S., Esseesy has witnessed his program expand to accommodate a growing number of interested students, reaching 260 students this year.

This sharp increase in the number of students learning Arabic who come from a variety of different categories of American society correlates with a desire and commitment from the U.S. government and U.S. institutions to provide support and financial resources to attract more Arabic learners who can fulfill critical duties in the current political and security atmosphere. Dr. Alaa Elgibali, professor of Linguistics at Maryland University of Maryland and the Director of the National Flagship Initiative Language Program for Arabic which is subsidized by the U.S. government and provided to students who agree to fulfill a

federal service requirement for a period of at least one full year, attributes the change in the type of Arabic students to the dire, strategic need for proficient speakers in federal institutions. However, this increase in newcomers with specific targets for learning Arabic does not change the constant presence of conventional categories of students who also seek knowledge about other cultures and want to communicate in unfamiliar environments.

What do the students say?

While most students have not formulated supporting sources and research for their arguments like their teachers regarding this topic, they can express their own motives and goals better and provided much needed insight into this phenomenon. For their perspectives, the Washington Report conducted a survey of a diverse group of Arabic learners including both university students and working professionals. On request, names and personal information included in this survey have been withheld on occasion to protect anonymity.

Based on the results, approximately one third of university students interested in Arabic have Arab or Muslim origins like Paul Gabriel who commented, "I simply study Arabic because I am the only one in my family who cannot speak or communication in Arabic with my family and friends." Another student, Nushin Allo, who is a female graduate student born into a Muslim family expresses a desire to learn Arabic in order to bridge the gap between the United States and the Islamic world by adding to the number of Arabs and Muslims working for the American government. She added that increasing the number of federal workers who share both Eastern and Western cultures would lead to change and improve the relationship between these two sides. Lastly, Namika Zaman, a biology student, says that aims at understand her religion, Islam, more clearly by learning Arabic.

Another thirty percent of the answers of this survey revealed vocational motives for studying Arabic, such as seeking new job opportunities or developing professional skills. One university student, Keith Mantel, said that his aim is to obtain a job in the security field abroad. Another student mentioned the possibility of CIA employment. As for Elan Raffel whose

mother is Israeli, his dream is to work for the U.S. State Department. Also, as a Jew who visit Israel, he wishes to understand and communicate with Arabic in the Middle East. Furthermore, an anonymous female student who has worked for the U.S. Army since 1993 stated that she started learning Arabic after being chosen by her superiors for this specialization.

Although considered the minority in comparison to the two previous mentioned groups, some learners stated their goal at studying Arabic is either purely academic or based on a desire to relate to Arabs and bridge cultural gaps. Also, it is interesting to note that mere chance often played a role in motivating some students to pursue Arabic study. One student who is deeply committed to Arabic study describes his story of Arabic as beginning when he went on a journey to explore the world in 1999. After starting in Tunisia and continuing on to Alexandria, Egypt, he developed a fondness for the Arabic language and culture. As for student, Anju Kaippallil, her interest is studying Arabic stemmed from her childhood as she was born in Saudi Arabia to Indian parents. This background has also made her consider working in the international relations field after completing her studies. Finally, Jason Brownlee who has holds a PhD in Political Science from Princeton University believes that his interest in Arabic stems from his wish to see democratic transformation and an improvement in the areas of development and human rights take place in the Middle East. This is in addition to his love for the Arab culture and way of life.

What is the difference between pre and post 9-11 students?

Among professors, the answer to this



question differs. For instance, Dr. Elgibali disagrees with the description of post 9/11 students as opportunists. Instead, he does not see any contradiction between their concern over securing their professional futures and their academic desires to study about the Arab world and its culture. Professor Esseesy also agrees with this view saying that calling these students "opportunists" has many negative connotations. Instead, he says that we should take into consideration that Arabic students do not belong to one category and that the mere matter of quantity plays a role in the increase of a certain type of students.

This essence of this issue is that American have become more interested in Arabs and Islam due to the aggression to which the U.S. has been exposed. Dr. Abed mentions the principle of "knowing one's enemy" as the possible intention of Arabic students.

However, he notes that if this is the case that students will reap the benefits of its positive results. He believes that what starts as an attempt to "know your enemy" soon changes into "know the other" and subsequently, "know your neighbor". One learner goes even further stating that now there is a practical, applicable reason for studying Arabic instead of just forming scientific arguments and participating in intellectual conversation, i.e. working for the federal institutions. Along these same lines, another female student views the rise in job opportunities for those who have a strong background in the Arabic language and Islamic culture as positive, irrespective of their motives or the types of new students. Instead, she sees this as eventually serving the interests of both sides by securing the U.S. while improving the current image of Arabs and Muslims.

Source: Taqir Washington

Yemeni Young leader participates in US-Muslim Relations Summit

300 Student Leaders from Around the World to Join Musicians, Policymakers, Scholars, and Journalists to Develop a Blueprint for Promoting U.S.-Islamic Understanding.

Among those is Sameer Ahmed Al-Nuzali a young leader from Ibb University Student's Union. Five years after 9-11, U.S.-Islamic relations continue to deteriorate at a rapid pace. Recent polls reveal that 90 percent of residents in predominantly Muslim countries view the U.S. as the primary threat to their country. To examine this relationship, 300 young leaders from around the Muslim world and the U.S. will come together for the fifth anniversary of 9-11 and will develop a blueprint for long-term engagement between the U.S. and the Muslim world. The summit, called 9-11 Plus 5, will take place in Washington, D.C., from Sept. 8 - 10 and will look back at the lessons and changes over the five years since the 9-11 attacks, as well as look forward to how U.S.-Islamic world relations can be improved in the years to come. The leaders will then return to their communities, hosting town hall meetings to promote better U.S.-Muslim world understanding from a grassroots level.

The summit is hosted by Americans

for Informed Democracy, The Elliott School of International Affairs and the Saban Center at the Brookings Institution in conjunction with The Families of 9-11. It will feature a wide variety of speakers and topics. Over the three days, young leaders will hear from the relatives of 9-11 victims, 9-11 Commission members, ambassadors from the U.S. and the Muslim world, leading scholars of Islam, news correspondents and even a Pakistani rock star, who has sold over 25 million albums, is a UN Goodwill ambassador and is famous for his humanitarian efforts. Speakers include:

- Salman Ahmad, Leader of Junoon, South Asia's top rock band
- Akbar Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, American University
- MJ Akbar, Editor and Chief, The Asian Age
- Aaron Brown, Former Host of NewsNight on CNN
- Mary Fetchet, Founding Director, Voices of September 11
- Edward Gnehm, Former U.S.

Ambassador to Jordan and Professor at George Washington University

- Slade Gorton, Former U.S. Senator and 9-11 Commission Member
- Dave Hastings, Executive Director, MASS-911
- Karl Inderfurth, Professor at George Washington University and Former Assistant Secretary of State
- Shibley Telhami, Professor, University of Maryland; Senior Fellow, Saban Center, Brookings Institution
- Gideon Yago, Correspondent, MTV News and Documentaries

Organizers say the summit could not come at a more critical time. One of the greatest challenges in global politics is the dangerous tension that has grown between the United States and the Muslim world. A Gallup poll earlier this month found that four in ten Americans asked to "honestly" assess themselves said they have "at least some feelings of prejudice against Muslims."

9-11 Plus Five is cosponsored by Americans for Informed Democracy, the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, and the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. For more information on the summit, visit (www.aiddemocracy.org/911.cfm).

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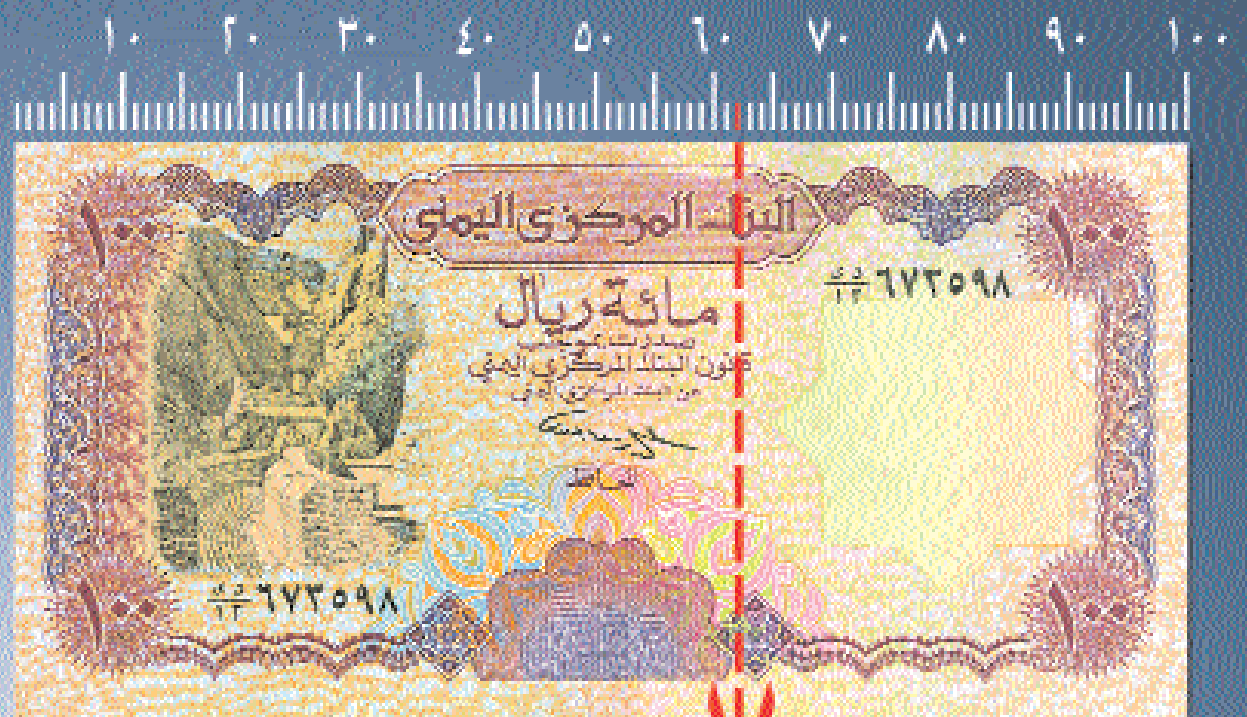


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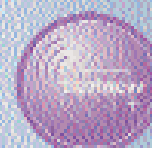


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Alm...the...lath

Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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

OUR
OPINIONPrecious citizen,
precious vote

Yemen is witnessing its most competitive environment in recent history. The competitive spirit in the local elections give a very real feel to the to the change we are feeling for the first time since 1990. It seems these days the citizen is king. Local council candidates are seeking their citizens approval, respect and, most important, votes.

These days are the best for many. Printing houses cannot catch their breath finishing one job after another including posters, leaflets and campaigning materials. There is a feast in almost every avenue held by the one who hopes to win the locals' votes through their stomachs. Suddenly the dirt roads no one seemed to care about are being paved and the pending paper work is being signed at the speed of light. Many short-term jobs are created as a part of these campaigns – a boost for the economy and for the citizens.

But perhaps what's best are the big promises to eradicate a huge backlog of problems accumulated through decades of bad management and flawed governments. Candidates are throwing promises left and right like candy for the desperate citizens to catch. Out of the blue Marib is no longer a home for tourist kidnappers and Al-Iman University is not a hub for terrorist and dangerous fundamentals.

All this and more will continue until judgment day, or say the day of voting. Yemen is going through is a very healthy step towards true democracy. There is still a long way to go but seeing citizens recognize how their vote actually will count is very encouraging.

It's very important to see how things proceed after the election experience is over. Some are speculating an extremely turbulent time between election day and when the results are confirmed. So far incidents of violence are already erupting, but hopefully they will remain isolated and rare incidents. Yet even if our democratic experience is messy, it is still a step forward because it means elections are a serious issue and the citizen's opinion does matter.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

Battles for survival in power

Leaders of the General People's Congress election campaign are trying to create a link between the picture of Hassan Nassrallah, secretary general of Hezbollah in Lebanon, and President Saleh's picture.

While Nassrallah's image represents the Lebanese pride and the bravery of the Lebanese resistance, the picture of President Saleh beside Nassrallah reflects electoral ambitions trying to get the president some popularity by creating a mistaken impression that makes the president a partner in the Lebanese resistance and achievement.

By studying the backgrounds of the two men you see a disharmony in their relationship. Nassrallah is a warrior fought all his battles against Israeli occupation in south

Lebanon and he did not fight one internal war where victims would be from the other Lebanese factions though he has differences with many Lebanese parties, but he did not target his weapons or threaten anyone of them. It's a different story for President Saleh – he is also great but all his wars are internal and the victims are Yemeni and there is no war he has fought against an eternal enemy in confronting external adver-



By: Ali Al-Sarari

saries. He uses reason and wisdom to solve conflicts with them peacefully but he did not find that reason and wisdom for finding peaceful settlement with his internal adversaries, among them the group of al-Houthi on which a fierce battle rages on in Sa'ada.

What appears to be a national stance by the Yemeni president on more than one occasion are no more than verbal displays meant to challenge some Arab rulers. However, the reality is that those stances by the Yemeni president are no more real than the stands of those Arab rulers who he appears to criticize. In addition, the vulnerability that Yemen suffers because of his policies makes Yemen unable to provide much support to the Arabs, especially in Palestine and Lebanon for instance.

With regard to initiatives the

Yemeni government periodically announces great Arab issues, such as the call for holding an Arab summit during the Israeli aggression Lebanon. The ideas are launched for propaganda goals let alone and they confuse the political movement by some big Arab states such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

There is a large difference between the content of Nassrallah's battles and Saleh's battles. The first fights battles for the national liberation while the second fights them for the sake of staying in power or for satisfying the pride of the one who is sitting on the seat of power and development of his feelings of domination and greatness.

During his 28 year term of rule in Yemen the internal military battles by President Saleh did not stop and in all of them he managed to bury their real reasons represented by staying in power or preparing to bequeathing it or to satisfy the whims of the in power. Now he is determined to convince his people they are wars for the revolution and the republic and reaped the heads of unionists and democrats.

A study of those wars and their outcomes will reveal how the goals of the revolution have been defeated, the republic changed into a regime of

family domination and preparation of circumstances for bequeathing it and how the voluntary unity changed into a kind of conquer imposed by weapons.

The most outstanding matter of those wars is that they have become a comprehensive program with which the state managed in all the walks of its life and cause a stop to development, education and providing of respectable levels of human life for the Yemenis. Throughout 28 years of his rule Yemen has achieved limited success on those fronts if measured to the time and available potentials and Yemen remains an outside player on the world stage.

For President Saleh it seems time has not come for him to come out of those wars and indulge in the battles of construction. In his election he mustered all his previous battles in the preamble of the platform. And in threatening language it seems that Yemen is going to experience a new cycle of the wars of the revolution,

unity and democracy and this time the regime will fight them as one batch. Indicators point towards the ruling General People's Congress being one of the targets in the coming war. That appears clear in three indicators. One is the president's accusation of his party's corruption during sessions of its latest conference, the second is his refusal to be nominated by his party for the presidential elections and accepted his candidacy before citizens rather than his party and the third is the presentation of the task of fighting corruption as part of his platform and that may mean the victims will be many heads of the ruling party. But even this battle will practically mean a battle not against corruption rather than for more individual power and an enhancement of the family structure.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemen Socialist Party.

Immortality of war

It is note worthy that Israel is accustomed to policies that serve its expansionism strategy and the Arabs have grown accustomed to surrendering to these for they are incapable of confronting aggressive invasion in the region. The last war Hezbollah entered with Israel despite unequal and unbalanced forces brought a new fighting strategy and resulted in a victory for Hezbollah. The international community was absent in the field so Israel and America have to meet the Arabs and Muslims separately one country after the other starting in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon of which these countries look difficult to control and subject to America's policy. It is a sign that such wars and invasions might extend to Syria, Iran and other countries they accuse to be evil.

Actually, president Ali Abdullah Saleh, God bless him, has shown a positive standpoint in this unfair war against Lebanon which proves his originality, dignity, pride and trustworthiness in taking sides with the Arab nation. He also transferred the one billion riyals allocated for his election campaign to his Arab brothers in Palestine and Lebanon.

During Khalid Mashal's last visit



By: Sameer Abdul Haq

to Sana'a in March, I had the honor to meet the solid veteran who looked a giant as we have known him. I would have liked to have said: "I swear if you had not persisted in refusing to disarm the arms of the national resistance and your insistence on non-confession to Israel, I would have thought that Hamas to assume power had been only a conspiracy plotted by internationalists so as to surrender that result in ending the Palestinian issue." Thank God for resistance and patience despite the pressures faced.

In Lebanon, all such false calculations of the foe have fallen and the Lebanese adhere all their factions and ethnics to national unity to preserve dignity. The Lebanese in all their wars with Israel prove to be brave and daring and do not surrender. The Lebanese gave an unforgettable lesson to all in how to love their homeland and fight for its dignity. Once again, I want to talk about the westerners who seem to be protectors of human values, progress, liberty and justice. I want to remind them history confirms there were civilizations but they prevailed and ended up with failure and definitely one day shall come for Israel of which we all know it harms America's interests guiding their foreign policy towards more faults besides deepening the conflict between the Muslims and America. They forget Muslims were the ones who stopped the spread of communism in the world. It is not exaggeration to say that the Muslims were behind the collapse of communist bloc – America's old foe.

The world is astonished for the calls of the westerners toward a dialogue of cultures and civilizations. They forget such silence towards ongoing destruction in Lebanon is regarded one of the most dangerous points in a failure of such dialogue. The prime minister was sound in his point a year ago during an interview with one of the Gulf newspapers in which he asked for a dialogue of cultures in lieu of enmity and a war cul-

ture. He added that human dialogue is necessary and urgent and the essential title of the issue is to establish "a dialogue culture" launching from the principles of liberty, democracy and human rights. He said, "Lets establish a dialogue culture as a human joint concept denouncing violence and overwhelming policies. Lets embody the values of tolerance and principles of peace and fraternity among the human race on this planet."

Actually, this is true of what we have noticed lately occurring which devote such a concept. The inhumane practice of war reflects immorality and barbaric actions against the civilians and children of Kana and southern districts in Lebanon. Enmity and tension relations between the followers of the various religions will create a critical situation difficult to tackle while inhumane acts will remain deep in the human conscience and with successive generations bringing bloodshed and massacre to innocent victims of immoral wars. On the other hand, there is no logical justification for killing and memorials shall increase starting from Hiroshima, Nagasaki, A'amryria shelter and Kana.

Does Israel believe it shall be safe if it attempts to attack Iran after its war with Hezbollah? I don't understand the strategy leaders of Israel follow. Supposing Israel is arrogant and attempts to attack Iran. What will happen? There is no war without huge loss and both sides have strong capabilities entering a war. Why do the Israelis build up their strategy on the policy of containment? There one can observe an Islamic state as Pakistan also has nuclear weapons, but it does not assault or attack anyone.

The rest of the world needs to see Israel's destructive actions and their lack of consideration for human lives. They know nothing about history of peoples and even the local geography. They have no respect for the culture and ancient ruins of other nations of which all religions including theirs have respect. They occupied the land of prophets and the cradle of civilizations and the whole Europe watched. We say the Palestinians and Lebanese shall definitely resist despite sacrificing thousands of innocent souls. We are the nation of the prophet Mohammed (peace be upon his soul) and we are believers of his doctrine.

Sameer Abdul Haq is a senior specialist of premier office.

SILVER LINING

Respect the people choice

The US ambassador to Yemen Thomas Krajeski told al-Wasat newspaper that what matters in the upcoming presidential and local elections is that Sept. 20 is a day wherein the Yemeni voters choose their candidates freely. The European Union Chief Observer Baroness Emma Nicholson also underscored the fact that the choice of the people should be respected.

Yes, it is the people who can decide who will win if they are not influenced by different means. Both the ruling party and the opposition should respect this choice no matter what results we have at the end of the day. But, I am afraid the people's choice might not be respected and things could go on the wrong track.

I already voiced concerns that the elections could be violent. We then saw violence in Al-Jawf. The discussion between the two sides is getting more intense each day and it is scary as it sends shock waves down the spines of the people. I have noticed some of the rhetoric is exaggerated and unwise. President Saleh has been right in saying such sensational discourse might lead to congestion and grave consequences, but this needs to apply to both sides.

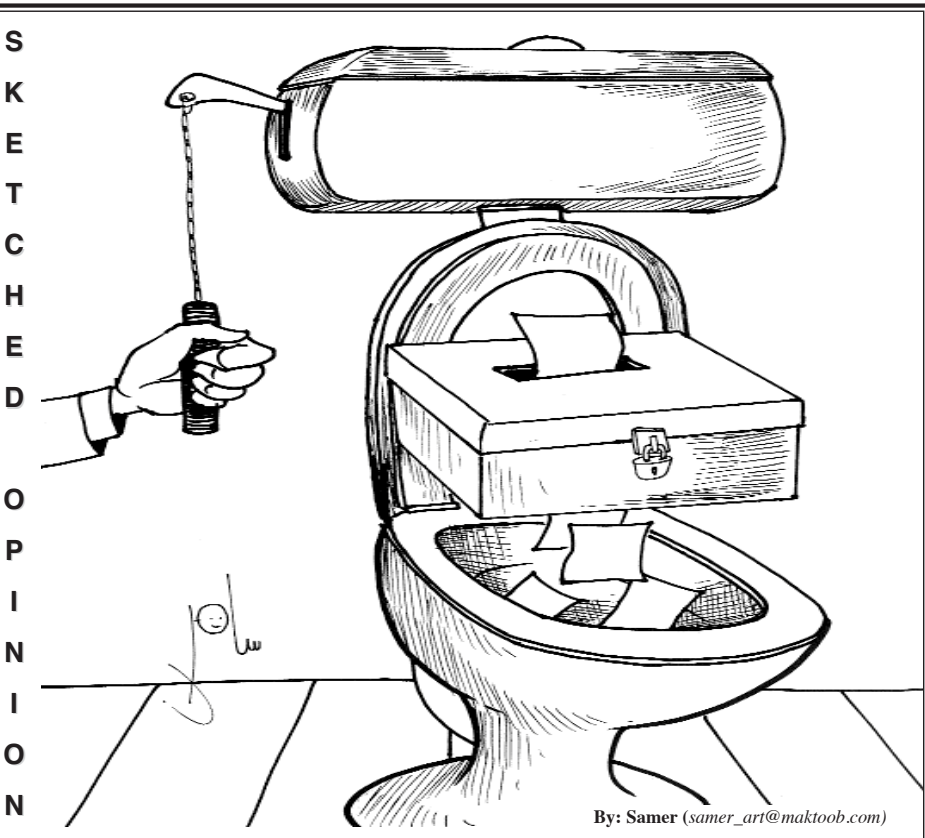
In any election, there must be a loser. This is the essence of democracy. However, I am afraid the ruling party supporters will fight vigorously and passionately to try to defeat the opposition candidate down to the ground. In this fight, stupid acts are likely which, of course, will force the opposition candidate supporters to fight back. Such tense fervors make violence possible. Competition should not by any means turn into hostility and then dismissal of the loser.

As a matter of fact, the severe attack and counterattack by the two sides, mainly the ruling party, makes me feel we are going to war rather than voting. However, I feel very grateful to both the ruling party and the opposition for allowing this debate to take place. Debate also took place prior to the first parliamentary elections in 1993. There was a lot of dynamic discussion heralding the new era of democracy. However, the country was embroiled into political crisis and eventually a devastating civil war which halted both democracy and development at large.

Now democracy is back and the ongoing debate is pushing it forward. This step is inviting a good impression from everybody. But, the challenge of both the ruling party and the opposition is to face the consequences of such experience and to lead the country after all the tension. The real challenge is not to let the people's ambitions down. The ordinary people who are proactive with this unprecedented experience should not feel they are destroying their lives. Democracy should be a source of hope rather than despair and having more debates on TV will occur in the future. The confidence of people in the electoral process should be strengthened. As I said last week, the experience of the opposition coalition is very important and should be protected for it is the opposition challenge to Saleh that has given us this democratic mosaic we live through these days.

Finally, I would say that I was really shocked by the blatant statement of Abdu Al-Janadi of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum in which he said, "If I were the president of the state, I would have cut democracy short and jailed al-Azab (a presidential candidate) for what he says in the halls." He means that the man has crossed the limit in his elections campaign speeches for which he deserves to be imprisoned. We cannot expect such a statement from an elections commissioner. He should show impartiality. He not only justified the attacks by Saleh on the opposition but even provoked anger. This is not his job – his job is to monitor and criticize any side that violates the rules of the game. Both of them are making mistakes and the role of the SCER is to administer elections with impartiality. Al-Janadi, who has been urging the two sides to tone down their rhetoric should take his own advice and work for the voters. This shows the overall interest of the democratization drive as the SCER impartiality will be assessed intentionally and by domestic observers. It is the SCER's legal and ethical responsibility to ensure fair and free elections for the better of Yemen's future.

Mohammed Al-Qadhi is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.
(mhalqadhi@hotmail.com)



By: Samer (samer_art@maktob.com)

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E-mail: editor@yementimes.com

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

Managing Editor
Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammag

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Head of Design Dept.
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Al-Saqqaf, Raidan
Khidhr, Mohammed
Patterson, Dana

Offices

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

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

Ibb correspondent:

Nashwan Dammaj
Mobile: (+967) 733840609,
Email: naschuan2000@yahoo.com

Hadamout Correspondent:

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

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Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 29 Aug.2006.

Main headlines

- Large-scale masses rally behind JMP presidential candidate
- Bin Shamlan: Change begins from head of power
- International report says Yemeni forces in continual deterioration
- Workers and employees of oil block 18 start open strike
- Head of supervising committee in al-Jawf killed
- While the minister in electoral mission, members of criminal investigation in Taiz kidnap a citizen
- Traffic police in Ibb retains cars carrying photos of Bin Shamlan
- Ministry of Civil Service postpones announcement of jobs

The political editor of the newspaper says in an article it is the right of any Yemeni social organization to dream of success of the candidate that it supports for the presidency of the republic but it is the right of Yemen more to have it succeed democratically. Democracy, as much as it is hope, it is historical responsibility dealing with great affairs in the first of which is that of change with its implications of habits and conditions leading the society to the extent of its preparedness and ability to practice moral discipline of democratic right, in the practice and in accepting the change. We think there is no democracy devoid of those two rights: the right of soundness of democratic practice and the right of accepting the political change democratically. Here Yemen will succeed twice; the first in the success of democracy and the second in having a president selected democratically.

There might be some mistakes taking place here and there due to practice but they must not represent a state of wantonness deforming and marginalizing the democratic experiment

However, when we study the history of Yemen and ability of its people to solve their problems by themselves, we will find a unified people capable of practicing their options with the highest ways and means and in a civilized manner.



As-Sahwa weekly, 31 Aug.2006.

Main headlines

- Change, the solution
- Bin Shamlan: We shall make Yemen happy anew
- JMP refuses to deliver names of its representatives in sub-committees but after its receipt of the electronic record
- JMP condemns editing of paragraphs of its electoral platform
- Military commanders practice election propaganda, foment against opposition

writer Zaid al-Shami says in an article the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) has decided its position in the adoption of political struggle as its program and approach for changing the situations and embarked educating its bases and supporters to fully realize this is the best means for wringing out the rights and achieve justice and equality. Consequently, there is no need for wars, conflicts and vengeance and the use of force. The alternative of all that are the dialogue, agreement and balloting boxes as well as acceptance of the results.

This culture that is deepening day by day among bases of the JMP is alternative of the wrong mobilization that pro-

vokes the members and makes them hostile. And although peaceful struggle needs longer time, its consequences are good and fruits are sure for the individual, the society and the state. The results will be quick if the ruling party obliged itself to the same approach and educated its members on meanings of dialogue, acceptance of the other. If it continues in the way of aggression with power, authority and money and imposing the opinion by the force of arms and frightening the citizen that change will threaten the unity, and end stability and security, this will slacken speed of the wheel of change but could not stop it.

The writer expresses his regret towards what he describes as ill practices by some officials in the ruling party, such as hostile statements and tearing photos of the JMP candidate. He says we are in dire need of the culture of peaceful transfer of photos before talking about peaceful transfer of power. If this situation continues in this way, how would it be in the day of voting and counting of votes and where would it stop after announcement of results?



Al-Wahda newspaper 30 Aug.2006.

Main headlines

- More than 200 tribes sign document terminating vengeance
- PM Bajammal: Yemen proceeds from seeking cultural integration in its vision of accession to the GCC
- FM press conference clarifies Yemen's stand versus regional and international issues
- Nasserite secretary of the political office: The opposition reached a stage of political and program maturity
- In the first half of this year, more

than \$ 2 billion the value of oil exports

- Japan writes off % 7 million, total foreign indebtedness amounts to \$5 billion
- Academics and politicians affirm importance of the political reform to tackle failures
- In the past 7 months, more than one billion riyals retrieved to treasury
- Yemeni-Saudi campaigns for combating malaria in border areas

Writer Taha al-Amiri says in his article if the beginnings are indicating the results we have then to revise our calculations in more than one direction. However, the more prominent direction is the political and party consciousness and the mechanism of its dealing with matters in a way that is not limited to boundaries of dereliction, though that is what characterized some of the speeches delivered in electoral festivals and the slogans raised there. It is a fearful action when we find those who are supposed to stabilize values of civilized changes are the ones carrying them out.

There is much evidence that the elite need to rehabilitate themselves intellectually and culturally in compatibility with the changes and in line with democratic values in order to be able to take part positively in rooting process of values of democratic awareness among the people and society through their media and political address. Democracy, as a civilized culture, is not based on compositional speeches and transient reaction. There are intellectual, cultural and political constituents leading to such an address.

True we have corruption and wish to get rid of it and those causing it, but against that we have also political, democratic and cultural corruption. We have corruption in practicing, behavior and consciousness. All those forms of corruption represent the immoral base of the financial and administrative corruption. This cannot be treated in the way some parties are following. Corruption does

not mean there is no state.

Elections are raging and all are engrossed in their ramifications. There is no talk about platforms and the criticism stamp has taken the shape of personification targeting the national political symbols. There is no critic of those criticizing a platform of those who are in power telling them you have said in your platform this and that and committed yourselves, so where is what you have promised to do? Instead of that we have so far found excesses and defamation.



Al-Wasat weekly, 30 Aug.2006.

Main headlines

- The president stars his election campaign in Amran and Saada amidst difference with strong rivals
- The YSP member whose membership is frozen Amin Thabit offered to convert to the ruling party
- Bajammal assails the GCC
- Tribal mediation hands over two escapees of al-Qaeda
- Al-Baidhani drops intention to sue chairmanships of parliament and the Shoura Council
- The government bans exportation of fish to Saudi Arabia
- Al-Majidi cancels two of his elation festivals in the wake of the killing of his campaign coordinator

Editor in chief of the newspaper writes that the past weeks and the coming ones until the day of voting will not be confined to in it being an election season but also a fertile season for spreading rumors dealing accusations and trading with the issue.

What is going on these days of accusations against this or that calls shame and despair especially when they are issued by persons who have ridden the wave of

opposition for reasons having nothing to do with the people or their issues. They have embarked, instead of the authority, on distributing cars and monthly salaries in dollar to this or that who they have bought their loyalty, confirming truthfulness of their information from their secret and dangerous sources that have infiltrated the centers of decision.

It is regrettable that the rumor changes into a weapon directed randomly to a newspaper or writer merely because what he said was in variance with this party or that wants or an article was not equal to the anger of this person, has observed the fact in his writing. In a meeting of independent journalists with leadership of the opposition at the political development forum we asked them to help us preserve our independence by adoption of the fact and convey it poorly to the reader free from tendencies of power and the parties. I think those leaders blessed that approach. But the tragedy is those who cannot tolerate you unless you were a warrior with your sword without even informing you on the aim of the issue you are fighting for.

Maybe the motive behind arousing this topic is understood in this critical period. In this period there is inspection and search for evidence of accusation between the lines of what is written and to erect the gallows after secret trial, all of its components are one. All are unanimous on the evidence, not according to what is there but to what is derived from between the lines. Such a thing does not exceed its being a desperate attempt to annex what is independent not only to the authority but also to the opposition and even to persons.

However and in order to generalize this situation we have to admit that there are leaders from the opposition as well as from the authority who have encouraged the independent journalist to be a mouth-piece of the fact. That is what should be done if they wanted to establish a professional press work away from bickering of the authority and the opposition.

Fifth Anniversary of 9/11

The fifth anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks is a reminder of the inhumanity of terrorist mass murderers whom the world must confront and the shared challenge we face as an international community to confront those who promote hate, destruction and death. The anniversary is an appropriate occasion for the international community to reaffirm our unequivocal condemnation of all acts of terror. No faith condones the deliberate targeting and killing of innocent civilians, and no cause or grievance - no matter how legitimate - can ever justify it.

The victims of September 11th were citizens of more than 90 different countries and adherents of many faiths, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Terror has brought tragedy, destruction, death and terrible grief to innocent people across the world, from Indonesia to Morocco, Spain, Jordan, England, India and Egypt. In the past 10 years, thousands of people of many nations, religions, races, and beliefs have been murdered by acts of terror.

The terrorists, such as those who were responsible for September 11 and those who may be behind the most recent mass murder plot targeting airplanes in London, have long targeted innocent people. Their agenda is to impose a Taliban-like tyrannical regime on the many proud and sovereign nations of the Islamic world, and they have nothing but intolerance for all those who do not

share their extremist beliefs - including fellow Muslims.

All major religions, including Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, share a commitment to social justice, compassion, concern for the poor, and love of family and community. All these faiths teach that life is precious, and that taking innocent life, including your own, is wrong.

Violent extremists use a perverted religiosity as cover to attempt to justify murder, terror, and violence. Yet such actions are always abhorrent and always wrong, and the international community, the interfaith community and decent men and women everywhere must speak out against those who advocate hate, violence, and terrorism. We call on leaders of all faiths to work for mutual respect and understanding and to send a clear message: that killing oneself and murdering innocent people is always wrong.

Despite al-Qaeda's repeated attempts to characterize the world as being in the midst of a clash of civilizations, the simple fact is that the international community - east and west, north and south - has come together in unprecedented ways to confront common threats and ease human suffering.

America is doing its part, working in partnership with countries throughout the Islamic world to improve the lives of Muslims.



By: Thomas Krajewski

America is the largest bilateral donor of aid to the Palestinian people. Americans were the largest providers of help to Muslims affected by the tsunami in Indonesia and the earthquake in Pakistan. We provide funds for Muslim girls and boys to go to school, for Muslim women to learn English, for Muslim young people to get training for jobs. And in Afghanistan and Iraq, we are working in partnership with democratically elected Muslim leaders to provide freedom and security for Muslim populations that were brutally repressed under the Taliban and Saddam Hussein.

As we look back on September 11, 2001, we also look forward. We seek to work in a spirit of partnership with people and nations across the world to confront this ideology of hate and foster a climate of hope and opportunity. Americans are not perfect, but we believe the principles of freedom and justice that guide us are right and true for people everywhere. We want to work in partnership with nations throughout the world in ways that will result in a more peaceful and prosperous world and a better life for people everywhere. And we renew our commitment to our founding conviction that all people are equal and equally deserving of justice, respect, opportunity and dignity.

Thomas Krajewski is the United States Ambassador to Yemen.

After the Guns of August

By: Saad Eddin Ibrahim

The Middle East is a place where the dust hardly ever settles. When it occasionally does, even for a short interval - as UN Resolution 1701 for cessation of hostilities in Lebanon seems to be holding - it is time to take stock of events in the hopes that a responsible debate may influence those in power.

Let's start with the United States. President George W. Bush has been short on neither initiatives nor catchy slogans and acronyms. Recent years are littered with them: "Global War on Terror" (GWOT), "Road Map," "Middle East Partnership Initiative" (MEPI), "Broader Middle East and North Africa" (BMENA) - originally "Greater Middle East Initiative" (GMEI) - Democracy Assisted Dialogue (DAD), and so on. His latest reverie, envisioned in the thick of the recent fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, was the New Middle East (NME), with US clients Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia serving as the pillars of regional order.

But like all his previous initiatives since the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington almost five years ago now, the NME ran into trouble from the outset. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced its birth while rejecting an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon. Her poor timing made the initiative appear heartless, as thousands of civilians were being uprooted, killed, or maimed by Israel's efficient but ruthless artillery and air force.

This so embarrassed the three Arab NME partners that each raced to distance itself from the US-sponsored initiative. Saudi Arabia, which had remained silent for nearly two weeks, did so with a \$500 million contribution to rebuilding devastated areas of Lebanon and another billion to support Lebanon's threatened

currency.

Egypt's heir apparent Gamal Mubarak followed suit in the fourth week of the fighting by heading a 70-member delegation on a solidarity visit to Beirut. But, rather than earning him the respect of an outraged Egyptian public, revelations in the opposition press that his plane had to obtain a safe passage and authority to land from the Israelis garnered only howls of derision. As for America, anything it touches in the Middle East has become radioactive, even for longstanding clients and friends.

In the course of maneuvering to delay the UN ceasefire, Bush and Rice continually reiterated the need for a Security Council resolution that deals forcefully with "the roots of the problem." Of course, for them and for Israel, this was Hezbollah and the need to eradicate or at a minimum disarm it and force its fighters to a safe distance from settlements and towns in northern Israel.

While this is a reasonable demand, the rest of the Middle East - and, indeed, much of the world, including Europe - regard the root cause of the conflict as Israeli intransigence and arrogance, together with America's blind support for it. Both America and Israel have cited foot-dragging in implementing UN Resolution 1559, which calls for disarming all non-state actors in Lebanon and the deployment of government forces all the way to the southern border. But for years the US and Israel have not uttered a word about the dozens of UN resolutions, going back as far as Resolution 49 on partition in 1947, which called for the establishment of distinct Arab and Jewish states on roughly half of Mandated Palestine.

This and numerous other resolutions seeking redress for injustices toward Palestinians have been ignored by the US. Thus, for 300 million Arabs and more than one billion Muslims the "root cause" of

the Middle East conflict is not Hezbollah. As its leader, Hassan Nasrallah aptly put it, "We are just a reaction to chronic injustice."

It may well be that there is more than one root cause - every party to the conflict has a favorite one. There is no point in belaboring whose pain is greater or whose root cause is deeper. In fact, arguing over grievances merely drives the sides further apart.

The long overdue UN Resolution 1701 may, with its adoption, indicate that all parties are fatigued, or could no longer withstand international pressure. This is good news for all concerned and provides an opportunity to tackle each party's "root cause."

Seizing the opportunity requires that humility rather than moral supremacy prevails. Empathy, not ethnocentrism, should be the order of the day now that the guns are falling silent and we have rediscovered the limits of military force.

But if we have learned anything at all from the tragic assassinations of the region's greatest peacemakers, Anwar Sadat and Yitzhak Rabin, it is that the guns do not remain silent for long. During any lull, a fanatic from either side could jump to center stage and, through an act of utter madness, kick up the settling dust and dash the hopes of the many on both sides who still long for a lasting peace.

Saad Eddin Ibrahim is Professor of Political Sociology at the American University in Cairo and Chairman of the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies. Dr. Ibrahim gained global attention after he was sentenced to seven years imprisonment at a trial Amnesty International described as politically motivated to punish him for his human rights activism. His conviction was overturned in 2003.

Source: Project Syndicate.

Tombstones bearing Hebrew inscriptions in Aden (Part 2)

The study of tombstone inscriptions from Aden provides us with more than just a possible time horizon for the presence of the Jews in southern Arabia. The letter forms used in the inscriptions are an important asset for Hebrew palaeography. A number of inscriptions use some of the oldest known styles of Hebrew characters. Furthermore, a few epitaphs from the same cemetery and seemingly from the same period exhibit styles of letters that are either inconsistent or completely different.

By: A. Klein-Franke

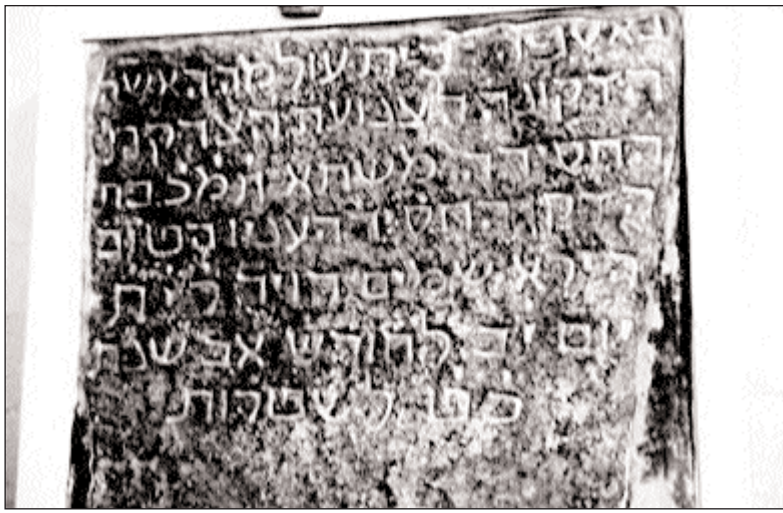
Almost eighty years after Saphir's publication of the inscriptions from Aden, Birnbaum undertook a palaeographic study of sixty-two Hebrew inscriptions from Aden. He attempted to ascertain the age of the inscriptions in accordance with the theory of the development of the Hebrew alphabet. Birnbaum concluded that although the epitaphs were written in a unique, local style, most of them could not have been written earlier than the fourteenth century CE. According to his theory the way the letter dalet was written did not appear before the fifteenth century and the way the letter qop was written—open on two sides—did not appear before the end of the seventeenth century or the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Birnbaum believed that the dates in the inscriptions were contracted and the letters, which were supposed to have indicated the millennium, were omitted. Birnbaum argued that it could not be a coincidence that the dates were short in so many inscriptions. The masons must have intentionally omitted part of the date. As a result, Birnbaum added 2000 years to the date of the inscription of Masta's slab from the British Museum and also to the

notes, Ben-Zvi received photographs of Hebrew epitaphs from Aden from Mori Salem.

These he published with Yavne'elli's notes and issued another edition of his previous publication. Ben-Zvi was now convinced that the dates were contracted and revisited his theory on the age of the inscriptions in a new palaeographic study. In the revised article, in place of the letter 'alep he added the letter be't (2000 years) to the dates given. On one of the inscriptions from Mori Salem, the location of the letters of the date was changed. At the beginning there should be tav and not gimel. Alterations in the letters of the date was not unusual among Yemeni Jews. The inscriptions from Mori Salem from the years 26 and 32 according to the Contracts Calendar, were dated 1715 CE and 1721 CE, respectively.

Eli Subar followed the same reasoning as Ben-Zvi, adding the letter be't to the given dates and estimating the ages of the inscriptions accordingly. While the letter indicating the millennium in a Contracts date could be, 'alep or, be't (one or two), the letter indicating the century could be any letter from: 'alep to, tet (one to nine). The date in an inscription could be anything over the last two thousand years. Let us assume, for instance, that the letter one, indicating hundreds and/or thousands, was omitted. The



Epitaph of Mas'ta", daughter of David, from the year 29 of the Contracts calendar (BM 132702, by kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum).

us to 1690 CE.

The theory that the masons consciously left out the letters indicating the millennium is not applicable in all cases. We read a full date in inscription No. 132703 in the British Museum ('alep, tav, res', kap, he) which is 1313 CE. Moreover, in the Ben-Zvi publications there were four inscriptions giving full dates. The inscriptions published by Saphir, Ben-Zvi and Subar include a number of names from the same family clan of Halfon, Madmu'n and Būndar, who lived in Aden between the eleventh and thirteenth century. Ben-Zvi published an epitaph with a date which was given relative to the Destruction of the Temple: 'From the time the Temple was destroyed and until her death seven hundred and sixty four years passed and her age is seventeen'.

Common terms and abbreviations used in the inscriptions

Covering the dead with a stone slab and writing an inscription on it with information about the deceased has been a tradition among Jews since the Talmudic Era. There are no rules stipulating what the tablet should include. In some epitaphs the details are given in a different order: the date of death, the verb and the name. It is thought that the order in which the information is given in the epitaph does not indicate the period in which the pitaph was written. Differences in style and content of epitaphs reflect differences in local cultural traditions and sometimes indicate the origin of the family. The text and the style can provide us with information about the community. From what was emphasized about the quality of the dead we learn about the values of society and how people lived as a collective. Furthermore, we find inscriptions with eulogies of different lengths. However, it is still possible to speak of a number of patterns which are common to many inscriptions.

Most of the texts include a verb, giving the date of departure from life, the name of the dead, the name of the father of the deceased and the date of death.

There are a few epitaphs, mentioning not only the father of the dead but also his grandfather. In some epitaphs the details are given in a different order: first the date of death, then the verb and the name. One inscription by Ben-Zvi, the epitaph of Halfon ben Bu'ndar, was undated. However, information from other sources can be used in dating this inscription. Because this name is mentioned and documented in many fragments in the Cairo Genizah, the epitaph can be placed in the twelfth century.

Very often the verb appears in the first section. It is normally an expression of the departure from life. After the statement about departure from life there follows the name of the deceased. Interestingly, the Hebrew form was mostly used for male names, while the Arabic form was most often used for female names. If the deceased was a woman, then her father's name was given, but not that of her husband.

The social status of the dead is also mentioned. If he was a prominent individual a few characteristic notes on him or his title were mentioned: negidēnū, our chieftain, or if he belonged to the kōhanim, the priestly families. Sometimes the profession of the dead is also mentioned, e.g. ha-dayyan, the judge, ha-taptar and haso'per, the scribe. The date of his or her departure from life was usually indicated after the place of rest: the day of the week, the week of the month and the year, for instance, Thursday night, the 6th of Marh eswan, the year (tav, pe, dalet), 1484 CE. If the deceased person passed away on a Saturday, the weekly portion of the Torah was written. If the person passed away on a Friday evening the day death was indicated as 'ereb s'abbat. The age of the deceased is very rarely mentioned in the epitaphs.

Professor Aviva Klein-Franke teaches at the Martin-Buber Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Cologne, Germany. (avivakleinfranke@yahoo.com) This research was published in the Arabian Archeology and epigraphy journal, Blackwell Publishing Ltd.



Epitaph of Yes'u' 'a', son of Ahron, son of Yes'u' 'a', from the year 5565 (1805 CE) (courtesy D. Birnbaum).

inscriptions copied by Saphir.

Fifteen years after Ben-Zvi's publication, Shmu'el Yavne'elli told him that while visiting Aden in 1911 he had also copied a few Hebrew inscriptions from the ancient cemetery. Yavne'elli was familiar with Saphir's publications. Ben-Zvi published fourteen inscriptions from Yavne'elli's collection of thirty-two. At the same time as Ben-Zvi obtained Yavne'elli's

date mentioned in one of the inscriptions as the first year of the Contracts Calendar, could be, for instance, the year 101, 1001 or 1101 in Contracts Calendar terms, which would mean 210 BC, 690 CE, or 790 CE, respectively. However, if the omitted millennium letter was two, then the dates for the first year of the Contracts Calendar could be, for instance, the year 2001, which brings

Ikebana: Japanese flower arranging

By: Hamdan Dammag

The way the Japanese arrange flowers is not only different, but it receives significant attention – more than one might think.

Last week, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Japanese Embassy organized a showa at the Culture House in Sana'a to demonstrate the art of Ikebana (literally, flowers kept alive), the Japanese art of flower arranging.

There are many schools, of which the most popular are Ikenobo, Sogetsu and Ohara, as well as different styles, depending on the school and the type of plants and vase used.

Many Culture House attendees were impressed by the demonstrations and the attention paid to arranging flowers. Engineer Salim Ali expressed his admiration of the Japanese art: "We in Yemen must take care of similar arts, but above all, we must care for flowers at home and in public spaces." He expressed his



Minister of Culture as well as Arab poets and writers were among the large crowd attended the show.

happiness that he "had a chance to learn more about Japanese culture."

Ikebana began in the sixth century as a type of ritual flower offering at Japan's Buddhist temples. In these arrangements, both the flowers and branches were made to point toward

heaven as an indication of faith.

Along with the Japanese tea ceremony and calligraphy, Ikebana was one of the arts Japanese women traditionally were schooled in to prepare for marriage. Today, venerated as one of Japan's traditional



Professor Masafumi Ishiwa demonstrating the final step of one of flower's arrangements in front of impressed attendees at the Culture House in Sana'a.

arts, Ikebana is done on numerous occasions, such as for ceremonies and parties, and modern Japanese still are choosing to study the art.

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 46

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

And, strange to tell, among
that earthen lot
Some could articulate, while
others not:
And suddenly one more
impatient cried—
"Who is the potter, pray, and
who the pot?"

Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

Yemeni Annals (Hawliat Yamaniyah): 1224 – 1316 AH (Part I)

Author: Muhsin Bin Ahmed Al-Harazi et al
Checked and Edited by: Abdullah Mohammed Al-Hibshi
Language: Arabic
Publisher: Ministry of Information and Culture
Year Published: 1400 AH/1980 AD
No. of Pages: 661

Despite the volatile and unstable history that Yemen went through especially from the Middle Ages to modern times, which for Yemen begin in the 17th to 18th Century, chroniclers attempted to maintain a vivid description of events that unfolded over the centuries. While the printing press did not enter Yemen until the Twentieth Century, nevertheless, handwritten manuscripts are abundant, which showed the output of many scholars and prominent men of literary genius. These included the several historians that tried to keep a record of all the major developments in Yemen's long and tumultuous history.

The editor of this book is a well known Yemeni researcher and perhaps the best expert in tracing Yemeni handwritten manuscripts that exist both in Yemen and overseas. He is endowed with an excellent talent of tracing the origins of several manuscripts, as well as identifying them by their author, not to mention his knack for being able to determine the authenticity of documents attributed to leading scholars of their respective times.

This book under review is about the events that transpired in Yemen in the 13th Century of the Hegira Moslem calendar. This period is an important transitory period, during which Yemen begins to take the shape of its modern territorial and sovereign dimensions and more importantly Yemen begins to attract the attention of world powers vying for global supremacy.

The significance of this work is that it records this important period of Yemeni history in many places in first hand narrative form or through eyewitness accounts and it does so in mostly vernacular speech rather than the standard classical Arabic formal writing, which the overwhelming majority of chroniclers use to depict their historical accounts. The book also depicts the innocence of Yemeni society as it comes into contact with foreign cultures and institutions that Yemenis were unfamiliar with before this period and the obvious Yemeni penchant for holding on to their traditions and customs, regarding anything alien to them as anathema to proper codes and values that have become engrained over the many centuries that have passed and through which Yemeni culture evolved into a rich and complex horticultural society. Furthermore, from this period, which is about a century, onwards Yemen's geographical and terrestrial composition no longer served as a bar-

rier to Yemen becoming the target for imperial expansion by the powers of the time and the trickling of some of the advances achieved by mankind in the sciences and in the social fields that work towards developing the institutions of government and social order.

The editor's analysis of the manuscripts that make up the contents of the book seems to indicate that there may have been more than one author for this manuscript as can be judged by events that were related which surpassed the year that the presumed author, Al-Harazi, passed away (1288 AH) extending well into the 14th Century. The researcher affirms that the author (Al-Harazi) is a well known scholar of his time and is indeed capable of producing a considerable amount of the material in these Annals that are attributable to him. Even if they are sometimes said to have been the words and thoughts of perhaps other scholars or chroniclers of this period, the researcher (Al-Hibshi) insists that surely it was Al-Harazi who brought them down to paper in one way or another. Al-Hibshi considers these Annals as the most detailed records of events in Yemen in the 13th Century and thus should be valued for their reference depiction of events, but more important the style of the vernacular is folklore in itself, in that very few people write in the spoken dialect.

The book starts with the Entry of the Year 1224, in the last days of the Imam Al-Mansour Ali Ibn Al-Abbass, after his sons Mohammed Al-Mansour and Ahmed Al-Mansour settled their differences and people "relieved at seeing hardship turned into easement". Late in the year the Al-Mansour died after severe illness, after "a caliphate of 30 years and a life span of eighty years, noting that the Imam was a success story of "abundance of money with the state and generosity was meted out to the people with gratuities and gifts given to all". He is also known for having built many of the landmarks of the Old City of Sana'a and its surroundings such as Dar Al-Bashair in Rawdha, Dar Al-Safiah in Beir Al-Azab and the Al-Zumur Mosque.

His son Al-Mutawakkil ala Allah Ahmed Bin Al-Mansour proclaimed himself Imam soon after his father's death and the author describes him as "wise man of medicine, with good knowledge and he had gathered more money than anyone could gather (for the state) due to his care and the money he took from the Ullaifah (ministers of state from the Ulufi clan, who will be described later)".

The author describes the attempts of the new Imam to consolidate his sovereign control of the various tribes and regions and to make sure that the roads and passageways are secured from rebellious tribesmen and he was able to control Al-Qawsi and Al-Bukheity (rebellious Sheikhs). More follow with many humorous accounts of the events that will follow.

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In the Drilling & Completion Department, reporting to the Engineering Superintendent, the job holder's has the following responsibilities:
Participate in the preparation and follow-up of the drilling and/or completion and/or work-over operations in compliance with codes of practices, safety and environmental protection. Preparation of operations programs. Drawing-up of operating procedures. Follow-up of operations and costs. Optimization of service providers activities.
B.S.C. in Mechanical or Petroleum Engineering required
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In the Operations Division, reporting to the Engineering & Construction Manager, the job holder's main accountabilities are to ensure proper follow-up and execution of projects and jobs under his responsibility and look ahead to anticipate problems of quality and delivery time.

Duties and responsibilities:
Co-ordinate the activities - Civil Works - Mechanical - Piping - E/I & Safety - between the Head Office in Sana'a and the Construction team on site. Select the suitable Contract from the standard Total group contracts and possibly amend it to stick to the Scope of the Works. Prepare the Technical scope of work and collate the Call for tender documents for jobs that are not of the responsibility of the site. Go through the technical offers from bidders - Suppliers and Contractors - and issue the technical recommendation after clarification meetings, if any, with Bidders. Get the material requisition issued by the Sana'a Construction team, either from MTO delivered through RFM or by the Engineering Contractor in Abu Dhabi. Especially in charge of the material for well connections. Follow-up the material delivery with the assistance of the Material Supervisor in Construction team, or with DO-L in Sana'a and at site. Especially for well connections. Upon request, assist the Site in the implementation of jobs he has initiated. Verify that documentation related to installations is adequate and updated, and if not, propose corrective actions on lay-out, piping GA and routings. Pay regular site visits and participate to the meetings with Contractors he has been involved with.
Junior to Senior Mechanical Engineer + 5 years of experience in similar jobs required
Can operate AutoCad and SAP or able to learn quickly from training with colleagues

Mechanical Engineer (position based in Sana'a)

In the Operations Division, reporting to the Engineering & Construction Manager, the job holder's main accountabilities are to ensure proper follow-up and execution of projects and jobs under his responsibility and look ahead to anticipate problems of quality and delivery time.

Duties and responsibilities:
Co-ordinate the activities - Mechanical - Piping - Safety - between the Head Office in Sana'a and the Construction team on site. Prepare the scope of work and collates the Call for tender documents for jobs he has been assigned. Go through technical offers from bidders - Suppliers and Contractors - and issue the technical recommendation after clarification meetings, if any, with Bidders. Follow-up the material delivery with the assistance of Logistics Department in Sana'a and at site. Especially for well connections. Supplement missing material with CONTRACTOR supplied material. Upon request, assist the Site in the implementation of jobs he has initiated. Verify that documentation related to installations is adequate and updated, and if not, propose corrective actions on lay-out, piping GA and routings. Pay regular site visits and participate to the meetings with Contractors he has been involved with. Give assistance to pre-commissioning activities to check that pre-com sheets are correctly filled up. Ensure that the works are fully reported from the site. Recover the mark-up drawings at the completion of the works and get the PID up-dated by Sana'a.
Junior Mechanical Engineer + 5 years of experience in similar jobs required
Can operate AutoCad and SAP, or able to learn quickly from training with colleagues

HSE Supervisor(position on site)

In the Drilling and Completion Division, the job holder's main responsibilities on the production site are :

Promote the safety and quality spirit on all drilling/well servicing sites. Liaise with the subsidiary HSE Division for all matters related to drilling, wells and well servicing. Participate in the preparation of the Bridging document. Ensure that the drilling/well referential is available within the subsidiary and promote awareness. Co-ordinate feedback on all Company rules , new and existing. Implement the RIG site monthly safety meeting. Participate in the preparation of the Blow-out contingency plan. Ensure that safety statistics are properly documented and published on all sites. Follow-up of the training of the new local recruits. Manage, dispatch (all sites) and follow-up of all safety alerts and feedbacks. Issue the HSE reports of the Drilling Department. Follow the HSE performances of all the Contractors on site.
Regime & location : rotational (4 weeks on/4 weeks off) - Kharir Field
Minimum of 3 / 5 years experience in oil & gas operations (knowledge of specific risks, materials, process related risks...) required
Good practice of Work Permit system.
Skilled in basics HSE training (1st aid, FiFi, driving, lifting,...)

HSE Officer (position on site)

In the HSE Division, reporting to the HSE Superintendent on site, the job holder's main accountabilities are safe operations, HSE awareness of people, HSE devices and HSE trainer.

Duties and responsibilities:
General: check application of Total HSE policy. Assist HSE Superintendent for all HSE related matters. Participate in Works preparation & check that precautions are enforced. Promote HSE on site through dedicated Promotion Campaign. Keep HSE Superintendent fully informed of all HSE site issues.
Emergency preparedness: Member of Site Emergency Team. Organize Site Emergency training and drills, write report & organize debriefing.
Work & operations: participate to Permit-to-Work system. Supervise operations as per HSE Superintendent Requests. Participate in the preparation of minor and major shutdowns with all other parties in order to optimize duration, sequences, resources, etc.
Audit & inspection : perform regular audits and inspection of operations and installations. Ensure that all safety materiel is identified, registered and that preventive maintenance is duly performed and duly recorded through maintenance software. Ensure that all hazardous material are kept in proper conditions and safely used. Perform regular task observation to identify good and bad practices.
Training : implement basics site training courses.
Regime & location: rotational (4 weeks on/4 weeks off) - Kharir Field
Minimum of 3 / 5 years experience in oil & gas operations (knowledge of specific risks, materials, process related risks...) required
Good practice of Work Permit system.
Skilled in basics HSE training (1st aid, FiFi, driving, lifting,...)

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Yemen's most common cancers are treatable, doctors say

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

Eleven-year-old Samia Naji has had brain cancer since she was 2 years old, experiencing pain, spasms, loss of consciousness and being near death many times. Traveling from her home in Dhamar to Sana'a, she had surgery at Al-Thawra Hospital to remove part of the tumor. Afterward, she rarely had spasms but her left hand was paralyzed. She now gets chemotherapy and radiation therapy in an attempt to remove the tumor completely.

Hiding her bald head under a scarf, Samia couldn't hide her smile when asked what she wants to be in the future: "I want to be a doctor!"

Lack of awareness, wrong diagnosis and poverty are the main reasons preventing cancer patients from receiving proper treatment in sufficient time.

No one can predict Samia's future. Her doctor, tumor specialist Ali Al-Ashwal, confirms that her recovery process is improving as her body receives the treatment well. However, he can't ensure her survival.

Samia is one of thousands of Yemenis eligible for free treatment from the nation's only anti-cancer center in Sana'a. "We receive patients from every Yemeni governorate," the center's media coordinator Mohammed Al-Mahafdi said, confirming that despite large number of patients coming to the center



Samia Naji has had brain cancer since she was two years old

daily, there remain huge numbers of patients who can't receive such therapy.

"According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, there are 1,000 cancer cases per 1 million people worldwide. That means in Yemen, whose population is more than 20 million, cancer cases supposedly amount to 20,000. However, since its 2004 establishment, the center has received only 5,000 cases, as not all patients seek treatment," Al-Mahafdi explained.

If WHO's cancer estimates are correct (100 cases per 100,000 people for countries with more than half of the population below age 20), the number of new cases in Yemen should be around 20,000 annually. However, WHO stresses that where cancer awareness is low and health care access is limited, few actual cancer cases (perhaps only five to 10 percent) are reported to health services. As awareness increases, so will demand for care and thus the burden on health service resources.

According to National Cancer Center manager Dr. Nadeem Mohammed Sa'eed, lack of awareness, wrong diagnosis and poverty are the main reasons preventing cancer patients from receiving proper treatment in sufficient time. "For example, a person may ignore the painless lump on his tongue and continue chewing qat and using shammah (a type of tobacco placed under the tongue), unaware that the small mark may be the first sign of mouth cancer."

"In another case, a person experiencing coughing, chest pain, shortness of breath, hoarseness and bloody sputum may go to a doctor who diagnoses him with TB and gives him medication, ignorant of the fact that those are lung cancer symptoms."

"In some instances, patients may know early on that they have cancer, but because they're poor and can't meet the expense of traveling from their area to Sana'a, they prefer to face their fate," he explained.

Indicators require further study

According to Sa'eed, the center registers a high number of breast cancer cases among Yemeni women; whereas "frightful numbers" of mouth, head and neck cancers are found among males coming to the center.

"I became confused about the breast cancer risk factors we study in medical books because they don't apply to Yemeni women. Studies suggest several categories of women at increased risk for breast cancer: those with a long menstrual history (beginning before age 12 and ending after age 50); those who never gave birth or waited until after age 30 to have children; those who didn't breastfeed their children and those who



A female patient receives radio therapy

drink alcoholic beverages.

"However, most Yemeni women with breast cancer are age 19 or 20, married with two children who breastfed from their mother who never drinks alcohol!" Sa'eed noted.

Pointing out that lymphoma and gastrointestinal cancers are very common among Yemenis, he called for further studies highlighting the true risk factors contributing to cancer in Yemenis.

"The lymphoma treatment rate is as high as 80 to 90 percent, particularly if the patient is treated within the first or second stage of infection. The same rate applies to breast cancer and gastrointestinal cancers."

"We should consider profound demographic, socioeconomic and behavioral changes when studying the causes for certain cancers spreading in Yemen. For example, we discovered that most patients suffering mouth and jaw cancers live in coastal areas like Hodeidah and Hadramout. They are used

to using shammah and smoking tobacco, which are considered carcinogens," Sa'eed remarked.

Early diagnosis, early treatment and medical awareness are contributing effectively to curing cancer patients. "However, increasing public awareness is considered the most difficult aspect because we need to establish a network to provide citizens information. The media isn't enough in this regard, as medical staff also must be involved. They must arrange field campaigns whereby they can increase public awareness about cancer, its various types and prevention," Sa'eed proposed.

Al-Ashwal confirmed that Yemen's most common cancers also are the most treatable. "The lymphoma treatment rate is as high as 80 to 90 percent, particularly if the patient is treated within the first or second stage of infection. The same rate applies to breast cancer and gastrointestinal cancers," he added.

However, Al-Ashwal noted that many patients arrive at the center when their cancer is in its last stages and when their survival rate is very low.

Treatment according to standards

Some governorate public hospitals have anti-cancer units, but they simply offer diagnosis and medication to patients, most of whom are transferred to the National Center in Sana'a to receive treatment.

"Cancer treatment has various processes and stages. After diagnosis, the

patient has surgery to remove a sample of the tumor [called a biopsy]. The doctor then will determine the appropriate therapy based on the tumor, the patient's age and the type of cancer," Al-Ashwal explained, stressing that cancer treatment is based on international standards approved by medical scientists and physicians at international medical conferences. "So in Yemen, we follow the same cancer treatment standards used worldwide," he added.

Major cancer treatments currently available are radio therapy, chemotherapy, hormone therapy and surgery. Targeting cancerous tumors often requires the artful combination of more than one type of treatment method.

The latest Ministry of Health statistics reveal that 5,000 Yemeni cancer patients travel abroad annually.

"Depending on the type and stage of the tumor involved, cancer treatment differs from other types of therapy, as chemotherapy takes at least six months and two months for radio therapy," Al-

remaining abroad for a long time," Al-Ashwal remarked.

The government supports the center with an estimated YR 700 million cancer medication budget. "Ninety percent of cancer medicines are available at the center's pharmacy," Sa'eed noted.

"However, the center sometimes experiences medicine shortages due to delay in receiving finances, but we try our best to get the medicine as soon as possible because we completely understand that delaying medication means killing patients indirectly," he explained.

The center lacks a tumor surgical unit, as most surgeries take place at public or private hospitals and sometimes abroad. "We're looking forward to expanding the center and establishing surgical units where physicians and specialist surgeons can perform operations. If we can reach this goal, we'll help many patients," Sa'eed indicated.

Then and now

Both Al-Ashwal and Sa'eed agree that



A physician registers medications offered as chemotherapy doses.

Ashwal noted, insisting on the impossibility of Yemeni patients receiving such treatment abroad for that long.

"Yemeni patients may travel abroad for treatment; however, they return to complete their treatment at the center because they can't cover the expense of

there's clear change regarding the Yemeni public's understanding of cancer treatment. In the past, some doctors even thought cancer meant inevitable death, but citizens nowadays are requesting and seeking treatment, believing there's always the hope for a cure, the two doctors concluded.

"I just can't break it"

By: Anna Browning
BBC News

About half of adults have a phobia, with one in 10 finding their fear so debilitating they need treatment, according to estimates.

But experts say few of us actually seek help and in the meantime heightened stress levels are thought to be making us even more phobic.

A straw poll of colleagues on the BBC News website unearths a widespread and wide range of phobias - the feel of snails, the look of fish, the smell of bananas, even a single baked bean.

According to the American Medical Association, 10% of people have a phobia serious enough to require treatment, while one in five of us are phobic - as distinct from shy - of public speaking.

Jane LeClercq, 43, has a phobia of driving over 30mph, down hills and at night. She believes it was brought on by stress at work three years ago. "Driving to work, I suddenly developed a fear, I couldn't get the speedometer above 30," she said.

If she did she would get palpitations and sweats. "I felt the wheels were going faster than they were, I felt as if the car was controlling me, I had no control of the brakes and that I was going to end up in the ditch."

She admits her fear is irrational. In 20 years of driving she has only ever had one minor accident. In the last three years she has tried lots of different treatments - including hypnosis and anti-depressants - but the fastest she has managed is 35mph. "If I could get to

40mph that would be fantastic," she said.

Meanwhile, she says, she gets by with "avoidance" - dodging dual carriageways, motorways and country lanes and sticking to driving around her home town of Hove and nextdoor Brighton. "I have a permanent 'P' on my car, which keeps people off my back," she said. "It just gives me a bit of security that people are going to be kinder than they would normally. I get cross and angry with myself, I also think that it's a part of me that I'd rather not have. I'm a bit ashamed and embarrassed about it."

Of course, it is not just those with the phobia whose lives are affected. Chris Lansdown, 49, from Hazlemere, Buckinghamshire, is married to Lynn, who fears buttons.

"I have to be very aware of what clothes I buy, either for myself or as presents for Lynn," he said. "Coats with huge buttons, even button-fly boxers, are a no-no. And when I put items in the washing basket I have to remember to undo every button first, or they come out of the machine still completely fastened."

"I think several of the children's things have never been undone."

So what is behind the phenomenon?

Psychiatrist Dr Cosmo Hallstrom says the cause of phobias was not really known, but could be a "left-over instinct".

Contributing factors are anxiety, stress, learned behaviour and "imprinting", meaning it is inherited through genes. Phobias often "emerge" in early adult life, between the ages of 12 and 15, he said.

There could be a trigger event, such

as being put in a broom cupboard, which can lead to a life-long fear of confined spaces. "There is something built in us to make us learn to be afraid of certain things, but that gets a bit distorted in human beings," he said. "And this seems to come up in early adult life."

He said 50% of people had a significant phobia - one that induced recognizable symptoms over things such as a fear of thunderstorms, snakes and spiders.

A phobia was "excessive" and "unreasonable". "You know it's silly, but you can't help it. It's an emotional reaction," he said.

In most cases, these kinds of phobias had little impact on lifestyle and people could live with them.

Other phobias such as the fear of open spaces, agoraphobia, were more difficult to deal with.

Phobias, the irrational fear of something, fall into two categories: specific phobias - commonly a fear of flying, dentists or of blood - and social phobias, such as the fear public embarrassment.

Social phobia is less common than specific phobias, affecting about 25 people in 1,000 each year. Agoraphobia occurs in about 30 people in every 1,000 a year, and it is roughly twice as frequent among women.

For sufferers it is totally life-changing. Clare Pritchard, 26, from Stoke-on-Trent, developed agoraphobia while she was being bullied at work.

At one point she was suffering up to 10 panic attacks a day. Indeed, it was the fear of having a panic attack in front of people which led to

her fear of going out or being left alone. Her illness has turned her from an outgoing, confident woman who enjoyed nights out to one to whom just walking her dog in the nextdoor field is an insurmountable challenge.

Six years on and she manages to leave home about once a week. Her days are spent tidying, running her internet business and watching daytime television.

She psyched herself up to attend her brother's wedding - despite suffering three to four panic attacks a week leading up to the event - but had to leave the reception after an hour. "I'm missing out on everything," she said. "I want to get a job, I want to get married, but I can't. I couldn't even do my brother's wedding. "As soon as I step out of the front door I just get dizzy and feel people are looking at me," she said.

And it carries on after she gets home. "If I have been out, the day after I feel really sick, sometimes I am sick, and I feel really short of breath." She has tried hypnotherapy and was in counselling until they agreed nothing more could be done.

"I just don't think there are enough people out there who understand how to help you," she said.

"I am getting better, but it's the last hurdle. I just can't beat it. I just don't know how to get out of it."

Phobias

Emetophobia: fear of vomit.

Monophobia: fear of being alone.

Claustrophobia: fear of confined spaces/being trapped

Trypanophobia: fear of injections

Peladophobia: fear of bald people

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Yemen junior team eliminated from finals



Yemen under age 17 team.

SANA'A, Sept 9 — Yemen under age 17 team suffered a 4-3 loss to Tajikistani last Thursday in their last meeting at the Asian Nations Cup in Singapore. The defeat sealed the team's exit from the under age 17 teams competition.

Yemen ended the first half of the encounter 2 goals ahead, but the Tajikistanis came back from the two-goal deficit to equalize in the first ten minutes of the second half. Exploiting concentration of Yemeni teammates on the defence, Tajikistan

finished the game with a deserved victory.

The Yemeni team waged several attacks on its opponent, but most of the balls lacked a finishing touch.

The Tajikistanis scored their third goal and then added the fourth to destroy Yemen's hopes of qualifying for the finals.

The Tajikistani under age 17 team's coach clarified that Yemen deserved advancement to the second round of the Asian Finals but they were unlucky. He advised Yemen to benefit from these youngsters in the future.

Meanwhile, coach of the Yemeni team attributed his side's defeat and elimination to the lack of experience and fitness, which their counterparts enjoy.

In the same group, Iraq drew Iran in a scoreless game, and this helped Tajikistan to top the group with 9 points and qualify for the second round. Iran qualified for the round as the second-placed team with 4 points while Iraq fell the second victim after Yemen and was eliminated from the competition.

Many coaches of participating teams in Singapore praised performance of the Yemen side although it was knocked out from the competition in the first round. They added the draw mated Yemen with three of the strongest teams in the Asian continent.

Yemen loses 1-0 to Japan, has slim chance to advance



Yemeni national team.

SANA'A, Sept 9 — Yemen's national football team lost a close contest to its Japanese counterpart in a home qualifier for the Asian Cup of Nations last Wednesday at Al-Muraisi Stadium in Sana'a.

The team maintained an even score through regulation time, but Kazuki Gahaha scored on a cross in the first minute of injury time to give Japan the victory.

Japan keep hold onto second place behind Saudi Arabia in Group A.

The host team were dominated throughout but Japan couldn't beat goalkeeper Salem Abdullah. Yemen threatened occasionally with striker Ali al-Omiqi twice shooting wide.

Japan has nine points. Yemen is third with three points with two games left and only a slim chance of advancing.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have all able booked their places at next year's finals, the pressure is on the 2002 World Cup co-hosts to perform.

Before meeting Yemen in the Mid-East trip, Champions Japan suffered a 1-0 defeat to Group A leaders Saudi Arabia in Jeddah on Sunday.

Japanese coach Ivica Osim took a 24-member squad to the Middle East, minus any European-based players, and relied on the same names against Yemen in Sana'a.

With a victory over winless India at home and Yemen's loss to Japan, Saudi Arabia now leads the table

with 12 points and sealed their place in next year's Asian Cup.

Japan has one of the strongest squads in Asia and their latest victory give them a great opportunity qualify for the finals.

Meanwhile it was revealed that a breakdown in communication with teammates prompted Japan playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata to quit the team after the World Cup.

Nakata dramatically retired from professional football following Japan's first-round flop and his relations with other members of the national side had already become strained.

"Nakata just wasn't able to get through to the other players in the team anymore," JFA President Saburo Kawabuchi said in a recent interview. "He gave everything he had at the World Cup but he was being ignored to some extent. He said himself he didn't know how to get through to the players."

Nakata collapsed to the turf and sobbed uncontrollably for almost 10 minutes after Japan's 4-1 defeat by Brazil in Dortmund sealed the Asian champions' exit from the World Cup.

The top two teams from each of the six preliminary groups will qualify for next year's finals, which are jointly hosted by Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The national team could have managed to hold Japan to 0-0 draw but teammates played carelessly,

particularly during the final minutes of the game. This encouraged Japan to intensify pressure on Yemeni defenders and make the most of their opportunities leading to the injury time goal.

The national team played in a similar manner to what did against the East Asians in their home soil before this year's World Cup.

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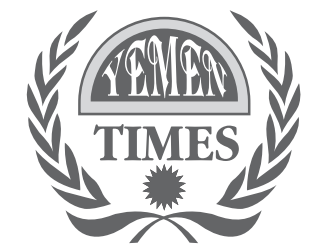
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- Brief the EOM Legal Expert on important legal issues in Yemeni domestic law;
- Assist with all election-related complaints, including assisting with logging and categorizing these (on a database if required) and assessing their merit;
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Sana'a

VACANCY

The British Embassy Sana'a is now recruiting for the position of **Community Liaison Officer (CLO)** We are looking for a well-traveled expatriate with experience of living in several foreign countries to fill this job on a part-time basis (approximately 17.5 hours per week).

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Al-Baradoni: Blind poet's legacy lives on

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

At the end of last month, Yemeni poets, writers, academics and fans marked the seventh anniversary of poet Abdullah Al-Baradoni's death.

Al-Baradoni belongs to that generation of poets whose insightful visions shaped salvation not only for their fellow citizens, but also for their nations.

In 1982, the United Nations issued a silver coin bearing Al-Baradoni's photo and hailing him as an impaired artist who went beyond his impairment. He left behind several studies and unpublished works, the most important of which was his autobiography.

Al-Baradoni spent his life struggling against imperialism, dictatorship and reactionism. He fought against all sorts of backwardness, separation and suppression with the vision of a revolutionary who views his nation's reality and the world around him as he should. This radical intellectual linked his personal and artistic fate with Yemen and the nation's future.

In his own way, Al-Baradoni loved his country while at the same time refusing to allow anyone to teach him how to love it. Being blind and unable to see faces, he couldn't know if those listening to his poetry were angry with him. He used to hurl sharp words at them, telling them he had a special love for Yemen.

Born in Baradon village east of Dhamar, Al-Baradoni had a sweet voice and attempted to modernize traditional poetry in all aspects, language, structure and subjects. It's said that Yemen has three types of poetry: traditional, modern and Baradonian.



Al-Baradoni

While he liked all people, he had a special love for Yemenis. He continued meeting audiences with a happy face, concealing the pain and suffering in his heart. He spent his loneliness in fear and worried about everything. He wouldn't give up questioning everything, to the point that he was called, "the poet of questions," and thus prompted surprise in his audience.

Al-Baradoni wrote numerous poetic works. His first poetry collection entitled "From Bilqis's Land" was printed in Cairo in 1961 and followed by other collections such as "In the Dawn's Way," "Tomorrow's City" and "An Age with No Sense."

He received a number of awards including Aden's Arts and Literature Award, as well as other grand prizes such as Iraq's Abu Tamam Festival Prize and Shawqi's Prize in Cairo.

Possessing a musical ear, Al-Baradoni's poems were modeled after the following Arab poetic patterns: Al-Khafif, Al-Ramel, Al-Baset, Al-Mutaqarab, Al-Kamil and Al-Taweel. Al-Baradoni used dialogue and conversational style in order to allow the reader to spy on poetry with an innovative and surrealistic sense. He did this to avoid direct address with his audience.

Repetition, rhyme and assonance are common in Al-Baradoni's poetry. He paid more attention to internal music than external, as in his poem entitled, "Armless Conqueror."

Holding a mystic view of love, women have a strong presence in the blind poet's early poetry, but are later absent. In his first poetry collection, "From Bilqis's Land," the number of poems that can be attributed to his dealings with women is 30 out of 54 poems. His second collection contained a lesser number of poems referring to celebrating such relations, while his last, "The Entities of Other Longing," has no love poems.

During his last medical visit to Jordan, Al-Baradoni's heart stopped beating at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 30, 1999, thereby making his name immortal among the 20th century's most outstanding Arab poets.

Al-Baradoni's writings range from criticism and philosophy to poetry. He also criticized his poetry collections, particularly his classical poems, which are traditional in form and modern in content.

Al-Baradoni wanted to make himself an encyclopedic and cultured individual; therefore, he also was also a historian, critic, sociologist, philosopher and a complete thinker. He dealt with all of these subjects in his own style to treat the realities of life and people.

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