

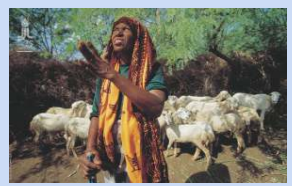
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Bread prices double during Ramadan

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, September, 16 — Price hikes are remarkably increasing in the Yemeni markets especially in the necessary foodstuffs such as wheat and flour. These price hikes drove the costumers tense and worried. The bakeries owners doubled the price of a bread loaf a hundred percent. They also minimized the size as one kg of flour cost 240 while it was 120 a few weeks ago.

The price of a bag of wheat with capacity of 50kg has reached to YR5000 where it was valued at YR4000 three days before. A 25kg wheat bag is worth YR3000. Furthermore, the flour bag with a capacity of 50kg is sold at YR 6700 and YR 3400 for the 25kg bag.

Jar-Allah Al-U'tmi, a bakery owner in Sana'a, considered these price hikes unreasonable and frightening. "We increased the prices because we will not get gains if we sell bread according to the previous price. If the government does not take any measure against this increase of the prices, I will be obliged to close my bakery," he added.

"If we increase the price, they say it is a violation. If we minimize the size they do the same. We buy wheat and flour. We don't cultivate them in our



Either raise the price of bread of make it smaller in size. Some bakeries landed up doing both.

farms. We are compelled to minimize the size of the loafs. But if we maintain the same size and the same price under the increasingly growing prices, we will shut down the bakeries. We have nothing to do with price hikes. We urge the government to fix the prices and to specify the size of the bread," Yahya Matar shared.

At earlier time the state had assigned the economic corporation to provide citizens with wheat and flour, selling these two foodstuffs inside the capital city of Sana'a in trucks at YR 3700 per one bag of wheat with capacity of 50kg. The corporation could not cover

the entire areas with enough quantities. Consequently, the ministers' council approved a new operation to support the corporation so as to comprehensively cover the capital areas. On the other hand, tradesmen and merchants retailing wheat and flour have been angered by the government's operation as it has not given them prior notice. They refuse to limit the price of the wheat to the government's tariff. "When I asked the shop keeper how come he is not following the state's instructions in wheat and flour prices he refused to sell me anymore and told me to go and buy from the govern-



People line up in front of economic establishment everyday in order to buy state subsidized wheat and flour at cheaper rates than in the market.

ment," complained a middle income man from Sana'a.

These price hikes come while the Yemeni markets experience unusual motion due to shopping for the Holy month of Ramadan. The price hikes aroused anger and mortification among citizens especially those with lower income. Riots have been occurring in several governorates especially in Southern Yemen where the rate of people under the food poverty line is higher.

Saleh Al-Awadhi, a citizen shopping for Ramadan goods described the price hike as "cannibals": "I went shopping

with YR 10,000. I did not know what to buy. Some foodstuffs were doubled where vegetable oils with capacity of 5liters reached to YR 1050. It was YR 500 a few weeks ago. Likewise, the dried milk increased by YR 1600 for one kg."

People have resorted to live in austerity during the Holy month of Ramadan, depriving their children from what they used to get every Ramadan.

The ministry of Industry and trade justified the price hikes due to the increase of the stock exchange of wheat. The weekly bulletin of the min-

istry mentioned that the price of the American white wheat increased to \$US 9.5 for one bag. The previous price was \$US 326 for one ton with an increase of \$US 35 from the previous price. However, the Argentina wheat costs \$US 315 for one ton with difference of \$US24. This is without the costs of shipment.

Yahya Al-Mutawakel, the minister of industry and trade mentioned during the supply meeting of the office of the industry and trade that the continuous hikes in the international markets are due to the change of climate as well as to the increase of demand and decrease of supply.

The supply monitoring report issued by the ministry of Industry and Trade indicated that 1065 violations were controlled since the middle of May, including 394 violations of price increase, 21 reduction of weight in the package, 6 violations as trading deception and 38 violations regarding dealing with no bills.

Ahmed Al-Bashah, the deputy manager of the general authority of specification and standards and quality control, highlighted that the authority will conduct a wide campaign including markets to control violators and those who manipulate with weights. He mentioned that the violators have been referred to the prosecution to take legal measures against them.

However, because of the social festivities during Ramadan, while many line up in front of the economic establishment seeking to buy wheat and flour for cheaper prices, people remain cautious about what to come suddenly for the days to come.

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Dozens die at Smugglers' hands in the Gulf of Aden

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Sep — 16 Over fifty African people have died violently at the hands of smugglers, while trying to make the perilous Gulf of Aden crossing from Somalia to Yemen, said the UN refugee agency on Friday.

"At least 56 people have lost their lives trying to make the perilous Gulf of Aden crossing from Somalia to Yemen since the full resumption of the current sailing season in early September," said the agency.

Since September 3, UN High Commissioner for Refugees' office in Yemen has recorded the arrival of 12 boats carrying 925 Somalis, Ethiopians and others. Two or three other boats were reported to have crossed the Gulf of Aden from mid to late August, but annual bad weather between June and the end of last month kept most smugglers off the high seas.

The arrivals told UNHCR staff earlier this week that they were beaten by smugglers during the trip and that 24 people had died — three as a result of beatings; 11 after being crammed into the hold of the boat; and 10 from



Yemeni fishermen prepare to bury the bodies of people who drowned during the boat crossing the gulf of Aden.

drowning in waters offshore.

UNHCR questioning of earlier arrivals determined that at least another 32 people on three of the boats had lost their lives during crossings this month.

"The smugglers are ruthless, as ruthless as they were last year. Unfortunately nothing has changed there. All they care about of course is getting the money for the trip and if you're lucky you'll actually make it to the other side. They pay an average of \$70 to \$150 and might not even make it

to the other side," a female survivor told the agency.

The survivors of the last boat also claimed that once they reached shore, they came under fire from military forces based in Yemen's Jalbad region. One Ethiopian was wounded and transferred for medical assistance by UNHCR.

Most of passengers were from volatile areas in Somalia and the increasingly unstable Ogaden region in Ethiopia. There were also two Sudanese among the group, and they expressed a desire to seek asylum in Yemen.

Another boat with 100 Somalis on board apparently failed to reach Yemen after encountering problems during the voyage, and spent six days adrift in the shark-infested waters.

Those passengers who made it back to Somalia told the UNHCR that many of them had been beaten, with some reportedly doused with acid by the smugglers.

"The bodies of those who did not survive the six-day ordeal were reportedly thrown overboard. We do not have the numbers of those who died there,"

UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond told journalists.

Smugglers usually operate in the Gulf of Aden from September to June. So far in 2007, more than 10,000 people have reportedly arrived in Yemen in 103 boats. A total of 282 people died while 159 remain missing and presumed dead. In 2006, nearly 29,000 people were recorded arriving in Yemen in 237 boats. At least 328 people died and 310 were recorded as missing last year.

In recent months, international agencies working in Somalia have joined forces and set up a task force to better

address the problem.

UNHCR has scaled up its presence to some 25 staff in Somalia's Puntland and is preparing as a first step — with partners like the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) — an information campaign aimed at warning people of the risks they face in using smugglers. "The deaths in the Gulf of Aden are a reminder of the risks taken every year by thousands of people resorting to smugglers in the Gulf of Aden, the Mediterranean and other waters," said UN refugee agency.

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In brief

SANA'A

7000 pieces of weapons seized and prevented in 20 days

Sept. 14- the ongoing campaign on weapons in the capital Sana'a and provincial capitals had led to curb the acts of land illegal seizure by 80% since the beginning of the interior ministry application of its decision of preventing entrance of weapons to Sana'a and provincial capitals on 23 of last August, according to a security source at the interior ministry of Yemen affirmed. General Mohammed Bin Abdullah al-Qawsi, interior undersecretary for security sector. On the other hand the general official and non official members to speed up registration of their bodyguards weapons as stated in the regulation.

mining investments in Yemen

Sept. 15- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank has expected that the mining sector in Yemen might supply the public fund with USD 1 billion per a year if the government could utilize the sector and create a convenient environment for mining investments. The IFC has offered a project to improve the mining environment in Yemen in collaboration with the Yemeni Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board. The project aims at developing a plan for mining investment in the country to be more attractive for investors basing upon the best international standards. The head of the YGSMRB Ismael al-Janad stated that 4000 Yemeni workers work in 515 mining fields in different governorates and 13 foreign companies are working in the minerals exploration in Yemen.

IBB

New archaeological discoveries

Sept. 14- The national archaeological team discovered last week during its excavation operations in al-Shahed location southern Dhafar city, Ibb province, two stores (rooms) inside an ancient building belongs to the 1st - 2nd centuries A.D., the beginning of the Sheba kingdom epoch. The team has managed to reach the end of the building, which was 2.2 m height and the excavation operations found out eight large jars (70 cm height and 60 cm width) were used to store up cereals, adorned cubic-shaped pieces and several number of stony boards (80_ 65 cm) used to pave flats of the rooms.

TAIZ

WB-supplied projects in Taiz discussed

Sept. 15- Minister of Public Works and Roads Omar al-Kurshomi discussed on Saturday with World Bank's official of the project of municipal improvement and protecting Taiz city from floods Steven Karam supplementary works of the project the organization would supply at an amount estimated at \$20 million as a donation and a loan from the WB during the three forthcoming years.

ABYAN

Ten companies compete to carry out Batis road project

Sept. 13- Ten local and international companies are competing to win tender of carrying out a project of Batis road in Abyan governorate. The \$28 million worth project is funded by the Qatari government to link Abyan governorate with Lahj, al-Bida'a and Aden governorates. The governor of Abyan Mohammed Saleh held a meeting with representatives of the contesting companies, affirming the importance of pacing measures of starting works in the project as it is strategic and economic.

SOCOTRA

New tourist city in Socotra Island

Sept. 16- An informed source stated that investors from UAE, will build a tourist city in Socotra Island. The investment cost is estimated at \$5 billion. Head of the General Authority for Islands Development (GAID), Yahya Mutaheer said that an investment company from the United Arab Emirates would carry out the project which goes in line with investment opportunities declared at the conference of exploring investment opportunities in Yemen held in Sana'a last April. Mutaheer pointed that other 12 tourist projects would be implemented in the country by investors from the United Arab Emirates.

Number of youth in Yemen will peak in 20 years

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

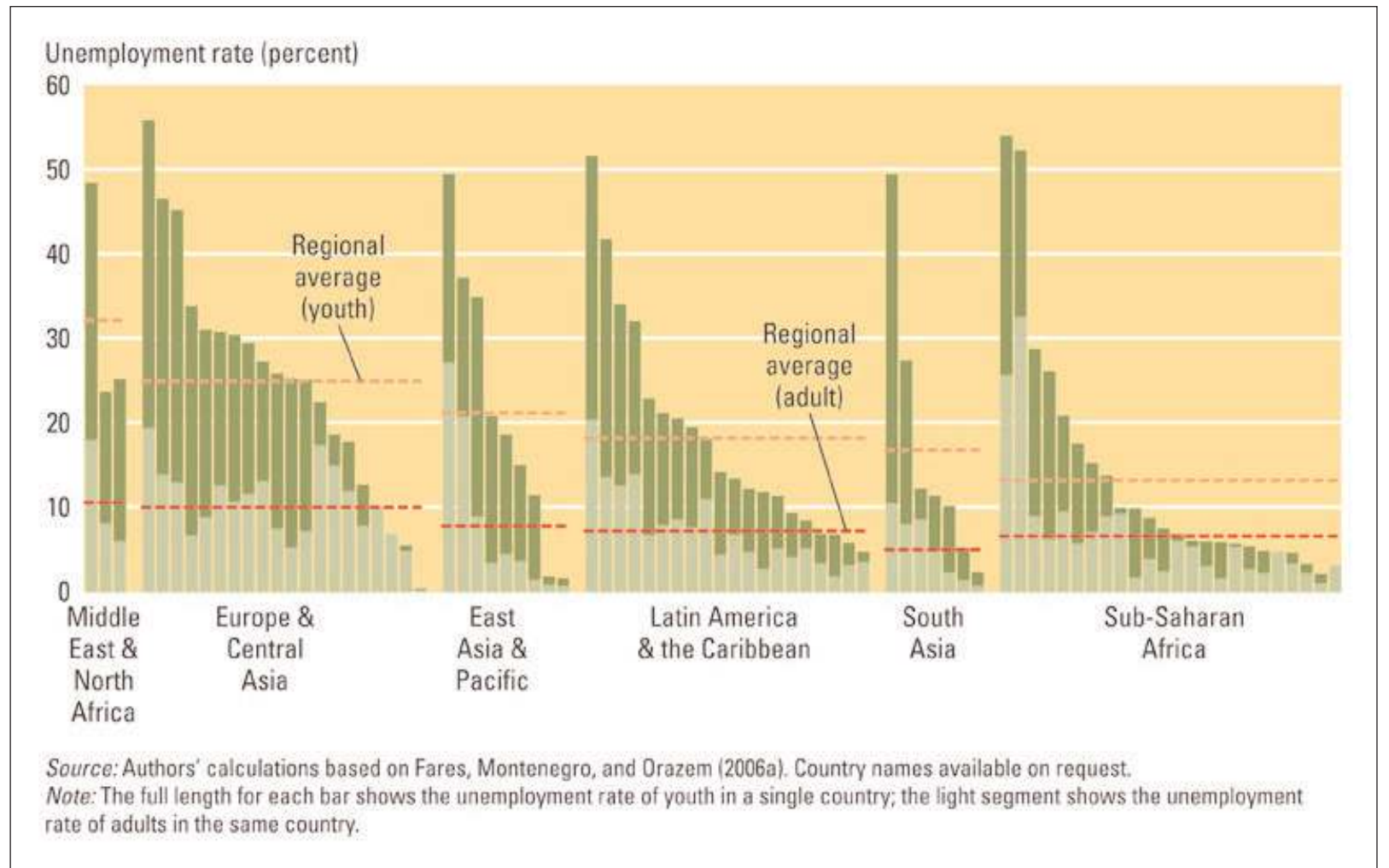
SANA'A, Sept. 16 — The number of youth in most developing countries has peaked or will do so in the next 10 years. However, because of the high population growth rate, the number of youth in Yemen among a few other countries will peak in the next 20 years. This means in another twenty years there will be a much higher need for education and employment opportunities than ever in the history of this country. Yemen needs to invest in youth today in order to be able to meet the challenges in the coming two decades.

According to the report, these large numbers can also be an opportunity. The fertility transition means that many developing countries are in, or will soon enter, a phase when they can expect to see a larger share of people of working age. This expansion of a workforce that has fewer children and elderly to support provides a window of opportunity to spend on other things, such as building human capital.

More than one in four people are in search of jobs in Middle East and North Africa region. Average unemployment rates are highest among both youth and adults in MENA, when compared to all other developing regions. The share of young people among the region's unemployed is higher than 50 percent in most countries.

Unless developing countries invest in human capital they will not be able to take advantage of the citizens during their most productive age. Youth political participation and involvement in social organizations is also essential for fostering young people's civic life in their own communities and also vital for good governance.

A number of unemployed youth organizations have been formed in Yemen recently in order to demand better living conditions and more opportunities. Their engagement in riots and protests which lead to violent clashes recently prove their need to be embraced in a productive nurturing system to utilize their skills and energy. According to the report, without opportunities for productive civic engagement, young people's frustrations may boil over into economic and social tensions, creating long-simmering disputes. For example, the



ongoing ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka between Sinhalese and Tamils was initially caused by the frustration of Tamil students shut out of university places and denied other avenues for civic involvement.

The poor quality of basic education severely limits opportunities for young people. This was one of the many conclusions in the latest World Bank World Development Report. Investing in developing youth is the key to progress, especially in young developing countries, such as Yemen, where at least 50 percent of the population is under 15 years old. Despite the fact that enrollment rates and number of schools are increasing, problems such as illiteracy, unemployment, and unskilled labor persist in Yemen. The WDR explains the reason behind this is poor quality of education. It is not just about reading and writing, youth who have completed basic education are

unprepared to cope with the practicalities of daily life. Most of today's youth lack skills to navigate adolescence and young adulthood safely, or possess advantageous vocational training to help them compete in the workforce.

The bright side of this is that these youth present a huge opportunity to accelerate growth and reduce poverty. Because labor is the main asset of the poor, making it more productive is the best way to reduce poverty. This requires enhancing the opportunities to earn money and developing the human capital to take advantage of those opportunities.

With 1.3 billion young people now living in the developing world—the largest-ever youth group in history—the report says there has never been a better time to invest in youth because they are healthier and better educated than previous generations, and they will join the

workforce with fewer dependents because of changing demographics. However, failure to seize this opportunity to train them more effectively for the workplace, and to be active citizens, could lead to widespread disillusionment and social tensions.

"Such large numbers of young people living in developing countries present great opportunities, but also risks," says François Bourguignon, the World Bank's Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics. "The opportunities are great, as many countries will have a larger, more skilled labor force and fewer dependents. But these young people must be well-prepared in order to create and find good jobs."

The report says that young people make up nearly half of the ranks of the world's unemployed, and, for example, that the Middle East and North Africa

region alone must create 100 million jobs by 2020 in order to stabilize its employment situation. Moreover, surveys of young people in East Asia and Eastern Europe and Central Asia—carried out as research for the report—indicate that access to jobs, along with physical security, is their biggest concern.

Far too many young people—some 130 million 15-24 year olds—cannot read or write. Secondary education and skill acquisition make sense only if primary schooling has been successful. This is still far from being the case and efforts have to be reinforced in this area.

The report themed: Development and the Next Generation, goes through the various aspects in youth's development such as learning and basic education, to going to work, to healthy growth, forming families, exercising citizenship, and moving and communicating across borders.

“Legitimate” demonstrations continue

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

HADRAMOUT, Sept. 16 — Media and local sources from Hadramout governorate have mentioned that security forces dispersed, last Friday evening, a big crowd of angry demonstrators amounting to 3,000, with flood nozzles.

The demonstrators chanted mottos like “for your cause detainees!” and raised red and black signs together with the photo of youth Salah Sa'eed Al-Qahom, who was killed during the march on the first of September. They also raised photos of Socialist leader Hasan Ahmed Ba'um, demanding immediate release of detainees held over the demonstrations.

In the early hours of the demonstration, security forces arrested the chairman of Yemeni Unionist Congregation Nasser Baqazcuz, accusing him of inciting people to demonstrate. They also arrested a member of the local council, Saleh bin Hamel, as well as nine other people whose identities are unknown.

Citizens complained their houses and shops got damaged by the heavy water sprayed by flood nozzles used by security forces.

Meanwhile, the Coordinating Authority of Political and Popular and Civil Society Forces denounced the new arrests which involved many citizens and the excessive use of force while dispersing a peaceful marching.

It also called upon all organizations interested in human rights inside and outside the country to intervene in an effort to stop the bloody scene in Al-Mukulla.

In an interview with Dialogue Forum, the chairman of the Sons of Yemen League Party, Abdurrahman Al-Jifri, pointed out that “we raised comprehensive solutions regarding

thorough reforms. The pensioners issue could have been tackled right from the beginning. They gave people the chance to form assemblies, associations as well as to hold sit-ins. Now after the situation became enormous, we are forming solutions committees. We are in a tense situation and the future will be worse.”

Al-Jifri stressed the legitimacy of holding peaceful demonstration and sit-ins.

“Yemen is ruled by the ruling party followed by other powers. These powers are based on military, tribal and economic foundations. This is the Yemeni situation. We all know that. We say that the president administers everything. In fact, this decision is influenced by several powers and consultants. It sometimes comes out balanced and sometimes does not,” the source maintained.

In his opinion regarding the ongoing demonstrations taking place across the country, Al-Jifri commented: “Unfortunately this issue is more dangerous than you imagine. Some newspapers say that it is a bubble and will vanish. Some other people depict it as a disaster. It is a catastrophe if it is not settled sincerely. I do not mean a military settlement but something based on right and sound decisions followed by immediate implementation. If it is not resolved, the county will face real danger.”

Regarding the rumor that the demonstrations are aroused by external parties, Al-Jifri stated, “I think we have to forget about this rumor. I do not exclude the involvement of outsider parties in the issue. It is because I don't think it is not important whether there are external hands involved in the problem or not. Countries that have an interest in harming our country will do so. We do not blame them. We have to



Previous demonstration in Al-Dhale.

blame ourselves. We have to foil their plans and develop our country. Yemen is the most significant country in the region, without overstatement. It is the center of the region. The problem is that we do not know the importance of our country and its geographical location. We have missed chances. We have to take precautions because Yemen may separate into more than two parts. The situation is very dangerous.”

Moreover, six lawyers lodged a complaint to the prosecution of Al-Mukalla city and other concerned parties, demanding retribution for the murder of Sallah Sa'eed Al-Qahoom at the hand of military and security forces, during a peaceful demonstration on September 1.

Media sources said that the prosecution started taking proceedings. Furthermore, they have listened to information from eyewitnesses pertaining to the incident.

As to the situation in Al-Dhal'e, Joint Meeting Parties demanded the referrals of police personnel and Al-Dhal'e Security Chief to the judiciary over killing of two demonstrators and the injuring several others. Meanwhile, the parties have refuted government accusations that the demonstrators fired on the security forces.

Joint Meeting Parties spokesman, Mohammed Al-Sabri, stated that the state has no right to use the army and security personnel for settling political

disputes or breaching the legitimacy of the existing political system built on democracy and pluralism.

Al-Sabri also denounced exploiting the official media for the cause of the ruling party, especially when it used to supporting the parties wrong policies and resolutions.

He added that continuing the wrong policies described by him as “out-lawed” will raise the level of congestion among security and army affiliates. Moreover, Al-Sabri condemned mobilizing the official media against the people and renewed the call for correcting the existing dysfunctions of state's public policy.

He concluded by saying that “the bullet will not build justice.”

Indonesia quake toll rises to 23 dead



Villagers walk past a damaged mosque at Air Besi village near Bengkulu September 15.

JAKARTA (Reuters) — The toll from a severe earthquake on Indonesia's Sumatra island last week has risen to 23 dead and 88 injured, an official

said on Sunday, and the area is likely to experience further significant aftershocks.

The 8.4 magnitude quake struck off

the coast of western Sumatra on Wednesday evening, and has been followed by at least 40 big aftershocks and several tsunami warnings, subse-

quently withdrawn.

Aftershocks with a magnitude ranging from 3 to 5 are likely to be felt along Sumatra's west coast for the next two weeks, the Jakarta Post reported on Sunday, citing the head of the earthquake and tsunami division of the Meteorological and Geophysical Agency.

Rustam Pakaya, a senior health ministry official, told Reuters that as of Sunday morning, a total of 23 people had died in Bengkulu and West Sumatra provinces, the two regions closest to the quake's epicentre, while 88 people had been injured.

More than 22,000 houses in the area either collapsed or were damaged, Giri Trigondo, an official at the national disaster agency, said on Sunday.

"Quake victims in some areas need food, cooking implements, tents, medicine," he said.

Many people are still sleeping out in the open, either because their homes have been destroyed or because they are too scared to return home in case of further quakes.

Voting under way in Greek elections

Al-Jazeera — Greeks are voting in a general election overshadowed by the government's response to a wave of wildfires that killed 65 people.

Polling stations in Greece opened on Sunday, with nearly 10 million people due to vote in the euro zone's second-poorest member.

Costas Karamanlis, the prime minister and leader of the New Democracy party, had called for early elections, confident that his economic record would secure an easy win.

But a series of blazes that ravaged large areas of the country last month have narrowed his party's lead.

Barnaby Phillips, Al Jazeera's correspondent in Athens, said: "The fires have changed the political equation here."

The socialist PASOK party, led by George Papandreou, the former foreign minister, has accused Karamanlis of failing to protect Greece from the fires and of neglecting promises to combat

corruption.

Phillips said: "There is a feeling that the government was slow and the authorities were poorly organised in relation to the fires, but that doesn't only hurt New Democracy ... I think a lot of Greeks also blame the main opposition party, PASOK."

PASOK ruled Greece for most of the 1980s and 1990s, but lost elections to Karamanlis's party in 2004.

But Phillips said that PASOK, was "not necessarily seen as a fresh alternative".

"Instead what you have ... is more fringe parties picking up votes and doing well."

Polls blackout

Dionysis Mitrogiannis, a voter on his way to a polling station near the western town of Arta, said: "People here are generally split between the two main parties but many here will vote for smaller parties because they are disap-

pointed."

Greece imposes a blackout on opinion polls ahead of elections, but polls published before September 1 showed Karamanlis's New Democracy leading Papandreou's PASOK party by between one and two percentage points.

Phillips said: "The indications of most experts is that New Democracy will just squeak home."

"They'll probably get around 42 per cent of the vote, which is what they need under the Greek electoral system to get an overall majority ... but they're not over-confident about that."

Election promises

The two main parties have pledged to create jobs, improve standards of living and shore up Greece's ailing pension system.

Karamanlis has been praised by the European Union for cutting deficits and turning around Greece's economy and

he has vowed to push on with the reforms the country needs to catch up with its euro zone partners.

Despite this, Greek per capita gross domestic product is the lowest in the zone next to Portugal's and 20 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.

The far-right Popular Orthodox Rally could enter parliament for the first time and end up acting as a power-broker.

Papandreou has indicated that he would be willing to form a coalition with other parties but Karamanlis has suggested Greece would be heading for another election if he did not win a strong mandate.

More than 9.8 million people are eligible to vote Sunday, out of a population of 11.4 million, in Greece's 12th parliamentary election since democracy was restored in 1974 following a military dictatorship.

Nearly 500,000 are first-time voters.

Japan's Fukuda eyes warmer China ties

By: Linda Sieg

TOKYO (Reuters) - Tokyo must keep a thaw in ties with China on track, the frontrunner to be Japan's next prime minister said on Sunday, while urging Beijing to better explain its ballooning military spending.

Yasuo Fukuda, 71, an advocate of a less U.S.-centric foreign policy, is widely expected to beat hawkish former foreign minister Taro Aso in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leadership race sparked by Shinzo Abe's abrupt decision last week to resign.

"The U.S.-Japan alliance is the cor-

nerstone and we must place weight on that. But if there are deficiencies in other areas, we should fix them," Fukuda told public broadcaster NHK.

"Prime Minister Abe visited China and South Korea and relations improved. We must make that trend even firmer."

Fukuda also apologised for chaos created by Abe's move, which has raised fears of a policy vacuum in Japan.

"Our country is in an emergency situation, or rather, a crisis," he said in a speech at LDP party headquarters. "I feel that as a party member and as a

member of the parliament, I must apologise."

Fukuda reiterated he would not visit Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, seen by many Asian countries as a symbol of Japan's past militarism, if he were chosen as the nation's new leader.

Sino-Japanese ties chilled under Abe's predecessor Junichiro Koizumi, largely because of the Japanese leader's visits to Yasukuni, but thawed after Abe's visit to Beijing last October.

Fukuda sounded a critical note towards Abe's proposal for a "broader Asia" partnership of democracies that would include India, the United States and Australia — but not China.

"China is making efforts toward a free economy, so if we say they must change their system completely, that would seem to be rejecting them," Fukuda told private broadcaster Asahi TV.

But he also urged China to make its budgeting military spending more transparent.

"China has a responsibility to explain ... and obtain understanding," he said.

Indian ocean naval mission

Fukuda, the son of a prime minister and known as a "shadow foreign minister" when he served in Koizumi's cabinet, looks on track to win the September 23 election for LDP president after gaining support of all the ruling party's biggest factions.

Whoever wins the LDP race is assured the premiership by virtue of the ruling coalition's huge majority in parliament's powerful lower house.

Abe had refused to quit after his ruling camp suffered a huge defeat in a July upper house poll, then shocked

politicians and the public by announcing his resignation last week, saying he wanted to clear the way to resolve a standoff over Japan's naval mission in support of U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan.

The soft-spoken Fukuda stressed the importance of extending the Japanese naval mission to refuel coalition ships in the Indian Ocean, a step strongly urged by Washington but which Japan's opposition parties are against.

"Various countries including France, Germany and Pakistan have expressed appreciation of this activity ... and we want to continue it if we can, so we must explain this to the opposition parties," Fukuda told NHK, adding it was necessary to sell the mission to the Japanese public as well.

The main opposition Democratic Party and its allies won a majority in the July upper house election and can thus delay legislation to extend the naval mission.

Fukuda said it was theoretically possible for the ruling coalition to enact a law to extend the mission by overriding the upper house with its two-thirds majority in the lower chamber, but added that doing so would be a measure of last resort.

Fukuda also sounded a softer note towards talks on normalising ties with North Korea, long foiled by a feud over Japanese citizens kidnapped decades ago by Pyongyang.

"We must not close the road to talks," he told Fuji TV. "We must show that we are willing to have discussions."

Abe has insisted the feud over the abductees be resolved before Japan would give energy aid to North Korea as part of a six-way disarmament deal agreed earlier this year.

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Sadr's movement pulls out of Iraq alliance



Al-Sadr said on Saturday it had withdrawn from Iraq's ruling Shi'ite Alliance, dealing a further blow to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

By: Dominic Evans and Waleed Ibrahim

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — The political movement loyal to anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr quit Iraq's ruling Shi'ite Alliance on Saturday, leaving Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's coalition in a precarious position in parliament.

The move further weakens the ruling coalition, which even before the defection had failed to push through laws aimed at reconciling Iraq's warring majority Shi'ite and minority Sunni Arabs.

Maliki's government now enjoys the support of only about half of Iraq's 275 lawmakers, although it could survive with the support of a handful of independent lawmakers.

"The political committee has declared the withdrawal of the Sadr bloc from the (Shi'ite) alliance because there was no visible indication that the demands of Sadr's bloc were being met," the Sadr movement said in a statement released at a news conference in the holy Shi'ite city of Najaf.

An adviser to Maliki said the government had no immediate comment.

The decision by Sadr's movement to quit the Shi'ite Alliance in parliament was not unexpected after the cleric pulled his six ministers from the cabinet in April.

Maliki can still count on the backing of two other Shi'ite Islamist parties and the two main Kurdish parties in parliament, and so far no party has launched any push for a no-confidence vote in his government.

Sadr was instrumental in getting Maliki, a fellow Shi'ite, appointed prime minister in May last year.

His political bloc has raised a host of grievances in the past, including Maliki's refusal to set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq.

Sadr, a fiery nationalist whose stronghold in the capital is Baghdad's sprawling Sadr City, led his Mehdi Army militia in two uprisings against U.S. forces in 2004.

Maliki under fire

Maliki's government has been paralysed by infighting. Besides the withdrawal of ministers loyal to Sadr, six cabinet mem-

bers from the main Sunni Arab bloc have also quit.

Speaking in parliament on Monday, Maliki acknowledged that the term "national unity government", used to describe his cabinet had lost its meaning.

Hinting at a long promised overhaul of his cabinet, he said it was time for a "partnership government", but gave no details.

The next day Sadr's movement said it was considering withdrawing from the alliance, accusing it of failing to provide security and said political progress had been inadequate.

Criticism of Maliki's government also came from Washington.

President George W. Bush, speaking on Thursday, said it had made limited political progress despite the breathing space offered by a "surge" of U.S. troops and better security.

In a report ordered by Congress, the White House said on Friday that Iraq's leaders had made satisfactory progress on just nine out of 18 political and security benchmarks.

The political benchmarks, which include a crucial revenue-sharing oil law, are designed to build on the improved security and promote national reconciliation.

Iraqi lawmakers were not impressed. "The Americans always try to pretend the responsibility for cleaning up this mess isn't theirs and tend to shift blame onto Iraq, Iran and Syria for everything that goes wrong," said veteran Kurdish lawmaker Mahmoud Othman.

Bush, announcing plans for a limited withdrawal of around 20,000 U.S. troops by July, said on Thursday U.S. forces had helped ensure "ordinary life is beginning to return" to Baghdad.

On Saturday evening a suicide car bomber killed 10 people and wounded 15 others in southwest Baghdad. Many were queuing outside a bakery to buy bread for the evening Ramadan meal which breaks the day-long fast during the Muslim holy month.

The bombing came on the same day that an al Qaeda led group, the Islamic State in Iraq, announced a new phase of attacks to mark the month of Ramadan, which started this week.

North Korea denies nuclear ties with Syria

SEOUL (Reuters) — A senior North Korean official denied a report that Pyongyang was giving nuclear expertise to Syria, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported on Sunday.

The Washington Post, citing unnamed sources, last week reported that intelligence gathered over the past six months had led some U.S. officials to believe Syria was receiving help from North Korea on some sort of nuclear facility.

The intelligence, including satellite imagery, suggested the facility could be used to produce material for nuclear weapons, the Post said.

"They often say things that are groundless," Yonhap quoted Kim Myong-gil, deputy chief of the North Korean mission to the United Nations, as saying.

Kim said he had nothing more to say and hung up the phone when asked to elaborate, Yonhap said.

North Korea is widely thought to sell conventional weapons to Syria

though analysts say its armaments trade in general has been hit hard by tough sanctions since the reclusive state nearly a year ago tested its first nuclear device.

Pyongyang agreed earlier this year to start dismantling its nuclear facilities, and source of weapons-grade plutonium, in return for massive aid. More recently, the United States has held out the possibility of normalising ties if the ostracised North completely scraps its nuclear weapons programme.

The Syria reports have angered U.S. conservatives who believe North Korea cannot be trusted to keep its word and that talks on nuclear disarmament with regional powers, expected to resume next week, the six-party talks, are bound to fail.

On Friday, the lead U.S. negotiator with North Korea declined to confirm the Syria reports but said they underscored the need for Pyongyang to give up its nuclear programmes.

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YEMEN: Female education remains key challenge

Aisha Al-Gilany remembers the struggle all too well. For four years she fought with her parents to allow her to attend university. "My sisters all went to grade five and then dropped out," recalled the 23-year-old from Al-Fars Rajam village, two hours outside Sanaa, the capital. "My parents didn't approve of us going," she explained, adjusting the black chador covering her face. She adheres strictly to the conservative norms that govern most Muslim women in this part of the world. Though her parents wanted their five daughters to be literate, female

education was never deemed particularly important in her village. "Women in Yemen are supposed to stay at home and clean," Aisha said. "Why should girls go to school?" asked 57-year-old Ahmed, a local shopkeeper.

The gender-disparity in Yemen is the worst in the world.

"OK, they can go, but the priority should always be on the men," a slightly more open-minded young man said. In Yemen, such comments

are far from new, particularly in rural areas where the vast majority of the population lives.

Gender gap

The government says the gender gap with regard to education is "considerable". While national illiteracy rates stand at about 30 percent for men, they exceed 67 percent for women, it says.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) says access to education is one of the biggest challenges facing children in Yemen today, especially girls. Nearly half of primary school age girls do not go to school.

According to the most recent Arab

Human Development Report (AHDR), the gender gap in education in Yemen is among the highest in the world. Girls' education is a highly gender-sensitive issue, the 2005 report said, citing cultural factors like gender specific roles, early marriage, segregation between the sexes, and poverty as the primary barriers.

This results in gender inequality in education, with human development indicators for female literacy and the net enrolment ratio for females amongst the lowest worldwide, it said.

In addition to the gender gap in education, urban-rural differences were significant: 84.8 percent of urban and 68.9 percent of rural males aged 10 and above are literate, compared to only 59.5 percent of urban and 24 percent of rural females, respectively, the National Document to Promote Girls' Education in Yemen, said in 2005.

UNDP reports that in Yemen, in primary education, females account for just 52.8 percent of the number of males that are enrolled, and in secondary education 35.3 percent of males that are enrolled - making female enrolment rates in Yemen amongst the lowest in the Arab world.

Socio-cultural versus economic factors

"The gender-disparity in Yemen is the worst in the world," Dr Arwa Yahya Al-Deram, executive director of Soul, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) currently working to promote female enrolment in two of the country's 19 governorates, told IRIN in Sanaa.

Low female participation in education was attributed to several socio-cultural factors, she said: the tradition of early marriage in rural areas hindered girls' schooling and resulted in high drop out rates; the high importance of a girl's chastity in rural areas; the reluctance of many parents to send



Girls in a basic education school in Taiz. Taiz governorate has one of the highest girls enrolment rates in basic education, the overall literacy rate is more 80 percent.

girls to mixed gender schools; and the negative social attitudes towards girls' education.

Al-Deram, however, placed more emphasis on the economic factors than on people's perceptions of education, saying that attitudes were not as bad as people thought. She said available financial resources were a

Non-availability of female teachers is a major factor often cited by parents for keeping girls away from school.

crucial determinant of a parent's decision on their daughter's education, as was the local availability of schools.

"We don't have enough schools just for girls," she said. "The classes are mixed, and that's not acceptable in Yemeni culture," Al-Deram said.

"Non-availability of female teachers is a major factor often cited by parents for keeping girls away from school," Nasim-ur-Rehman, a UNICEF spokesman in Sanaa said. Even if the schools exist, they often lacked basic amenities like a toilet, he added.

Comparison with other Arab countries

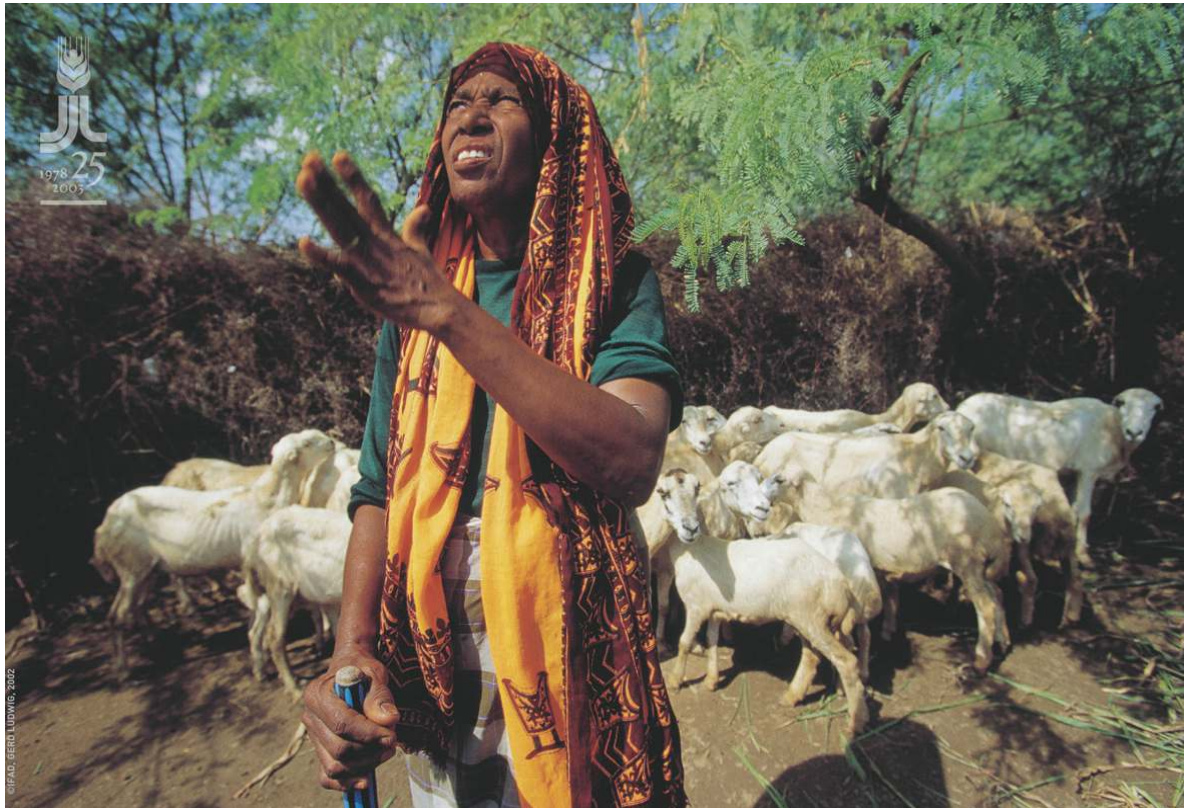
The AHDR, sponsored by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), said significant differences exist between Arab countries in giving women access to education.

School enrolment rates for girls in several Arab oil-producing countries and in Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory and Tunisia are, in fact, higher than for boys, the report says, while the highest relative rate of deprivation of education occurs in those Arab countries with the largest populations, such as Egypt, Morocco and Sudan, and the least-developed ones, such as Djibouti and Yemen.

After years of persistence, Aisha's parents finally gave in to her dream, but to this day her brothers refuse to speak to her. "They think I have brought shame onto the family, as well as the community," she said.

Yet, for Aisha, now a second year physics student at Sanaa University, that does not matter. "It's OK that they aren't speaking to me," she smiled. "Time will heal this and by then I will be an educated woman."

Source: IRIN



Raising livestock is the main source of income for the rural poor in much of Near East and North Africa where arable land and water are scarce. In these areas many women do not have sufficient access to land, credit, education and health services. This woman in Dyer-Al-Nibba, Yemen, spends long hours growing food, tending livestock, gathering fuelwood, fetching water, preparing food and caring for her children. Dyer-Al-Nibba, Yemen ©IFAD, Gerd Ludwig, 2002

Ramadan shopping as a religious & cultural reflection

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
For Yemen Times

During Ramadan, shopping becomes a mundane activity because of the requirements that the Holy Month places on families for cooking meals. Shopping, however, is more than just buying food; it's a reflection that characterizes the Yemeni family in particular.

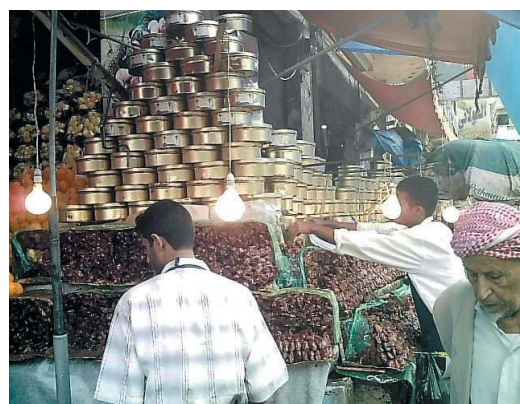
Ramadan shopping usually starts after the noon prayer. At that time, shops start opening and sellers start showing their products. "I open my shop at 1:00 Pm, after the noon prayer", said Gehad, a fish seller. People come from home, and some from the mosque. "We do not shop before the noon prayer because most of the shops are closed", said Esam Aklan.

For those who have work, they come later, about 2:00 to 3:00 pm. "The most suitable time for shopping is when I leave my work since I can not do so before", said Riadh Salam, a bank employee.

Shopping can be divided into parts according to the materials that people need in relation with the time left and time needed for cooking.

Furthermore, it is noticed that there is a kind of priority in buying materials. That is to say, in the other months, it may not be a big deal what they buy first or last. However, high demand places a competitive spirit within families to get what they need. For example: They usually start buying heavy items which are required for dinner, such as meat, chicken or fish. Zakiah, a housewife, said "I always emphasize on having meat so that I can cook early." In order to kill two birds with one stone, some people get their children to take such items home so that fathers save time and do more shopping. "I take one of my children especially when I want to buy meat", stated Tawfeek Al-zaghroory.

Vegetables are also bought early, and preferred to be sent home to get an early start, along with the meat or fish. "Vegetables are necessary for cooking



home-made. However, I have to buy the pastry and other materials early", said Adel Saed. Somasa.

Having prayed, people start another shopping tour in which they target other items, such as highly demanded fruits. Some fruits are bought in bulk to be used for juices, like oranges, mangos, and guavas. Furthermore, watermelons, apples, bananas, and grapes are some of the other fruits that are consumed throughout the night.

Moreover, sweets are also essential in almost every home during this month. In fact, more people buy sweets during Ramadan than any other month. Some make sweets at home, while many buy them ready-made from the markets. "I buy sweets from the markets because it is difficult to make so many different kinds at home", said Hany Ma'amary.

Though dates are the most important item for breakfast, people buy it last. This is because it needs absolutely nothing as far as cooking is concerned. "When I finish buying all needed materials, I buy dates", said Yasser Areki. In fact, most families keep dates in large quantities, thus there is no need to buy them daily.

many dishes, and must be available when we get started", Reham said.

After buying vegetables, consumers—especially those who make samosa at home—buy pastry, a mixture of flour, fat, and milk, or water. "Though samosa can be available ready-made in the markets, I prefer it

The shopping timeframe and items in Ramadan reflect a social and religious culture in Yemen as an Islamic country. "Shopping has a different appeal in Yemen, distinguishing its social and religious customs from all other Islamic nations", said Farid Algawaweeda, a Jordanian citizen living in Yemen.



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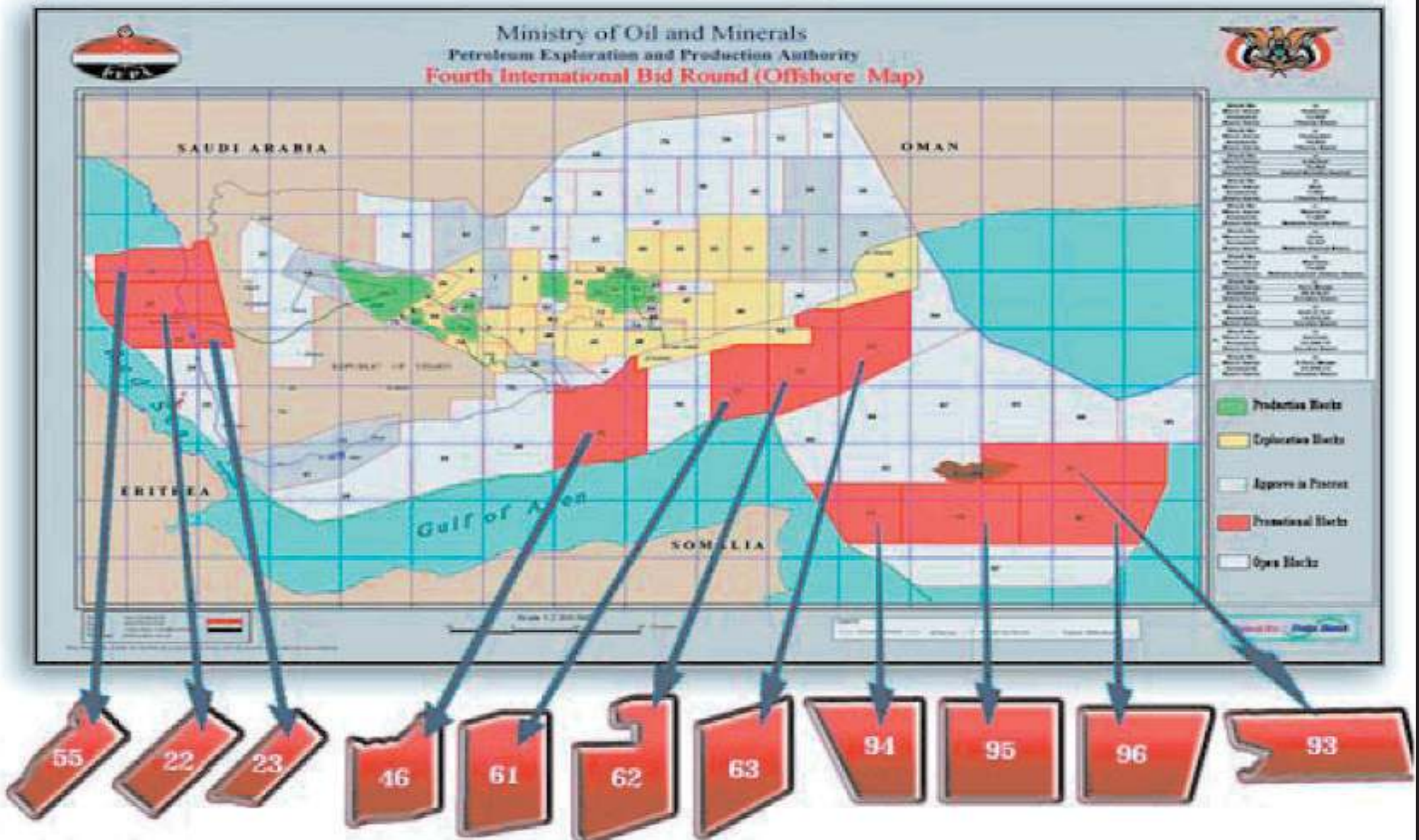
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احمد عبد الجبار الاصبحي
بمناسبة الزفاف الميمون

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علي الحكمي - محمد الاصبحي وجميع الاهل والاصدقاء

Ramadhan Kareem

رمضان كريم



Yemen Times presents its felicitations to its clients and readers on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadhan
We wish you abundance of blessings.

تقدم مؤسسة يمن تايمز بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى عملائها وقرائها الكرام بمناسبة حلول شهر رمضان المبارك
أعاده الله على الجميع بالخير والبركات.

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Words of Wisdom



It is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

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



OUR OPINION

In search for qualified youth

With an unemployment rate of at least 30 percent, one would think that youth are lining up outside companies and employment centers competing for jobs. One would think they are analysing the market demands and making sure they have the qualifications required to secure jobs. One would also assume they are leading a life with minimum expenditure saving every penny and cutting down costs.

However, first hand experience has told me never to assume. Because all the above assumption, although logical are not accurate at all. We have done a survey with a number of businesses in the capital city Sana'a, and they all complain of the same thing: lack of qualified and committed youth. We at Yemen Times are searching high and low for potential journalists, ones with good English and inquisitive minds, and a will to work hard. We have met tens of youth; hardly any of them was even remotely close to our requirements. And to be fair, the females were much more qualified and enthusiastic.

We are still searching, trying to decrease the gap between the thousands of unemployed youth and the available job vacancies.

What is wrong with Yemeni youth that makes them unwilling to improve themselves? Why do they tend to take the easy way even if it means a more difficult life? And why do they indulge in habits and addictions that would destroy them sooner than later?

As a newspaper with a mission to support Yemeni development, we investigate such issues and try to come up with solutions or at least explanations.

We rounded a number of Yemeni youth between 18 and 27 and asked them about their concerns and priorities. Then we launched an investigation spree in which each of those problems will be explored on a wide scale and researched. The results will be summarized and published in Yemen Times.

The idea is to assess the future of this country and find out why youth are in a state of depression, frustration, and carelessness. To try and connect the thoughts and voices of youth with the decision makers and advise them on how to improve current Yemen, and how to motivate Yemeni youth to work harder and reach higher. Your contributions and ideas would help us in this project, to create a difference in many people's lives.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf Editor-in-Chief

Rule of the tank replaces rule of the law

The bloody clashes in Aden days ago prove that Yemen's regime has not yet made use of the lesson it learned from Sa'ada war. The regime's strong faith in the use of force makes it commit arbitrary malpractices against humanity within its territory. Also, this belief forces the regime and its institutions to show disrespect for the law, bearing in mind that the use of force is its real law.

The regime believes that by force it can run the country's affairs and approve the list of solutions to people's issues and demands. However, this force that replaces the law is unable to maintain the regime's sovereignty and status, which it depends on to control the country.

The barbaric use of force failed in Sa'ada during four bloody wars that experienced the use of different kinds of heavy and medium weapons. Finally, the regime found itself compelled to seek help of the Qatari mediation to end the fighting, as well as search for peaceful solutions to the crisis. It ignored its arrogant threats and wrong pretexts based on different harmful allegations to the national sovereignty, protection of the republican regime and defending Islam.

The regime had to learn a lot from the four Sa'ada wars that status of the state cannot be achieved or maintained through the use of force. It had to understand that status of the state can only be maintained by rule of the law and it should be a pioneer in respecting the law and abiding by its content. The Houthis have never demanded the regime to do anything for them except for abiding by the law. But when the regime behaved in a way contravening the law, it caused an insult on the military force it used in domestic conflicts. Whereas, these military forces had been established for the sake of defending the homeland and protecting it from any foreign enemies.

The Sa'ada war-related lesson has been sufficient to persuade the regime to quit force, but it repeated the same mistake in Aden a few days ago. What will the regime say this time? It used force to crack down on peaceful demonstrations, staged for the sake of defending the legal rights of military and civil servants, who had been illegally dismissed from their jobs. These servants have been deprived of enjoying their legal rights and good living in their homeland. Shall we say that the regime used



By: Ali Al-Sarari

power this time to defend the National Unity? Do the protests staged by military and civil servants to claim their legal and constitutional rights constitute a threat to the unity? All the Yemeni people need to remember the official statements and what has been broadcast and published by the government media with regard to the reasons for the Sa'ada crisis.

The authorities deliberated to propagate a lot of lies, fabrications and misleading allegations and went on reversing facts. Despite the media silencing policy, which the authorities imposed with the aim of preventing pressmen from reporting what was taking place in the northern province of Sa'ada. Allegations made by the authorities disclosed that the government and its troops committed two inhuman crimes: the killing of innocent civilians and destruction of their property. They also committed an immoral crime that is of telling lies, forging facts and misleading the public opinion.

The regime exercises the same conduct in the southern governorates, such as the illegal use of force and excessiveness in the telling of lies and inventing fabrications. This time, the regime's lies and fabrications stem from baseless allegations to protect the National Unity.

The southern governorates have experienced peaceful protests while the protestors cared for streaming into streets in accordance with the Law that ensures them their legal rights and expression of opinion. They were not bearing any piece of arm and had no plots or plans to damage public and private property. They never approached any vital installations and facilities.

With regard to the saying that some of the protestors chanted slogans triggering animosity toward

the unity, such doesn't give the regime any right to use force against them. Additionally, the marchers, who chanted such slogans, received directions from some government agencies to do so in order to justify the government's use of force and brutality against the protestors.

Equipped with a store of fabricated pretexts, the regime alleged that protestors have chosen Thursday, August 2, to take to streets and it is on this day when Saddam Hussein and his troops invaded the neighboring state of Kuwait. The regime feared that staging the protest on August 2 may remind other states of Yemen's stance toward the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Instead of taking a different way from that taken by Saddam's troops in Kuwait, it deployed its tanks throughout Aden and used force against innocent citizens claiming their legal rights. The regime doesn't deny the similarity between it and that of Saddam Hussein. Such a similarity was confirmed by actions before speeches. If there is a chance for more comparison between the two regimes, those who cheered the fall of Saddam's regime should delay their happiness until further occasion.

In fact, the use of force against protestors in Aden was not for the sake of protecting the National Unity. Instead, the force was used to protect and harbor the acts of lootings that have been so far exercised by influential persons in the southern governorates since the 1994 Civil War. Additionally, the force was used with the aim of defending the illegal interests and earnings of corrupt officials, who plundered lands of citizens and the looted the public resources. Such corrupt officials transformed any public property to personal possessions and used the southern governorates as a field for fomenting chaos and committing crimes against humanity. Searching rule of the law, the protestors faced rule of the tank standing in their way to claim their legal rights.

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

SILVER LINING

Running into confusion

The ongoing protests and the repression they have been faced with and flare of the situation, mainly in the southern governorates are worrying and sending shock waves down the spine of everybody; it is as if we are going into war.



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

This is clear in the crazy price hike of foodstuffs, mainly flour and wheat. If you pass by the state-owned Economic Corporation offices, you would see long lines of ordinary citizens waiting for their turn to snatch a package of wheat or flour for YR 3700, while its price in the market is ranging between YR 4700 - 6000 and can mount to YR 7000 in villages and remote areas. What the government is doing by supporting the economic corporation is futile and meaningless; it will not help address the suffering of the people and lessen their awe; because not everybody is able to queue for long hours waiting for a package of wheat or flour.

The government has acknowledged the problem of the military and civilian retirees in the south. Their talk about prices and the civil war consequences, which only three months ago were a taboo. However, the way the political regime is trying to deal with these problems shows lack of good vision or committed will.

This is clear in the random decisions such as return hundreds of these retirees to service. Yet, the use of force in confronting such protests of the retirees or other hungry protestors, and the discourse that such protests are just bubbles stirred up by secessionists with foreign agenda, indicate the people in charge are running into confusion. This is also clear in the decision to reactivate the compulsory military service abolished some years ago. I wonder how the government will provide the budget for this project that, for sure, has been thought of at random.

It is hunger, feeling of repression and unequal citizenship that instigate and stir up anger across the country. It is not separation sentiments that push the people to take to the streets to denounce government policies and demand swift solutions to their pains, exacerbating since the 1994 civil war.

Now, the report of the fact-finding committee on the problems of the retirees and land property is pregnant with horrible conclusions on the consequences of the civil war on the people of the south, including the retirees.

The report also shows how the southern governorates were dealt with as "spoils of war" wherein influential people were granted hundreds of chunks of land as gifts, and how tens of state establishments were privatized for less than their real price or, so to speak, sold to some of the big people at the power center. This report can be the key to address the dilemmas the southern people have been facing since the civil war. I guess the political regime will have no choice but to acknowledge this report, and do what it takes to mitigate an impending catastrophe.

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

How can press contribute to fighting corruption?

By: Mohammed Al-Ariqi

Chairman of the National Anti-Corruption Authority Ahmad Al-Anisi said in a statement published by 26 September Weekly a couple of weeks ago that press will be one of the sources and references that help in exposing corruption and corrupt individuals. He set a condition that press should play an integral role in resolving such a phenomenon in light of authentic and correct facts without any fabrications or invented facts.

Having something to do with press's role in fighting corruption, such a vision, which is revealed by Chairman of the National Anti-Corruption Authority, necessitates that press and pressmen in particular should review and assess their professional performance over the past time period. Then it entails that press and pressmen have to prepare themselves for a

new phase with much more seriousness and professionalism, as well as abide by the criteria of moral and social responsibility, within the frame of which any professional journalist works, in order for journalism to remain genuine, highly respected and maintain its prestigious status.

Recently, much of our media-related discussions have involved multiple questions about the role, which journalism, as a fourth authority, should play in resolving community's issues and contributing to reforming any infringements that usually hold up progress of administrative and economic development. The fourth authority is also expected to play a greater role in enlightening peoples' minds, spreading their awareness, enriching readership with knowledge and new information, and conveying news and facts to readers honestly and objectively.

Some people had been insisting on their black vision toward the

reality of journalism in Yemen and its future, as it is often said that what the press publishes is merely ink on papers and has nothing to do with any agencies and channels concerned with surveying and resolving daily issues. They are of the opinion that the press has no effective influence on government's executive bodies. They say that the press is needed to contribute to convincing government's agencies how significant effective laws are in tackling any social and political issues.

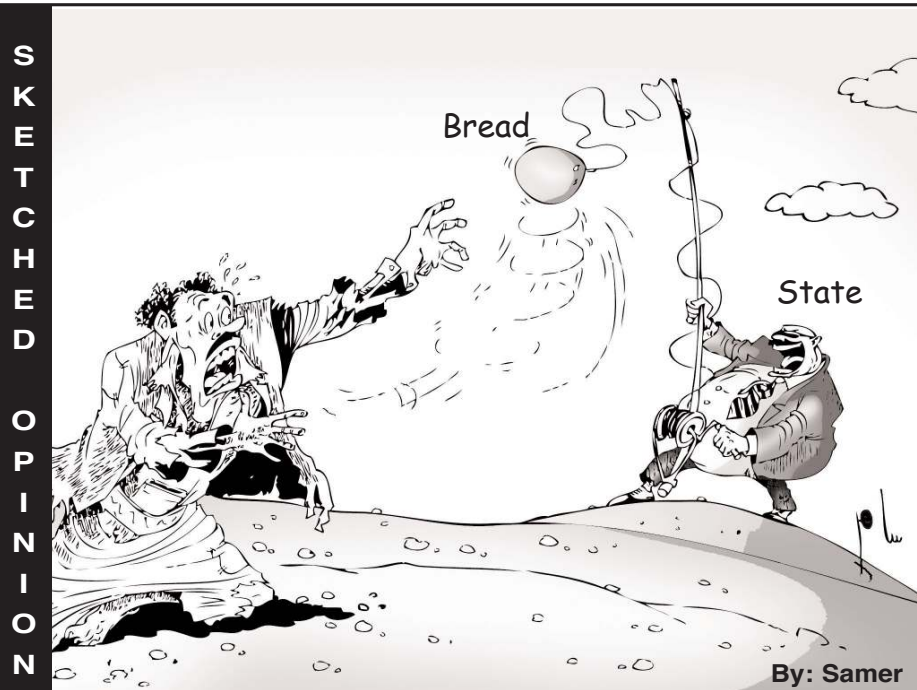
After Chairman of the National Anti-Corruption Authority declared that press can function as a reference, as well as an approach to detecting corruption cases, we then pin a greater hope that what the press publishes, specifically any articles criticizing corruption and performance of government agencies, be looked at seriously while credibility and objectivity of its content must be verified.

Based on such a great

responsibility, NACA won't accept any use of journalism as a means to confuse its work and slander others without any credible and authentic facts. Any journalist, who once resorted to reporting incorrect stories with the purpose of defamation, must be treated like any corrupt individual against whom NACA may take tough procedures for his involvement in any embezzlement of public money or extortion.

At this point, I would like to remind the esteemed readership of the significance of understating the new role of journalism that requires professionalism and abidance by the criteria of credibility and objectivity in reporting facts. While reporting what happens, journalists must not be submissive to any pressures they may face. At this phase, a journalist must be honest in what he/she says, report genuine facts, and defend people's interests and the national tenets.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run



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Yemen Press Review



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, September 13

Main Headlines

- Yemen and Saudi Arabia sign funding and cooperation agreements in areas of justice, fisheries, agriculture and education
- Quake Surveillance Center underestimates risk of Sumatra Tsunami to Yemen's coastline
- U.S. Envoy in Sana'a: Yemen has taken great steps in democracy and reforms
- Development Challenge Account pledges \$21 million to support Yemen's reforms
- U.S. government funds a comprehensive study on Yemen's rural electricity projects
- President Saleh briefs people on the advent of Ramadan

"The Holy Month of Ramadan is a golden chance for religions and cultures to meet and for human beings to practice more tolerance and help each other.

It is a good opportunity to purify our souls and hearts in this Holy month, which is full of good lessons and spiritual benefits for all people and nations," the weekly quoted President Ali Abdullah Saleh as saying in his address to nation on the advent of Ramadan.

According to the newspaper, President Saleh urged Yemeni people to serve the country, fight bad habits, negative phenomena and social and political diseases that seek to harm the Yemeni society and national unity. He called all to be optimistic and aspire for

better future "We have to do all what enable us to keep the unification and enhance the social harmony and welfare in our country," he said.



Al-Wasat Comprehensive Independent Weekly
Wednesday, September 12

Main Headlines

- President Saleh tells a Sa'ada tribe to choose between use of force and extradition of wanted people
- Local council leader: official agencies and influential persons facilitate trafficking of drug into Yemen's territory
- JMP leader: The regime puts itself and the country before unknown fate
- Domestic report rules out any future change without real reforms
- U.S. expresses concern about attacks on journalists in Yemen
- Chairman of Trade and Industry Chamber accuses citizens of increasing foodstuff prices as they rush to markets to buy much commodities
- 12 Somali illegal immigrants terribly die in Aden Gulf
- U.S. new Ambassador to Yemen warns that terrorist attacks on citizens are possible

The weekly paper reported that the US ambassador to Yemen has said that he did not rule out attacks by terrorists on American and Western interests in Yemen. "The terrorists may strike public locations; they have done that in the past - restaurants, shopping malls, hotels," Stephen A. Seche, the new US ambassador, was quoted as saying. "So, we want to remind our citizens this

is something that should be on their minds as they travel around not just in Yemen, but also other places where terrorist threats are present," said Seche, who presented his credentials to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh earlier this month.

On the reason for the US embassy in Yemen repeatedly issuing warnings to Americans to be cautious, Seche said, "I am not eligible to discuss any intelligence information that we may have received through our own channels or Yemeni channels."



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress
Monday, September 10

Main Headlines

- Ruling Party's Secretary General chairs an extensive meeting for scientific committees
 - Author of 'Keni Meni' says Americans and British will participate in the serial
 - Yemeni Socialist Party awards recruiter by beating him
 - Taiz Governor warns of carelessness and indifference toward citizens' issues
 - GPC candidate in parliamentary bi-elections in an Ibb constituency wins
 - Head of Parliamentary Defense and Security Committee: There are parties that exploit democracy to serve foreign interests
 - President Saleh donates a completed printing unit for the blind
 - Huge demonstration in Sa'ada in support of arms bearing ban
- The ruling party-run paper reported

in a front page article that thousands of people in the restive province of Sana'a, north of the country, organized a huge demonstration on Sunday in support of the government's decision to ban carrying weapons in Sana'a and the provincial capitals of governorates. The demonstrators took to streets with the strong faith that the spread of weapons nationwide has negative impacts on security, stability and social peace while the ban will help boost investment and comprehensive development.

The demonstration involved ordinary citizens, youths, students as well as supporters of such a brave national decision to have main cities free of weapons. The demonstrators gave speeches during the event at Al-Salam Sporting Stadium, praising the serious efforts, which the government has so far expended to prohibit carrying arms in main cities and restrict spread of such a bad habit.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, September 11

Main Headlines

- Al-Dhale'e death toll up to 3 while the governorate turns into a military barracks
- Iraqi Ministry of Finance claims Yemen to repay government's debts
- Security Forces besiege Yemeni Socialist Party's head-office in Aden, prevent citizens from holding sit-in
- Police deployed around home of Pop Singer Fahd Al-Qarni, festival on 'Our summer is struggle'

- banned
- Corruption cases and suspicious deals behind disputes between Kuwait Hospital Manager and his deputy
- Joint Meeting Parties urge Parliament to discuss poor situations
- Nasserite leader insists on applying women's quota in elections
- Tragedy of Somali refugees who illegal cross into Yemen in search of better living

Tens of Somali refugees, who find themselves compelled to immigrate illegally through sea to Yemen in search of better living standards, fall victims of adventurous trafficking on risky and overloaded boats, the weekly newspaper reported. It quoted France Press reporters as saying that as many as 100 illegal Somali and Ethiopian immigrants boarded risky boats in a trip toward Yemen. They travel under a very hot sun with a temperature exceeding 45 centigrade.

It added that hunger and thirst consumes their thin bodies and vulnerable health. arah Hussein, a 31 year old immigrant from Mogadishu told France Press as he was about to board the boat that he had no idea of what would happen during the trip and that he has a slim hope that his living conditions may improve a little bet in Yemen.



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Yemeni Islah Party
Thursday, September 13

Main Headlines

- As Indonesian authorities announce curfew in Sumatra following a

- series of quakes, Yemen underestimates any tsunami threat
- Fasting in Ramadan increases level of benign cholesterol in blood, a scientific study conducted in Tunisia finds
- Foodstuff prices skyrocket, governorates experience unprecedented gas shortage on the advent of Ramadan
- Security authorities arrest academics in Sana'a over allegedly assaulting manager of Kuwait Hospital
- Aden Security Department rejects Appeal Court's directions to release detainees
- Armed confrontations in Damt in land disputes, many injured in quarrels over lease
- Thousands of citizens attend funerals of protests' victims in Mukalla and Al-Dhale'
- U.S. authorities' decisions on Al-Moayyad and Zayed hailed

The Islah Party's mouthpiece reported in a front page article that the National Committee for Defending Al-Moayyad and Zayed has welcomed the U.S. decisions concerned with lifting administrative punishments imposed on Sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayyad and his companion Mohammed Zayed. Chairman of the committee Hamoud Al-Dharhi applauded those decisions, praising the efforts made by the Yemeni officials in the pairs' case.

According to the weekly newspaper, Al-Dharhi further expressed hopes that the Yemeni government would double its efforts in order to release the innocent Yemeni detainees. He also appealed to all international organizations to put more pressures on the U.S. administration to release the aged sheikh and his companion, who have been detained in a U.S. jail for more than 5 years on suspicion of funneling money to terrorism.

The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy

By: Jihad el-Khazen

Had the Jewish lobby been acting against the interests of the United States in order to further Israeli interests, there would have been no need for the lobby at all.

The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy written by Professor John Mearsheimer and Professor Stephen Walt that I referred to yesterday, is a bestseller because the lobby can no longer cover the criminal activities it pursues in the United States to promote Israeli interests. However, there are articles and other books on the same subject by famous experts that leave the lobby in a defense position. Consequently, it went mad and launched a furious campaign against all parties who dare to speak.

Twenty years before Mearsheimer and Walt published their work, a book entitled They Dare to Speak out: People and Institutions Confront Israel's Lobby was published by Paul Findley, a Republican Congressman from the state of Illinois. When he called the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Jewish lobby brought him down after launching an open and bitter campaign against him.

I have the Arabic translation of Findley's original book They Dare to Speak out: the Zionist Lobby and America's Domestic and Foreign Policies. The author published another edition of his book with important additions in 2003, but they did not discuss in detail the activities of the Jewish lobby since the 1990s till now. The list of the lobby victims is long. I personally mention Senator Richard Percy, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, who was surprised at the enormous clout of the lobby over American foreign policy. In a television program, he wondered how Israel and its prime minister can be stronger than the whole of Congress and the American president in directing American foreign policy.

Andrew Hurler published Holocaust II? Saving Israel from Suicide in 1990. He thinks that American support for radical Israeli policies will make Israel meet its doom. The book includes an

abstract of one part of an old series of the Sixty Minutes television program that goes back to 1988. It discusses the lobby and its clout, and how it brought down congressmen like Findley, Percy, William Fulbright, William Hathaway, and others.

In 1995 John Mulhall, a Catholic priest, published his book America and the Founding of Israel: an Investigation of the Morality of America's Role. Mulhall explains the role of American Zionists in making the United States endorse the creation of Israel in Palestine despite the opposition of thinkers and professional diplomats. The author examines the roles played by American presidents starting from Wilson and up to Truman. Finally, Mulhall came up with the conclusion that the United States is greatly indebted to the Palestinians.

Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh is one of the best Arab experts in the Jewish lobby and Israeli activities in the United States as he lives and work in it. In a recent article by him, he lists a number of books on the lobby, America, and Israel.

- An Alliance against Babylon: the United States, Israel, and Iraq was written by John Cooley whom I met when I worked for the Reuters News Agency in Beirut. Cooley is the correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor in the Middle East, and I find him one of the best American journalists who have worked in Beirut.

The book was published in 2005 and it is based on published and unpublished documents. He covers the history of Mesopotamia from the time of Babylon till today's Iraq. There is also a chapter on American aid to Saddam Hussein in his war against Iran and its dealing with Iran at the same time so that the two parties persist in killing each other. The final chapter discusses the occupation of Iraq and asks if the country will end up as a democracy or as a partitioned entity, and it also discusses the role of the Israeli intelligence in paving the way for partition, and the relations between Israel and the Kurds and Turkey.

- The Power of Israel in the United States by James Petras, published in 2006, includes significant examples on the Israeli role in seeking a war with

Iraq. Then it examines the issue of American oil companies and says that their interests are jeopardized if the United States prevents them from doing business with Iran and if the United States engages in wars on behalf of Israel.

- The Host and the Parasite - How Israel's Fifth Column Consumed America, by Greg Felton, was published in 2007. The book comprises consolidated details on the conspiracies of the lobby, of Israeli terror, and on Israel's role in massacres like Qana, Sabra and Shatila, along with explanations on how the lobby controls the United States that in turn controls the United Nations and international organizations. The book also offers an interesting explanation of the work done by pro-Israeli research centers, such as The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, The Washington Institute for the Near East, The New Century American Plan, and The American Enterprise Institute. Each of these institutions has played a role in involving the Bush administration in the war against Iraq.

These books are important and useful. The common denominator to them is that big publishing houses declined to publish them, so the authors resorted to small or specialized ones. The book written by Mearsheimer and Walt remains one of the most important books on the Israeli lobby and the direction of American foreign policy against the interests of the United States. However, I need to conclude with President Jimmy Carter's book Palestine: Peace not Apartheid. The book has faced a fierce campaign by the lobby and Israel's supporters who have tried to deny the racism of the occupation. Yet, this campaign has done a service to the book by making a bestseller in America. President Carter has resisted the campaign and replied in a convincing manner, which earned him more fans. I had presented the book in this column at the time, so I can only add that the argumentation over it is still going on and so are its high sales. Indeed, those delude by Israel have started to disperse.

Source: Al-Hayat newspaper.

The keys to future

By: Tom Lambert

Global success is increasingly a function of the skills and talent available to a country. For many, especially the young and talented, what is important is reward and recognition. A recent survey by the Hay Group throws important light on the competition to attract and retain talent globally.

Countries with a proactive financial approach to attracting and retaining the "best of the best" are those with a high standard of living, low living costs and low taxation. These things do not happen by accident. Where the best of global talent lies, future economic success lies also. Governments need to assess their competitive position in attracting talent.

Today

It will be a surprise to some that management - excluding those at the very highest corporate level - is less well paid in the USA and Western Europe than in some countries that are perceived as being "emergent". This gives a new and more accurate meaning to the word "developing" as some countries develop the ability to compete for the future while others rest on past achievements.

Managers in the USA currently rank 24th in the world in terms of pay when taxation and the cost of living are taken into account. At the top of the table are Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In the USA today the average manager enjoys the buying power of \$104,905. In the UAE the equivalent average buying power is \$220,000.

The research

In order to ensure that they were comparing like with like the researchers took base salaries plus any variable additional cash benefits such as annual bonuses. Next they took into account cost of living indices and taxation to obtain a true value of disposable income of managers in 46 countries from China to Latin America.

Truly emergent

The research suggests that countries such as Turkey, Russia and Mexico all outperform the USA and most of Western Europe when it comes to the actual buying power of managerial

salaries. In Europe only Switzerland, Germany and Ireland feature in the top twenty nations. While the "emergent" nations offer talented managers greater buying power from their earnings they become a magnet that is building the talent pools that they require. Equally important, countries that can attract the best talent can be more selective in ensuring that the talent that they choose to retain is that which will continue to give them a highly competitive edge. Where quality and innovation are the differentiating factors management flair is the key advantage.

Tomorrow's global economy will look very different from today's if Western Europe and the USA continue to have a myopic view that the competition for the best people is a purely domestic affair. They will also eventually reap the whirlwind implicit in grossly overpaying those that are at the head of corporations - successful or otherwise - at the expense of those that add real day-to-day value.

For too long top management in the USA and Western Europe has been a "club" in which failure at company "A" carries few sanctions and is frequently the prelude to the opportunity to fail again at company "B" - at an ever higher cost to stakeholders.

Competitive pressures will increasingly demand that companies and countries attract and retain the best of the best at every level.

Where management is concerned it seems that emergent countries have learned this lesson, which "developed" countries have forgotten.

India and China

As a finance and trade centre it is not surprising that Hong Kong ranks number three in the world, with an average managerial disposable income of \$203,947. What is surprising, however, is that mainland China has recognised the need to be able to retain talent and average management income in that booming economy has risen - from a very low base - to more than \$126,000.

India, on the other hand, remains, for the moment at least, a relatively low pay country with an average of \$92,750. With a young and talented workforce and superior education, it may be that India has yet to experience the traditional problems of China where the brightest and best of their

young people went overseas for education and in many cases failed to return home.

China has realised that to maintain their global position low prices will not be enough.

They need talented international managers.

Europe

In terms of disposable income the United Kingdom ranks at a miserly 40th place out of 46 nations. Germany just makes it into the top twenty at 19th place while France is 31st. Of course attracting talent is not merely a matter of pay, but where all else is equal real incomes become an increasingly important factor. To the degree that the potential disposable income for talented managers is the differentiating factor, Western Europe is lagging behind.

There are, of course, other factors. Wider research

The evidence is that it is not cash alone that enables the attraction and retention of the best people. As I have suggested in the past the reputation of the company for the treatment of its customers can be a strong magnet for the talented.

Those organisations that treat customers in a way that turns them into enthusiastic advocates of the business attract talented managers that wish to build a customer relationship that in turn leads to a spiral of success.

The provision of superior training and professional development opportunities is also a compelling reason for the best of the best to join and remain loyal to a company or country.

The problem for the "developed" countries is that although the quality of a few individual businesses may be second to none, the totality continues to include the good, the bad and the downright unacceptable.

What is worse, there is no reason to believe that the emergent markets will not learn the proven lesson that combining high disposable incomes with the satisfaction that comes from superior customer service and better professional development leads to success. What then USA and Western Europe?

Tom Lambert is an international businessman and distinguished academic and author. Source: Khaleej Times newspaper.

"Y" inaugurates its MSC "Mobile Switching Center" and progresses on launching its Points of service



Mr. Nader Al Kalai Chairman of the Board answering the questions during the MSC launch



View of the MSC during launch



Point of Service - Sana'a - Zubairy Street

Thousands of people booked their "Y" numbers

"Y" the third GSM operator in Yemen has recently opened a number of points of service in Yemen, amidst its endeavors to open new points of service in main cities and other important areas.

Two points of service have been opened in Sana'a, one in Aden and others in Taiz, Mukalla, and Ibb.

The Strategically vital locations of the points of service have been selected carefully. In Sana'a city, three important locations have been chosen to be points of service: Zubairy Street, Hadda Street, Taiz Street. In Jamal Street, the Al Khwa cross-road has been chosen to be the point of service location in Taiz City, and Crater Street is the current location for a POS in Aden, with a new location opening soon in the Shiekh Othman area.

On the other hand, Sana'a Street was selected to be the POS location in Hodaidah, and Al-Odein Street has been selected to be a POS in Ibb.

The "Book Your Number" campaign has exceeded expectations, with thousands of people rushing on the minute to every point of service, as well as distributors' offices and branches, which is obviously a promising sign of success, since start-up, in terms of operation, and in providing competitive prices, customer support and value added services.

Meanwhile, "Y" is saving no effort in preparing the launch of a number of other points of service within the same cities and in other important cities and areas all over Yemen.

Final touches for the commercial launch of the network are in progress, in order to build a state-of-art mobile network. These steps comprised, among other things, the launch of the company's main switch in the last few days, with a capacity of 500,000 subscribers.

In addition to that, the success of the "Book Your Number" campaign that met an increasing demand on "Y" phone numbers has been a flawless success and will continue to be so until the network commercial launch.

Current points of service:

- Sana'a-Zubairy Street
- Aden- Crater
- Taiz - Jamal Street -Al Khwa cross roads
- Ibb- Al Odain Street
- Mukalla - Al Khor Street

Main Distributors:

- ONE Mobile
- Star Telecom
- Watani Tel
- Al Kuraimi Tel
- Al Agil Tel

and Yemen is happy!

The new GSM network

مهرجان رمضان

للعام 1428 هـ / 2007م

مركز صنعاء التجاري
SANA'A TRADE CENTER



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أطفال - التخييل من كل أسبوع
برعاية : شركة سونج

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وشعرية

ندوات ومحاضرات
دينية

سحوبات وجوائز
لسحوبات على العديد
من الجوائز الثمينة والعينية

جدول فعاليات رمضان

اليوم	التاريخ	الفعالية	المكان
الأثنين	15/ رمضان 17/ 9/ 2007م	محاضرة	مركز صنعاء التجاري
الجمعة	19/ رمضان 21/ 9/ 2007م	أمسية	مركز صنعاء التجاري
الأثنين	22/ رمضان 24/ 9/ 2007م	ندوة	مركز صنعاء التجاري
الجمعة	26/ رمضان 28/ 9/ 2007م	أمسية	مركز صنعاء التجاري
الأثنين	29/ رمضان 1/ 10/ 2007م	محاضرة	مركز صنعاء التجاري
الجمعة	3/ 10/ 2007م	محاضرة	مركز صنعاء التجاري



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Yemen Times Readers' Opinion Questionnaire

Dear Reader

The Yemen Times editorial management would like to take a few minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. It is important for us to know what you think about our paper, and how you think we might improve our performance. Either send your reply by post or submit it to Yemen Times offices in Sana'a, Taiz or Aden. Replies will be entered into a surprise draw.

Thank you.

*Nadia al-Sakkaf
Publisher and Editor in Chief*

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Nationality:

Age group: <15 15-19 20-29 30-45 >45

Gender: (Male Female) Marital status: (married single) No. of children

Occupation

Level of education: high school diploma university postgraduate

Contact information and email:

.....

- 1. How often do you read the Yemen Times?**
 - Every issue Once a week
 - Occasionally Whenever it comes to my hands
- 2. How do you get the Yemen Times?**
 - From bookshop in (street or area name)
 - From friends It is provided in my workplace
 - Subscription Online
- 3. What do you like most about Yemen Times?**
 - Availability Design and layout
 - Ads and vacancies News coverage
 - Language Features article
 - Quality of paper and size World news
 - Other.....
- 4. What do you dislike most about Yemen Times?**
 - Availability Design and layout
 - Ads and vacancies News coverage
 - Language Features article
 - Quality of paper and size World news
 - Other.....
- 5. Which section/s do you enjoy reading?**
 - Front page Local news World News
 - Polls Opinion Op-ed
 - Business Culture Community
 - Health and environment Press review
 - Youth Letters to the editor
 - Editorial Back page
- 6. Which section/s do you dislike reading?**
 - Front page Local news World News
 - Polls Opinion Op-ed
 - Business Culture Community
 - Health and environment Press review
 - Youth Letters to the editor
 - Editorial Back page
- 7. Have you ever written to / for Yemen Times?**
 - Yes, more than once
 - Yes, once
 - Never
- 8. If you have, was the feedback satisfactory?**
 - Yes, definitely Yes, to an extent
 - Not at all No feedback
- 9. Would you like to visit the Yemen Times and see its operation?**
 - Yes
 - No
- 10. Do you know any of the Yemen Times staff?**
 - Yes, I know (please give name/s)
 -
 -
 - No
- 11. How can the Yemen Times improve?**

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.....
- 12. What topics, features would you like the Yemen Times to cover in the future?**

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Lawrence Wright's "The Looming Tower" Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11

American journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Lawrence Wright makes the history of Islamism sound like a political thriller. Andrian Kreye has read the book, which is considered by experts to be the definitive work on the prehistory of 9/11

By: Andrian Kreye

Some stories simply have to be told more than once. One such story is that of the sheer irresistible attraction of Islamism, which began to ferment in Cairo in the 1930s and came to a head for the first time in New York on 9/11. Hardly anyone understands this story as well and can tell it as brilliantly as Lawrence Wright, staff writer at the American weekly magazine The New Yorker.

Wright may not have been the first author to tell this tale, but his book, "The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11" is nonetheless a milestone.

Not a natural born entertainer

It is also quite literally an event. Last summer, Wright took to the stage and presented the results of his research as a performance. He may not be the most gifted of entertainers, but every time he set foot on the podium of the Culture Project Theatre in New York's Soho and told of the intrigues in the ranks of al-Qaeda, the FBI,

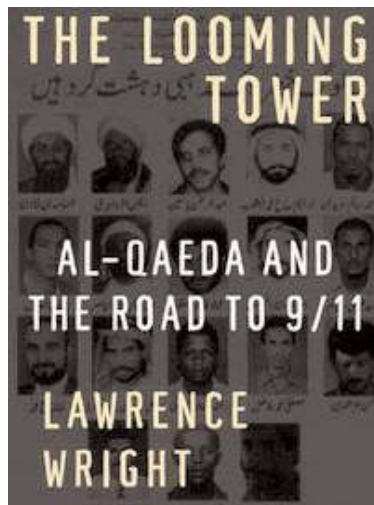
and the CIA, and spoke of the hundreds of interviews he conducted when researching his book, the bumbling man in a tank top became a skilled guide through a strange and frightening world.

When he won the Pulitzer Prize last spring, he took his evening performance - entitled "My Road To Al Qaeda" - to the concert hall in the town hall on Times Square for one night only. Some 1,500 people came to hear what he had to say. Here too, Wright demonstrated the magnetism of his narrative.

Whether in his book or on stage, no one before Wright has ever told the history of Islamism and al-Qaeda with such clarity. This lucidity comes from the fact that he does not restrict himself to the events of 9/11, but instead delves deeply into the history of Islamism.

Sayyid Qutb, mastermind of Islamism

Initially, it is very hard to believe that the war on terror began with the disappointed love of a literary critic from Cairo who owned one of the largest classical record collections in the Middle East.



Sayyid Qutb, the critic in question, was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. A frail man, the works he wrote in the 1950s and 1960s made him one of the masterminds of Islamism. However, it was not a Holy War that fanned the flames of his hatred for the West, but a luxurious study trip to America, where he explored New York and studied English in Washington and Colorado on a scholarship from the Egyptian government.

Wright describes Qutb, who was executed in 1966 on the orders of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, as a model Islamist. An educated man who was well-versed in Western culture, Qutb was also a tormented, proud, and self-righteous intellectual who was torn between the Arab and the Western world and between faith and modernism. Eventually his hatred of the secular world overrode these other sentiments.

It was Qutb who wrote the texts on which Islamism was built. Milestones, Social Justice in Islam, and In the shade of the Qur'an are all mightily eloquent tracts in which he conjures up images of a new generation of holy warriors that would take up arms in order to create a just world governed by the Sharia.

The story of two very different men

One chapter is all that Wright needs to paint a complex portrait of the ideologist who was capable of putting the feeling of humiliation into such powerful and moving words that he laid the foundation of an ideology in which the eternal battle between idealism and nihilism gave birth to the murderous

phenomenon that is international terrorism.

Lawrence Wright's Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Looming Tower". The title is alluding to a phrase from the Koran

In this way, Wright skilfully sets the scene in the dusty suburbs of Cairo for his description of the complex relationships between the men who fashioned a global movement out of this inauspicious brand of sectarianism. Herein lies the strength of the book. Lawrence Wright does not analyse, he narrates.

Naturally, the main focus of the book is on the two men who have gone down in history as the masterminds behind al-Qaeda, the Egyptian doctor Ayman al-Zawahiri and the Saudi heir Osama bin Laden. Wright deftly dissects the taut relationship between the two. On the one hand, we have the ideologist al-Zawahiri, who has experience of combat, and on the other, the ambitious and charismatic Bin Laden.

From the time of their first encounters in Pakistan in the 1980s to the training camps in Afghanistan, the two operate in the grey area between idealism and nihilism that makes violent Islamism so seductive for so many.

Wright also sheds light on key American players in the story. He describes John O'Neill, the choleric head of the FBI's New York office, and an ensemble of bureaucrats and agents whose successes fall between the cracks of the rivalry between the FBI and the CIA.

One of the most depressing scenes in the book recalls the moment on 12 September 2001 when FBI agent Ali Soufan realised that the authorities had known for some time that the terrorists were in the country. His disgust and shock was so great that he had to throw up.

Prophetic dimension of the screenplay

It is no coincidence that Lawrence Wright can tell the story of Islamism so formidably. Wright is not only a journalist, but also a screenwriter. One of his screenplays, "The Siege", was filmed in 1998 starring Denzel Washington and Bruce Willis. The Siege tells the story of an Islamist bomb attack on the city of New York. Following the attack, a state of emergency is declared and all civil rights are repealed.

Wright was well aware of the prophetic dimension of his screenplay. "This is my film," he said to himself after 9/11 as he begged his editor, David Remnick, to put him on the story.

The articles that Wright published in

The New Yorker in the years that followed laid the foundation for his book. However, he goes much, much further in "The Looming Tower".

No-one could have described the deadly consequence of the relationship

between al-Zawahiri and Bin Laden, the destructive sleaze of the American authorities, and above all the spiritual, ideological, and cultural world of Islamism as accurately and in such a masterfully unideological way as

Wright. He has long been considered the leading expert on the subject in the USA and his book as the definitive work in this field.

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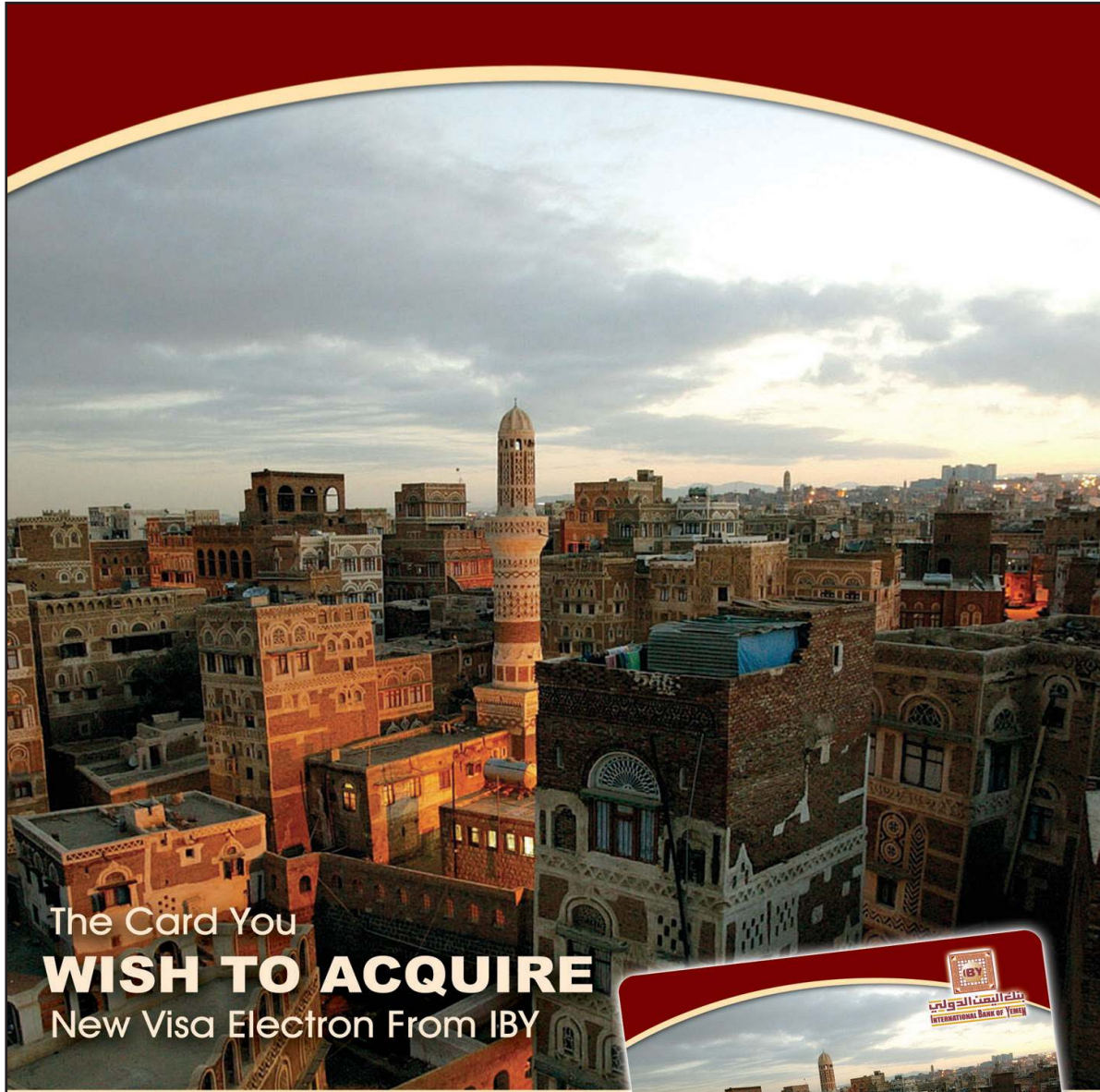
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RAMADAN 2007



By: Harun Yahya
www.harunyahya.com

Only Love Can Defeat Terrorism-1

In 2001, jet planes were crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, injuring and killing thousands. In the days following these attacks—totally unexpected in their timing and method, aimed at the world's only superpower—the world began debating the concept of terrorism that lay behind them.

An atmosphere of fear and panic grew, especially in the United States. But that didn't last long: Soon the entire world began wondering how best to combat terrorism. No longer could any country stand apart from the fight against terrorism and declare, "Those attacks weren't aimed at us." Citizens of every nation realized that the dark face of terrorism could confront them at any time, whether asleep in their beds, while watching television, taking their children to the park, or at work in the office.

The terrorists' aim, they realized, was to paralyze society, making civilians reluctant to venture into the street, much less use public transport or go shopping—in short, to create a permanent climate of fear.

As soon as America recovered from the shock of 9/11, it joined with a large number of other countries to launch a worldwide war on terrorism. Right from the start, however, officials of this powerful coalition declared openly that it wouldn't be enough for them to fight on the military field alone.

How should the struggle against terrorism be pursued? To answer that question, we need to identify terrorism's roots. To do so, we must examine the course of the past century, during which terrorism first emerged as a major threat.

The True Definition of Terrorism

With terrorism dominating the world's agenda, the definitions of terror, terrorist, and terrorism assume a whole new importance. Many countries define terrorism, draw up terrorist profiles, and publish lists of terrorist organizations in the light of their own national interests. "Terrorist organizations" to some countries are freedom fighters to others.

What one country sees as "terrorist nations," another welcomes as "loyal allies." Therefore, who defines terrorism? Who decides—and how do they decide—what a terrorist is? To establish a criterion, one can point out two distinct characteristics of terrorism:

1) Targeting civilians: Any occupied country has the right to resist an army occupying its territory. But if that resistance includes attacks on civilian targets, any justification ceases to apply, and terrorism begins. This definition is entirely in accord with Islamic rules on war. The Prophet Muhammad (may God bless him and grant him peace) commanded his followers to do battle against those who declared war on them. But he also ordered them to never regard civilians as

targets. On the contrary, every Muslim was ordered — and still obliged — to take great care to ensure the safety of non-combatants.

2) Destroying Peace: If no state of war exists, then terrorism can also include attacks on military or official targets. Attacks intended to break down peaceful relations between countries or communities are acts of terrorism, even when aimed at military targets.

Platters and cups of gold will be passed around among them, and they will have there all that their hearts desire and in which their eyes find delight. You will remain in it timelessly, forever. (Surat az-Zukhruf, 71)

All attacks that threaten peace, or that are aimed at civilian targets, even in a state of war, are terrorism. There can be no question of defending, approving or justifying such attacks. There can be no question of defending, approving or justifying such attacks.

However, such violence is very widespread in the modern world. That's why any war on terrorism needs to be wide-ranging. Its every stage should be carefully planned, with its final aim the total eradication of the entire concept. That, in turn, requires individuals in every nation to totally distance themselves from terrorism.

Every form of terrorism must be unequivocally condemned—whatever its causes or aims, no matter what its targets, where it arises, or how it is carried out.

Solution Stated in the Quran

In the Qur'an (32: 9), God reveals that He has breathed His own soul into Man, His creation, and that Man is His representative on earth (Qur'an, 6: 165). One of the most important differences between Man and the animals is that Man was created with both earthly desires and with a conscience. Every person possesses desires that incite him to evil, along with a conscience that inspires him to avoid it.

Alongside such pleasing attributes inspired by that conscience—love, sacrifice, compassion, humility, affection, honesty, loyalty and kindness—he also possesses destructive and undesirable tendencies, stemming from his earthly desires.

Thanks to his conscience, however, the believer can distinguish between right and wrong and opt for what is morally right. Strong belief in and fear of God, faith in the hereafter, powerful fear of the endless torments of hell and a yearning for Paradise all keep the temptations of his earthly desires at bay.

Therefore, he always behaves well towards people, is forgiving, responds

to wickedness with good, assists those in need, and shows compassion, love, affection and tolerance.

Terrorists, on the other hand, listen to their earthly desire for violence instead of their consciences, and can easily turn to all forms of wickedness. They become loveless, aggressive people who easily hurt others without the slightest pang of conscience. Having no fear of God, they do not know the morality of religion, nor do they practice it. Nothing can stop them from committing crimes.

In restraining its citizens, society's prevailing rules can go only so far. Thanks to its law enforcement units, the state may be able to partially protect streets and public spaces, and—thanks to a powerful system of justice—may be able to take necessary means to ensure public order and ensure that the crime rate drops. But since it's impossible to keep watch on every individual, 24 hours a day, it's essential that peoples' consciences enter the equation at some stage.

Someone who doesn't heed the voice of his conscience can easily turn to crime when on his own, or surrounded by people of like mind. The result is a society of individuals who gladly lie when they feel it necessary, have no compunction against enjoying unfair profits, and feel no qualms about oppressing and exploiting the weak.

In a society that has lost all spiritual values and has no fear of God, purely physical measures are clearly not going to solve every problem. The morality of religion, on the other hand, commands a person to avoid evil deeds, even when on his own and when he knows that nobody in his community will ever punish him for his misdeeds. The person who knows that God will call him to account for his every deed, his every decision and his every word—and will reward him for them accordingly in the hereafter—will always avoid evil.

Terrorist organizations can't possibly have any place in a society whose people avoid evil of their own free will. Where religion's morality prevails, problems that give rise to organizations supporting the use of violence will disappear naturally. If the whole society possesses superior virtues like honesty, sacrifice, love and justice, there can be no place for such things as poverty, unequal distribution of income, injustice, the oppression of the weak, or limitations on freedoms.

On the contrary, a social order will emerge that meets the wants of the needy; where the wealthy protect the poor and the strong, the weak; where everyone can enjoy the very best health care, education, and transport systems.

There, tolerance and understanding will dominate the relationships between different ethnic groups, religions and cultures.

For these reasons, proper morality is the key to solving so many social problems. The source of that key, in turn, is the Qur'an, which God has revealed as a guide for mankind. (To be continued)



Quick Grasp Of Faith * How can Islam and the Qur'an be conveyed to others?

Religion is best conveyed to a person by communicating it both verbally and physically. By explaining the religion's commands and the Qur'an's morals, and then living according to them, those who are not yet believers can grasp the truth's meaning far more accurately. Since sincerity is measured by the consistency of a person's words with his or her actual actions, the sincerity of the conveyor significantly helps the person to perceive the beauty of religion.

"A space in Paradise equal to the distance between the middle and the end of a bow will be better than all that upon which the sun rises and sets."

(Bukhari and Muslim)

For example, if the person explains why self-sacrifice is a virtuous action and, on the other hand, exhibits selfishness, this will diminish the effect of his or her words and raise serious doubts about that person's sincerity.

However, if a person displays good morals and invites other people to do the same, they will form a strong opinion about that person's sincerity and observe how the good morals that he or she mentions can be practiced in daily life. Likewise, if the person explaining modesty displays it in his or her actions, it becomes the best way to spread the religion. Allah reminds believers to do what they tell other people to do:

O You who believe. Why do you say what you do not do? It is deeply abhorrent to Allah that you should say what you do not do. (Surat as-Saff, 2-3)

(For further reference, please see, Quick Grasp of Faith 1-3, by Harun Yahya)

Miracles Of The Qur'an Hearts Find Peace In The Remembrance Of Allah

According to research by David B. Larson, of the American National Health Research Center, and his team, comparisons of devout and non-religious Americans have given very surprising results. For instance, religious people suffer 60% less heart disease than those with little or no religious belief, the suicide rate among them is 100% lower, they suffer far lower levels of high blood pressure, and this ratio is 7:1 among smokers.

It was reported in one study published in the International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine, an

important scientific source in the world of medicine, that people who describe themselves as having no religious beliefs become ill more frequently and have shorter life spans. According to the results of the research, those with no beliefs are twice as likely to suffer stomach-intestine diseases than believers, and their mortality rate from respiratory diseases is 66% times higher than that of believers.

Secular psychologists tend to refer to similar figures as "psychological effects." This means that belief raises peoples' spirits, and this contributes to health. This explanation may indeed be reasonable, but a more striking conclusion emerges when the subject is examined. Belief in Allah is much stronger than any other psychological influence.

The wide-ranging research into the connection between religious belief and physical health carried out by Dr. Herbert Benson of the Harvard Medical Faculty has produced surprising conclusions in this area. Despite not being a believer himself, Dr. Benson has concluded that worship and belief in Allah have a more positive effect on human health than that observed in anything else. Benson states that he has concluded

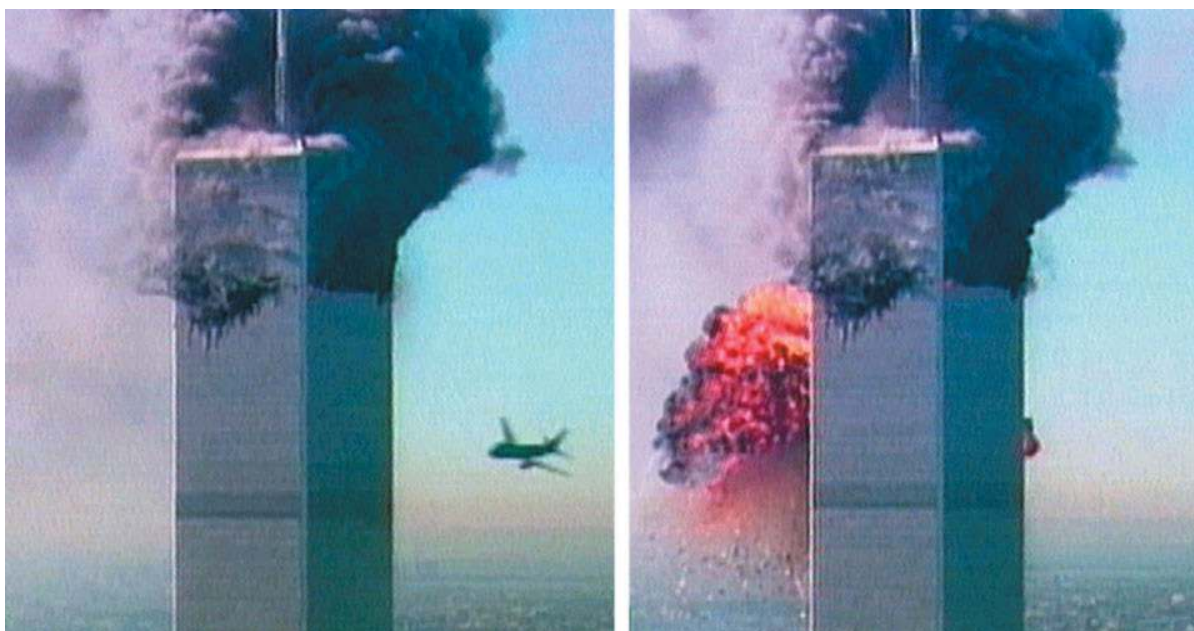
that no belief provides as much mental peace as belief in Allah.

What is the reason for this connection between belief and the human soul and body? The conclusion reached by the secular researcher Benson is, in his own words, that the human body and mind are regulated to believe in Allah.

This fact, which the world of medicine has slowly begun to appreciate, is a secret revealed in the Qur'an in these words: "... Only in the remembrance of Allah can the heart find peace." (Qur'an, 13:28) The reason why those who believe in Allah, who pray to and trust in Him, are psychologically and physically healthier is that they behave in accordance with the purpose of their creation. Philosophies and systems which contradict human creation always lead to pain and unhappiness.

Modern medicine is now tending towards the realization of this truth. As Patrick Glynn put it: "[S]cientific research in psychology over the past twenty-five years has demonstrated that... religious belief is one of the most consistent correlates of overall mental health and happiness."

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The wonder of Yemeni windows architect

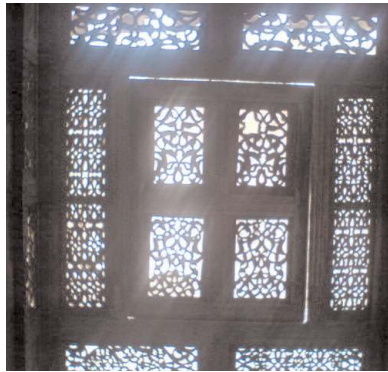
By: Hamid Thabet
For Yemen Times

The old city of Sana'a is one of the famous cities of the world for its buildings, with their beautiful, decorative and artistic windows, which are unique and the designs are an accumulation of effort and development, a pleasing sight for the eyes of those who enter the city. Because of their distinctive features and uses, the windows have been given different names. For instance 'Al-Mashrabia' - Lattice windows, and 'Shubbak' and 'Kushk' - Pysak windows. Each one of these has its own class of architecture.

'Shubbak' is made from bricks and stones and the wooden 'Shubak' is a small 'Mashrabia' with a cage on the outside wall, which acts as ventilator and prevents the cold from entering inside. The two types of windows shows the progress made in time.

The Arabic style of windows is a rectangular box of wood, like a cupboard which is placed in the wall. The front of this rectangular box is decorated by designs with holes, but the Turkish style of windows is different from these in features and decorations. In appearance it is placed in the angles of the wall which gives it a triangular shape, also the 'Koshk' is the most attractive and beautiful. The origin of these is also by the Turks, who on entering Yemen brought their architecture with them. The name of the window itself is Turkish from the word 'Kiosque', which is very ancient. Most of these are found in a place called 'Bir-Al Azab'. 'Koshks' are decorated very artistically and is much complicated than the others. One of these 'Koshks' is in the palace of the daughter of Imam Ahmed who was married to one of the sons of Shami and also Koshk-Al Khair which had been made in 1938 in Bir-Al Azab for Imam Ahmed in time of his father Imam Yahya, is one of the biggest Koshks in Sana'a.

The 'Al-Mashrabia' windows have



A Koshks in the palace of the daughter of Imam Ahmed. And the Arabic style of windows is a rectangular box of wood.



numerous holes and the importances of those holes are necessary for ventilation for food and water. The windows do not completely face the sun but have a way for the air to enter inside to always keep the temperature in the rooms cool. It was also useful for women to look outside without being seen, as in those days women were not able to be in touch or go out as much as men so the only way to be in contact was the window and also it is in use even today. It is also useful to see who the caller at the door is. This type of window was used by the rich because the material used was expensive and all could not afford and those who wanted to protect their families and ladies and also in order to show off. The bigger 'Mashrabiya' was also used as a balcony where the family can sit together and relax.

Yemen was economically prospering due to its trade and contact with the outside world mainly for coffee and incense in the 18th century, and due to this people came to know more about the uses of glass, which is one of the most useful material in the window. Those days glass was rare and very expensive which only few people could afford. Glass was used for decorating the windows to give them an artistic and majestic look. And also tinted glass were more in use as it gave the windows and the interior of the buildings beautiful colors with the sun

shining through them. These kinds of glasses were almost only used by the wealthy because of their rareness and being expensive.

It is hard to differentiate these windows as to whether it is made by Yemeni Jews or the Turks, as there is no accurate information. But through some specialized architects in Yemeni culture and historical structures, like Saba Al Sulehi and Yassin Ghalib and others who live in old Sana'a have up to a great extent information about the history of these windows and their origin. As at that time, only the Yemeni Jews were craftsmen and it was also their profession because of the class system, hence, in almost all their works due to the Jewish influence there is a 'Star of David'. On the other hand, Turkish windows became well-known when they entered Sana'a, and especially when they settled in Bir-Al Azab area. The windows differ widely from the Yemeni, as we see their work is very unique.

With the passing of time and the country being modernized, the people have made a shift from the old to the new. The Yemeni architecture is apparent not only in the old houses of historic Sana'a, but also in the new houses, which are built today. Modern architectures in Yemen are still influenced by traditional architecture.

Although Yemen has been modern-

ized and many changes have been made and added but we can still feel the spirit of the old structures alive, which hold a fascination for the whole world.

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