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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
 The General People's Congress and opposition parties argued about Saleh's winning percentage. Do you think that President Saleh has actually won about 78% percent of the votes?

I don't know (7%)
 Yes (32%) No (61%)

This edition's question:
 The Joint Meeting Parties have declared that the presidential election results were imposed by force and not by the people's will. Do you think the JMP claims are true?

- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

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

During swearing-in as the Republic of Yemen's new president: Saleh promises a better Yemen

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf
 SANA'A, Sept. 27 — In a short speech during administering of the presidential oath at the Yemeni Parliament yesterday, President Ali Abdullah Saleh promised that his new term will be an opportunity for growth, development and security. Members of Parliament, the ministerial cabinet, ambassadors, military and civic officials and media attended the event.
 In his speech, he stated: "We'll work to achieve agricultural and industrial development. We'll work to create new job opportunities for both men and women, enhance the social security network and eradicate poverty. We'll encourage investment and fight terrorism. But most of all, we'll fight cor-



President Saleh while swearing the oath.

ruption in all its forms — political, economic, etc. — and we'll eliminate all those who use authority for personal gain."
 Reflecting on the recent election, he thanked all of those citizens who trusted in and voted for him, as well as the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum for running the elections successfully. He also extended his gratitude to all security personnel who helped ensure safety and security during such intensely exciting times.
 Yemeni constitutional regulations state that the presidential term will end Oct. 4. Following the Sept. 20 elections, according to Article 108, the winning candidate has one week to take the constitutional oath in front of the House of Representatives before assuming his responsibilities.
 The presidential oath obliges "The president of the republic to materialize the will of the people, respect the constitution and the law, protect national unity and the principles and objectives of the revolution. He shall adhere to the principle of peaceful transition of power, supervise sovereign tasks concerning defense of the republic and foreign policy and exercise his authority according to the constitution."
 The presidential term is seven calendar years from the date the constitutional oath is administered. Article 125 of the Yemeni Constitution states that a presidential decree shall form a Consultative Council of experienced and qualified specialists in order to expand the base of participation through consultation and utilize national expertise and qualifications available throughout Yemen. The law will clarify special rules concerning the council.
 Regarding these two aspects particularly, President Saleh promised that he'll shorten the term to five years as it was previously and elect the Shoura Council rather than having the president nominate it.

JMP accepts vote result, denies deal with authority

By: Yemen Times Staff
 SANA'A - Sept. 26 — Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) denied that they accepted the vote-results of September elections for a deal with the authority to release the polling centers, where the vote count was suspended, in favor of their candidates.
 JMP held a news conference last Tuesday in the presence of JMP presidential candidate, Faisal Bin Shamlan and other opposition leaders and approved their acceptance of the vote result.
 In a statement distributed after the conference, opposition said the announced vote results lack support of the public, adding the ruling party used force to make the election results go to its advantage.
 The statement confirmed that opposition will continue the peaceful and democratic struggle and claim comprehensive reform in different areas. These parties vowed to continue struggling until building the new state of institutions and law and order.
 According to the statement, JMP is due to work hard on suggesting solutions to its economic, social and cultural

problems, improving citizens' living standards and purifying the country from corruption.
 Opposition parties ascertained that their participation in the presidential and local elections is based on their care for the national interest and social stability. They said they participated in the polls and at the same time acknowledged there would be no balance between both sides of the race, as the ruling party usually uses the state facilities in favor of its candidates. JMP affirmed the ruling party consequently did not maintain its commitment and has committed several violations and vote frauds.
 Opposition mentioned several violations committed by the ruling party such as the partiality of official media, using government jobs and public money in favor of their candidates and terrorizing JMP members.
 During the press conference, Dr. Yasin Sa'eed Nu'man, Secretary-General of Yemeni Socialist Party (YJP), said JMP has accepted the vote result, but still vows to investigate violations and frauds, which took place in the elections and reveal those behind vote fraud to the public opinion.
Continued on page 2

26 September Revolution's 44th Anniversary marked

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri
 SANA'A, Sept. 26 — Yemeni people nationwide marked the 44th anniversary of the 26 September 1962 Revolution. The event's torch was kindled the day before in Al-Tahrir Square in Sana'a in the presence of more than 500 youths from different governorates.
 Staff Gen. Ahmad Ali Al-Ashwal, Defence Ministry Chief of Staff, Abdurrahman Al-Akwa'a, Minister of Youth and Sports and Dr. Yahya Al-Shu'aibi, Minister of State and Secretary-General of the Capital kindled the 44th Anniversary torch.
 Then members of the scout movement chanted the National anthem while Al-Ashwal paid tribute to martyrs who revolted against the oppressive regime and fixed posts of the immortal revolution and whose blood lit the paths to freedom, independence and unity.
 Yemeni people marked the event in different cities nationwide.
 The Immortal Revolution broke out on September 26, 1962 and overthrew the rule of Imamate that forced Yemenis to live in illiteracy and isolation from the outer world.
 Prior to September 26, 1962, many liberals organized several coupe attempts culminating with the Revolution that replaced the rule of Imamate by the republican regime. During the rule of Imamate the country lacked all the components of political, social and economic life.
 The first Leadership Council was formed immediately after the Revolution broke out under the Late President Abdullah Al-Sallal and some of his contemporary liberals who revolted against the tyrannous Imamate.



Kindling the revolution torch at Al-Tahrir Square. Photo by Glyn Goffin

After 44 years, Yemen still has many tasks ahead

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi
 SANA'A, Sept. 27 — Giving the first address on the 44th anniversary of the Sept. 26 Revolution following last week's election victory, President Ali Abdullah Saleh confirmed that the Sept. 20 presidential and local council elections provided a profile of institutional and constitutional construction for Yemen's democratic community. "The latest elections established democracy to the greatest extent," Saleh noted.
 The Yemeni leader pointed out that the electoral process was one of the revolution's achievements. He affirmed many tasks remain ahead for the new state, in particular, continuing efforts to attain economic, social and cultural development, in addition to confronting

development challenges, poverty and unemployment.
 According to Saleh, the new Yemen will work to create more job opportunities for youth, fight corruption and terrorism, establish principles of freedom, justice and democracy and a state of law and order.
 He emphasized that Yemen's next stage will witness more job opportunities in numerous areas, as well as supporting the poor and needy to improve their skills and living standards. Saleh's new agenda aims to help the poor acquire small and medium-sized enterprises, consider productive families and enlighten the minds of youth to become self-reliant. His agenda also aims to mold youth into a productive and effective energy in the march toward con-

structing and updating the nation.
 The president indicated that the coming time period will witness development in Yemen's foreign relations, as well as plans for entry into the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which is due to enhance both economic partnership and cultural and political cooperation.
 On Tuesday, Yemen celebrated the anniversary of the Sept. 26 Revolution 44 years ago, when liberals revolted against the tyrannous imamate regime, which had forced Yemenis to live in illiteracy and isolation from the external world. Such liberals sacrificed their lives and all they had for the sake of liberating Yemen.
 Following the revolution's success, the oppressive imamate regime was

toppled and a republican regime declared. Speaking about the revolution in detail isn't an easy task and requires much time and effort.
 Citizens today should acknowledge that the Sept. 26 Revolution gave new birth to Yemenis and that talking about the past 44 years must be measured in light of development achievements attained in areas of education, health and development.
 Despite the fact that both North Yemen's Sept. 26 Revolution and South Yemen's Oct. 14 Revolution succeeded, it took both parts to attain stability and development. Yemenis suffered lack of stability for a long time and still suffer the consequences of illiteracy and conflicts.
Continued on page 2

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French tourists return home

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A Sept. 26 — Four French nationals who were held hostage for fifteen days in Yemen were back home in France on Wednesday only two days after they were freed.

The hostages arrived on an early morning flight to Paris where they were welcomed at the airport by French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy

The kidnapping took place on Sept. 10 in the Haban district of Shabwa province, about 460 kilometers from Sana'a, by armed tribesmen, who threatened to kill them to press Yemen's government to release jailed relatives.

The four men were freed Monday by their abductors, who belong to the Al-Abdullah clan — the same clan that kidnapped a German diplomat and his family last December.

The release of the tourists followed extensive negotiations with the kidnappers.

"After hard and tiring negotiations throughout the night, an agreement was reached to free the hostages," said Awad Bawazir, a member of parliament mediating with the kidnappers. Bawazir did not reveal the terms of the agreement.

Bawazir confirmed that the goal in releasing the French was to prevent any army interference. He told reporters by

phone the four had been delivered into his care, and then they were transported by helicopter to a military base in Sana'a, where they were received by French diplomats. According to News Yemen website, Bawazir had delivered two of his brothers to the kidnappers in exchange for the French hostages. However, the official Yemeni news agency Saba, quoted from security source in the Ministry of Interior that security and armed forces had surrounded the area where the kidnappers were believed to be hiding and were pursuing them to release the hostages.

Almulla Zabara, a leader in the Al-Abdullah tribe told AP the tribe won concessions from the government for the release of the hostages. Zabara said he expected that five people from his tribe now held at a military camp in Abyan, where the family has been prevented from visiting them, will soon be moved to a jail in the capital. He said he hoped they would be released fol-

lowing the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, in late October.

French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin sent his thanks to the Yemeni authorities for their assistance in freeing the hostages, his office said in a statement.

Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy spoke to journalists in Paris about the release of the four saying France had no contact with the hostage-takers throughout the ordeal.

"On our end, we stayed in permanent contact with Yemeni authorities, but at no time did we participate in their contact with the kidnappers," said Douste-Blazy. Early in the negotiations the French government asked Yemen not to use any military force to free the French hostages

The foreign minister did not give the identities of those who were held captive, at the request of the hostages and their families. He said they were between 55 and 58 years old.

Fire kills 10



The four-story building where the fire broke out.

ADEN, Sept. 27 — Ten individuals reported dead in a fire last Monday. Among the victims were three children and there were five injured in Kreter district fire. The fire started in a four-story building causing the death of seven people in the same

family on the floor where the fire started. Firemen were unable to save the residents and contain the fire that burned many hours destroying the whole building. The cause of fire is not known yet; however some people attribute it to an electric fault.

In brief

AMRAN

Amran discusses development plans

Sept. 25 — Amran authorities and chiefs of districts discussed many issues concerned with developing performance during the remaining quarter of the year. The meeting concentrated on issues of comprehensive development and services, pondered upon as part of the local authority's duties.

ADEN

Yemen looks at free trade with China

Sept. 24 — Dr. Mohamed Hamoud Al-Wadhn, Deputy Chairman of Free Zones General Authority discussed with the Chinese Consular different aspects of cooperation with regard to investment, trade and development between the Aden Free Zone and the Chinese free zones. The meeting discussed several benefits and facilities, which the Aden Free Zone offers investors, particularly the Yemeni Investment Law.

SANA'A

School results

Sept. 25 — Students are due for secondary school results for both scientific and literary sections to be announced today. Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi, Minister of Education, said the results and the related information together with the names of the first ten students will be announced in a press conference. Al-Jawfi further indicated that all students can receive their results via SMS services on the number 160.

DHAMAR,

Awareness programs on AIDS

Sept. 27 — The National Society for Fighting AIDS is due to launch in Dhamar this week its training and awareness activities on AIDS in different districts in the governorate.

The event covers lectures, symposiums and field visits to spread awareness among people about the epidemic's risk, how it communicates and the precautionary means, in addition to providing locals with information about the status of awareness activities on AIDS at the local level and internationally.

In cooperation with the Reproductive Health Program in Dhamar governorate, the society held 20 awareness courses in several districts, which provided training for nearly 550 local community leaders, mosque preachers, media personnel, educators and workers of health labs on how to fight the epidemic and protect people from its risk.

70% of Nursery Institute project implemented

Sept. 27 — Implementation of Nursery Institute project in the University Hospital in Ma'abar city, 30 km north of Dhamar, is underway. The project is worth 204 million Yemeni Riyals.

Secretary-General of Dhamar University, Helal Al-Ray'ie, clarified that 70 percent of the project has been implemented, pointing out that the Nursery Institute aims to make out of students skilled nurses to serve their society.

Dozens of African immigrants killed in Aden Gulf

ADEN, Sept. 24 — Many African refugees have died at sea trying to get to Yemen through the Gulf Aden or were killed by human traffickers, according to UN officer speaking Geneva.

UNHCR spokesman, Roon Redmond, mentioned that since the beginning of September, 35 Africans died during the risky voyage to Yemen onboard the normally overloaded boats. Meanwhile a report said that 53 Africans still are missing.

Redmond said nearly 2143 people from Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan were making trip to Yemen. He confirmed that approximately 100 Africans arrive in Yemen territory on a daily basis between September and

April and this period is described by the UNHCR as the "trafficking season" in Aden Gulf when the weather becomes mild.

Survivors said some of their companions were beaten to death with wood and iron sticks while others died when boats capsized.

According to UNHCR stats there are over 88 thousand refugees registered in Yemen, of whom 84 thousand are Somalis.

Yemen's Ministry of Human Rights announced that the number of African immigrants in Yemen exceeds 750 thousand and UNHCR did not support them nor did it register these refugees in need of help in its lists. Consequently, Yemen

faces difficulty meeting basic needs of such large numbers of African refugees.

Kharaz Camp in Lahj governorate has many African refugees while the majority of them are scattered in different Yemeni cities, have no work and lack legal protection. Most the African refugees in the Yemeni cities have no access to health care or education.

"The annual budget of UNHCR is large, but most of the budget is spent on travel allowances for people in charge of the commissioner in Yemen. Consequently, UNHCR doesn't pay attention to refugees and their basic needs," an observer commented on the UNHCR situation

Stage set for Yemen's donors

SANA'A, Sept. 25 — In collaboration with Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, World Bank and International Monetary Fund, all preparatory arrangements are complete for the donor countries conference in November in London.

"Yemen today presents itself to its neighbors, friends and development partners as a civilized and democratic country. Donor countries conference will create more positive attitudes for the sake of developing the Yemeni people, particularly following to the success of presidential and local elections," said Abdul Qader Bajamal, Yemeni Prime Minister.

For his part, Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi, Minister of Planning and the International Cooperation, declared that his ministry has finished all preparatory arrangements.

He further indicated that such activities involved the cooperation of the concerned Yemeni authorities and their counterparts in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the governments of donor countries as well as World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

According to the third Five-year Development plan for economic and social development, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has prepared a list of projects in need for financial support to put them before the conference.

Additionally, the ministry prepares for an economic symposium due to be held February in Dubai, concerning Yemen's to integration with other Gulf economies. Many donor countries, officials and academics will attend the symposium and they will present a number of

studies and researches that discuss all social, economic, cultural and political dimensions relating to Yemen's admittance to GCC.

Dubai's symposium is an extension to one held in Sana'a last August, aiming at qualifying Yemeni economy to keep pace with GCC economies and to integrate with them.

In related news, a Yemeni economic delegation is visiting a number of donor countries' capitals to hold discussions aiming to make donor countries forum a successful.

Al-Arhabi pointed out that the delegation is touring the donor countries to meet officials and contact a number of institutions and concerned parties in the European countries and further discussing cooperation aspects with these countries.

Further depreciation for Yemeni Riyal

SANA'A, Sept. 27 — The Yemeni Riyal value is expected to drop to YR 207 against the US Dollar in 2007, according to a report released by British Economic Information Unit.

The report expected a decrease in the actual economic development rates, arriving at a percentage lower than that targeted by the World Bank reaching 7 percent, a rate considered important for achieving sustainable development in Yemen.

It further indicated that inflation is increasing due to lifting the support of oil derivatives last July and levying income tax, causing the inflation rate to jump to 18.4 percent compared to 12.6 percent in 2005.

Next year will witness a decrease in the inflation rate to arrive at 11.3 percent. This decrease will result from the price-reform and expenditures-shrinking policies adopted by government following to

the presidential elections; however, it will not lead to a decrease in food and consumer commodities prices.

Additionally, the report expected the Central Bank of Yemen to continue the policy to make a gradual and annual decrease of Yemeni currency value. Though this measure will reduce inflation, it will not permit a quick and actual decrease in the nominative value of the currency.

The report also indicated that an increase in oil exports returns this year reaching to USD 6.6 billion against USD 6.2 billion in 2005. However, the report expected a decrease in oil returns dropping to USD 5.9 billion in 2007 due to international oil prices slump.

It went on to say that the poor management of the central government and public opposition hindered the Yemeni efforts exerted for achieving economic

liberalization.

It also hinted at the World Bank's announcement for decreasing the financial support provided to Yemen by 34 percent over the next three years, unless Yemen achieves advancement in economic reforms and combating corruption, thus the bank's support to Yemen will shrink to USD 280 million.

Reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund will enable Yemen get USD 300 million, added the report. It also expected the monetary fund will sign an agreement relating to renewing its program in Yemen, according to the political support provided by their member countries.

The report also expected Yemen authorities to face pressures, aiming at getting the country to overcome the difficulties ensuing from the exhausting of oil reserves.

Missile targets JMP member

SANA'A, Sept. 25 — A missile was aimed at the Supervisory Committee's headquarters in Al-Jawf on Monday, but the shell missed its target and fell nearby, according to the Joint Meeting Party media center.

The incident happened in the early morning when a worker saw a person next to some trees close to the committee's headquarters which was then full of electoral committees' members as well as escorts, according to Saleh Al-Rowsa, head of the supervisory committee.

Al-Rowsa, who was the target of gun-fire a week ago, added that the shell was targeting his room, but it lost its way and fell into empty land close to the headquarters.

The Executive Committee of JMP accused members affiliated with General People Congress to be behind

the incident and the security of being lenient with them.

At the time of the incident the final results of presidential and local elections had not been released.

In a letter sent to Al-Jawf governor and head of the security committee there, the committee also considered the incident to be resulting from GPC feelings that elections results are not in his side. The letter further indicated using force will not hinder JMP from asking for its rights and law application.

It also asked for a probe into the issue to know who stands behind it and his motives, reminding of Mosleh Shyran's assassination in August. The letter additionally renewed the demand of JMP to form an unbiased committee to investigate the matter and have a copy of the investigations.

Traffic accidents claim 239 lives

SANA'A, Sept. 27 — Nationwide traffic accidents claimed 239 lives people during August, according to official statistics.

"Yemeni roads witnessed 5676 accidents during August, injuring 1050 people of both sexes and they were ranged from serious, moderate to slight injuries," according to sources at the General Administration of Police.

These accidents caused huge damages to properties and roads and they included car turnovers, crashes, running over people and crashing into light posts or trees.

Traffic accidents have been on the increase causing more injuries in lives. They are ascribed to many reasons, among which comes the deterioration of roads, especially those roads linking governorates and main cities.

Continued from page 1

JMP accepts vote result, denies deal with authority

"JMP has not regretted participating in the opposition's acceptance of the vote result, which gave Yemen's veteran President Ali Abdullah Saleh a landslide victory with 77.17 percent of the vote total.

After 44 years, Yemen still has many tasks ahead

There were no real moves toward development in the 1960s and '70s. After the Sept. 26 Revolution erupted, political and tribal forces engaged in conflicts for power and governance. Violence and chaos spread in various parts of the nation, killing many innocent people, and such conflicts hindered development in numerous areas.

One can say that Yemen's development actually began in 1974 during the reign of former President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, who set development policies by announcing five-year plans covering various parts of Yemen. However, Al-Hamdi remained in power only four years, leaving behind numerous achieve-

ments that President Saleh completed. Saleh was elected president in 1978 and since has established stability and ended all political and tribal conflicts. He achieved successful agreements with various political forces, which came out with the National Pact. Saleh could inspire trust in people, which helped him continue the march and drive forward the wheels of development.

During his lengthy reign, President Saleh has attained a large number of achievements, mainly establishing national unity, democracy, peaceful transfer of power and efforts toward Yemen's GCC admission.

Democrats seek full terror report

US Democrats have urged the Bush administration to release in full a report which finds that US involvement in Iraq has fuelled global terrorism.

Senators said parts of the intelligence report declassified on Tuesday did not give Americans enough information.

President George W Bush released excerpts after leaks to the US media. Correspondents say the excerpts give some comfort to the White House, saying that victory in Iraq would be a big blow to the enemy.

Mr Bush has accused those behind the leak of trying to mislead the American public for political purposes ahead of congressional elections in November.

But Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has also added to the dispute, saying in an interview for CNN that he stood by remarks in his new book that he opposed the invasion because he feared it would encourage terrorism.

"I've stated whatever I had to ... it has made the world a more dangerous place," he said.

'New generation'

The National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) report is a collection of the view of all 16 US intelligence agencies.

The released excerpts contain

ammunition for both sides in the debate over Iraq, the BBC's Justin Webb in Washington notes.

But Democrat Senators Edward Kennedy, Hillary Clinton and Carl Levin said the public needed to know more from the report and accused the administration of selective declassification.

"The American people deserve the full story, not those parts of it that the Bush administration selects. President Bush should declassify the entire NIE," Senator Kennedy said.

They also called for a briefing behind closed doors with John Negroponte, the director of national intelligence.

Meanwhile, a Democrat proposal for a secret session of the House of Representatives to give lawmakers the chance to discuss the report was voted down.

Congresswoman Jane Harman said there was a second NIE focused purely on Iraq.

"I hear it paints a grim picture," she said. "And because it does, I am told it is being held until after the November elections."

'Mistake'

The leaked excerpts from the report were first published by the New York Times on Sunday.

Speaking to journalists on Tuesday, Mr Bush condemned the leak, calling his critics "naive".

Declassification would let people judge the document for themselves," he said.

"I think it's a mistake for people to believe that going on the offensive against people that want to do harm to the American people makes us less safe," he added.

Mr Bush has consistently dismissed such reasoning in the past, arguing that Islamic militants had hated the US long before it invaded Iraq or Afghanistan.

Our correspondent says the report gives backing to the White House view that a victory in Iraq would be a big prize with fewer enemy fighters inspired to carry on.

There is also mention of real successes against al-Qaeda.

But the overall picture, including the assertion that the Iraq conflict has become a cause celebre for jihadists, is not terribly comforting for Mr Bush and could be a setback in the elections, our correspondent adds.

Other key points of the report include:

- Militants, although a small percentage of Muslims, are increasing



U.S. President George W. Bush (R) holds a joint news conference with Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai in the East Room at the White House in Washington, September 26, 2006. REUTERS

in both number and geographic dispersion

- If this trend continues, threats to US interests globally will become more diverse leading to increased

attacks worldwide

- Militants consider Europe an important venue for attacking Western interests

- The loss of key leaders in rapid

succession would probably fracture al-Qaeda into smaller groups that would pose, at least for a time, a less serious threat to US interests.

Source: BBC

UN: Israel to quit Lebanon in days

A UN commander said on Tuesday that Israeli troops should be out of south Lebanon within days

The comment by Major-General Alain Pellegrini, the UN force commander in Lebanon, came after he met with Israeli and Lebanese officers at the border to discuss the continued withdrawal of Israeli troops.

He said: "It is my belief that with the necessary co-operation by both parties we should see the [Israeli army] leave south Lebanon by the end of this month."

Israeli forces have gradually been pulling out of Lebanese territory after their 34-day war with Hezbollah but small forces remain on the Lebanese

side of the border.

Disagreements

However, Israel's Channel One television said that disagreements at the meeting over the disarming of Hezbollah in southern Lebanon could delay the withdrawal beyond the weekend.

Alexander Ivanko, a spokesman for the UN force, said that the peacekeepers had not been informed of any delay in the pull-out.

He said: "We have not been informed about any delays or

timetables but it has been made clear by the [UN] force commander that he expects the process to be finalised by the end of the month."

Rules of engagement

Amir Peretz, the Israeli defence minister, said earlier on Tuesday that Israel hoped to complete its withdrawal soon but that this would depend on agreement being reached with the UN force on rules of engagement.

He said: "I hope very much that during the coming week, at the most a few more days, we will complete the withdrawal."

"There are arrangements, negotiations [and] deliberations which we intend to complete in order to set

the rules - what is permitted and what is forbidden."

Mark Regev, the Israeli foreign ministry spokesman, said that Israel would withdraw once it was convinced that the terms of UN resolution 1701 that ended the war on August 14 would be observed.

He said: "We have no desire or intention to prolong our stay in Lebanon, and the minute it is understood that the other relevant parts of 1701 will also be fulfilled, then of course Israel will be ready to pull out."

"Resolution 1701 specifically calls for a total arms embargo to prevent arms reaching Hezbollah [and] the total elimination of an armed Hezbollah presence south of the Litani

river, and we're hopeful that the Lebanese government and the international forces will be acting to provide those conditions to make the Israeli withdrawal expeditious."

UN commanders have said that they will not disarm Hezbollah or open fire on Hezbollah fighters and Israel feels that the Lebanese government has given mixed signals on whether it is prepared to confront Hezbollah, which has two members in the Lebanese cabinet.

Source: Al-Jazeera



Peretz (R) said he hopes Israeli troops will be out by Yom Kippur.

'Hitler' artwork sold at auction

Watercolours and sketches attributed to Adolf Hitler have sold for double their estimated price at an auction in Cornwall in the UK.

Hitler is thought to have produced them while serving in the German army during the first world war.

The collection of paintings and sketches was found in an attic in Belgium.

Chris Walton, a spokesman for Jefferys Auctioneers, said on Tuesday the 21 watercolours and two sketches, sold individually for prices from \$6,100 to \$19,975.

Many of the paintings, which were mostly landscapes, were signed "A Hitler", while others were signed "AH".

Ian Morris, the auctioneer, said that few of the successful bidders were prepared to be identified or to speak to journalists.

He said: "There may be a stigma attached to buying Hitler art."

One bidder - who refused to identify himself but confirmed he was an Estonian acting on behalf of an Eastern European businessman - said he had successfully purchased artwork.

He said: "I think they are probably being bought for business - the paintings are not very good and it's not nice to have a 'Hitler' on your living room wall."



Hitler is believed to have painted the watercolours during WWI.

Comic gatecrashers

The auction was gatecrashed by Aaron Barschak - a comic who gained notoriety in 2003 when he evaded security at Prince William's birthday party at Windsor Castle and climbed on stage dressed as Osama bin Laden - and Peter Cunningham, who dressed as Hitler.

As security guards dragged them out, Barschak shouted: "See - they're throwing Jews out."

Barschak's wife said that her husband and Cunningham had considered the sale offensive.

She said: "It's not a surprise that when they did decide to hold it, they

chose a quiet village in Cornwall.

"If it was in London there would have been protests. Adolf Hitler was a mass murderer and to make money from that is wrong."

Controversial

Walton said: "Some people would consider the sale somewhat controversial, but the pieces were executed so long ago - nearly 100 years ago - that they now just represent something of the past."

Hitler is thought to have painted hundreds of pieces before becoming leader of the Nazi party. In the past, his paintings have sold for between \$5,000 and \$50,000.

In many European countries, including Germany, it is illegal to buy, own or sell Nazi memorabilia.

A German auction house in 2001 withdrew a Hitler painting following public protests.

The Centre of Military History in Washington has hundreds of Nazi-related pieces - including four Hitler paintings - but they are not on display.

Source: Al-Jazeera

Fears over Lebanon cluster bombs

There could be as many as one million unexploded cluster munitions scattered throughout south Lebanon as a result of Israel's recent offensive against Hezbollah, United Nations de-mining experts say.

The UN had previously said it believed 350,000 unexploded cluster bomblets were in the south, but now estimates the figure at a million on the basis of Israeli media reports.

Chris Clark, the UN's top de-mining official in Lebanon, said: "The situation in south Lebanon now, as a result of 34 days of bombing, is that there is extensive unexploded ordnance lying all over the place."

Cluster bombs are anti-personnel weapons designed to break up above ground, scattering bomblets over a wide area.

Houses, gardens, farms and streets have been peppered with the munitions.

The UN also said that Israel's failure to hand over detailed information about the cluster bomb strikes has complicated and slowed the clearance of the unexploded bombs.

The UN says that it has repeatedly asked Israel to hand over information about the nature and location of the strikes with cluster munitions.

No assistance

Fourteen people have been killed and

about 90 injured from unexploded ordnance since the August 14 ceasefire, according to the United Nations Mine Action Centre in Lebanon.

Clark said it could take up to the end of 2007 to clear the munitions.

Colonel Wassim Rizq, head of operations of the Lebanese army's National Demining Office, said: "The job is not over yet, the casualties will reach a record high this year."

David Shearer, the UN's humanitarian co-ordinator for Lebanon, said last week that Israel could assist the clearance effort by handing over co-ordinates of where the bombs were fired.

But Clark complained that Israel had not responded.

"We've not received this so far. We've asked and we are waiting," he said.

Rules of engagement

The UN assessment comes as Israel and international peacekeepers wrangle over the rules of engagement in south Lebanon that would enable Israeli troops to completely pull out of the area.

Israel has so far withdrawn from about 90 per cent of the land it occupied during the height

of its 34-day war against Hezbollah, handing it to international peacekeeping forces under the expanded United Nations interim force in Lebanon (Unifil) mandate.

Amir Peretz, Israel's defence minister, said: "I hope very much that during the coming week, at the most a few more days, we will complete the withdrawal."

"There are arrangements, negotiations [and] deliberations which we intend to complete in order to set the rules - what is permitted and what is forbidden - from the moment we're sitting on the blue line [the international border]."

Source: Al-Jazeera



Unexploded bombs are now littered across south Lebanon.

رَمَضَانَ كَرِيمًا
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ

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Ramadan in Hodeidah: A spiritual time with a special flavor

Ramadan in Hodeidah governorate has its own flavor and taste, with habits differing from those in other areas of Yemen.

By: Abdulwahab Al-Sofi
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Yemenis receive Ramadan by going to the market beforehand to buy food items used during the month – spices, maize, soup, juice, pudding, dates and juice, which are very necessary for Ramadan meals. Others buy new household items used in the kitchen to prepare Ramadan meals.

Like other Yemenis in various locations, Hodeidah residents fast during Ramadan days and stay up at night. They start fasting from early morning, beginning at the fajr prayer until the maghrib prayer.

During this month-long period, Muslims learn good lessons from Ramadan, such as patience, tolerance and forgetting their differences and disputes. Such differences traditionally eclipse most denominations stances toward many issues, but they seem to lessen while celebrating the holy month.

Looking more closely, every region differs somewhat in celebrating this significant event and, interestingly enough, different Ramadan rituals can be observed within a single city.

Hodeidah

For instance, once the first indication of Ramadan is spotted – the welcoming new moon phase – Hodeidah locals can be heard echoing, whether through the imposing minarets of mosques or on the tongues of gleeful children, who start roaming and shouting, “Welcome, wel-

come Ramadan!”

English-language inspector Hasan Baghawi agrees that the overwhelming tide of change, which is a true characteristic of Ramadan, isn't enough to convert some social aspects, but rather exceeds it to the degree of turning night into day and vice versa.

Therefore, Hodeidah residents patiently await Ramadan to enjoy the nights as they change their lifestyle completely, incorporate special features and customs into their meals and live fantastic nights during the month. During the day, many people sleep until nearly midday, after which some start working in the afternoon while others go out to buy food necessities.

After fasting, citizens eat dates at the maghrib prayer and then go to the mosque to perform their prayers together. Afterward, they return home to rest before dinner, with all family members gathering together in one place for the meal.

What pleases most Hodeidah residents during Ramadan is hospitality and solidarity. Neighbors exchange food at dinnertime, with Hodeidah locals distributing large meals to their neighbors and relatives nightly. Fasting citizens always are given a taste of breaking the fast from neighbors and vice versa. Because of this, one can see plates filled with special food-stuffs moving among neighbors before breaking the fast (a few minutes before the maghrib prayer).

Ramadan has special traits. After dinner, isha and tarawih prayers are performed collectively at a mosque and then citizens assemble in a mabraz, a place used for qat chewing, to chew together



A view of famous market in Hodeidah city.

and share various aspects of their lives. They often take turns reading verses of the Qur'an.

Zabid

In different places like Zabid city, some complete reading the Qur'an three times during Ramadan, while others read it 10 times. Mohammed Hasan Warrow of Zabid spoke about Ramadan nights there, which essentially are the same as in all Yemeni towns, but have a special flavor and spirituality represented in the following:

Zabid residents usually gather nightly in a mabraz to sit together and study the Qur'an throughout Ramadan. In some places, citizens complete reading the Qur'an every three nights, reading it 10 times throughout Ramadan's 30 nights.

Famed for its many mosques (the city has approximately 82), Zabid's mosques feel alive and spiritual when filled with prayers throughout Ramadan from early

evening (isha prayer) until late night. Citizens perform isha and tarawih prayers in early evening every night of Ramadan, led by learned Qur'anic scholars called imams at all mosques. Imams who have memorized the entire Qur'an recite tarawih prayers every night until the end of Ramadan and Qur'anic portions are divided for the 30 nights of Ramadan.

Some special and large mosques in Zabid like the Great Mosque and Al-Asha'air Mosque perform tarawih prayer two to three times every night of Ramadan so those who haven't performed their prayers in early evening can perform them in late evening or late at night. Prayers are begun after the isha prayer and then at 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. Prayer calls are done three times via loud-speaker, therefore, everyone is notified about performing tarawih prayer at different times of the night throughout Ramadan.

Furthermore, those who care more for

others are present especially on the last 10 nights of Ramadan, where the rich visit the poor and distribute Ramadan charity, by which they ask Allah's forgiveness and acceptance of their good deeds during Ramadan and the whole year. Thus, Ramadan in Zabid has a special flavor and spiritual status, which remain in the memory and are never forgotten.

Hodeidah

Many mosques in Hodeidah city read short Qur'anic passages and thus complete tarawih prayer very quickly, while others prolong the reading during prayers, especially tarawih and tahajod prayers (performed after tarawih prayer), but this depends on the imam of the mosque. Most often, they are Sunni, Islah or Sufi groups. Sufis usually read short suras (chapters) of the Qur'an.

Ultimately, such slight differences vanish as soon as they begin thinking of the month's most magnificent event wherein Muslims wish for success to be granted. This is the Night of Power, during which the revelation came down to the prophet for the first time through the angel Gabriel. During the last 10 nights of Ramadan, Muslims crowd mosques until the dawn prayer and during these blessed nights, they wish for success to come across the Night of Power.

Hodeidah residents carefully prepare breaking the fast meals, from which they distribute some portion to relatives, neighbors and nearby poor people. The meal may contain Lahouh bread (a pancake-like bread made out of maize or corn flour) for making shafout, sambousah, soup, pudding, sweets and some fruits.

Thus, women usually exchange their cooking experience, while others vie to create new dishes. Some women go to mosques, where special places are made for them to perform their prayers collec-

tively. They also visit relatives and friends to congratulate each other on the occasion of the generous month. In some very poor locations, citizens eat shafout (lahoh bread leaf and yoghurt) and beans in Suhoor for dinner.

Al-Husainiah

Ramadan in Al-Husainiah, a town near Hodeidah, has few changes, as residents usually break the fast at maghrib prayer with dates and a meat broth with a small piece of lahoh. Dinner should consist mainly of a type of bread called kader (made from millet or sorghum) and meat, sometimes with rice. Shafout usually is eaten soon after dinner, followed by pudding and tea.

Wealthy citizens always send meat broth with lahoh and dates to mosques, where the poor can break their fast. What draws attention is that preparing dinner among neighbors alternates from one family to another. For example, one family will mill millet and bake it for neighbors, while another family will do the same tomorrow and so forth.

After tarawih prayer, older people especially gather in a mabraz (a gathering room) to read the Qur'an, whereas some youth find it an opportunity for a group trip outside of their area to play sports or converse humorously with each other. However, mosques usually are filled with prayers, including young people, who regularly perform their religious duties during Ramadan.

For the dawn (Suhoor) meal, food is nearly all natural – cow milk and local bread (kader) – whereas in Hodeidah, the meal at Suhoor may contain roasted fish with local bread and local cheese blended with tomatoes, pepper and garlic. Sometimes, the meal might be local bread made from barley mixed with natural milk (fattah).

Elections dilemma: Conflict between Salafis and other Islamic sects

By: Sa'eed Al-Batati
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The ultraconservative Salafi (also known as Wahhabi) sect and other Islamic sects like Sufis, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Tabligh missionary group don't see eye to eye on some modern issues. For example, celebrating the prophet's birthday, venerating dead saints and seeking help from them have been bones of contention between Salafis and Sufis.

Democracy and participating in the political process also have been contentious subjects between Salafis and the Islah party, which sees no harm in elections involvement. While Yemenis nationwide voted in the Sept. 20 presidential and local council elections, Yemeni Salafi luminaries recently have been crying wolf about the election issue, warning citizens everywhere about participating in the political process.

During a recent General People's Congress rally in Marib, Egyptian-born Abu Al-Hassan Al-Maribi stirred up controversy and outrage when he said that contesting Wali Al-Amar (the leader) for president was unlawful in Islam and it was prohibited to rebel against him.

At the same time, Salafi-affiliated scholars and students did their best to admonish voters not to participate in the elections so as not to commit haram (shame). They believe they are interpreting pure Islamic teachings by emulating the behavior of the first three generations of Muslims following the Prophet Mohammed's death in the seventh century A.D. because such elite Muslims didn't practice democracy during their lifetime.

“The scholar's duty is to show peo-

ple the concealed aims of Jews and Christians to undermine Muslims and their creeds,” says one Salafi scholar, referring to the evils of elections, “We must know that our book (the Qur'an) and the Sunnah of the prophet brought what is good for all humanity.”

This same Salafi scholar pours cold water on some Muslims and accuses them of colluding with infidels in order to destroy Islam.

Supporting their steadfast stance against elections, one Salafi scholar sketched out the following evils, which totally convince Salafis that elections are illegitimate in Islam.

1. Elections depend upon a majority. If a degenerate or atheist received the majority of votes, he would rule over Muslims and drive out Islamic law.

2. Muslims who convert to democracy will give non-Muslims justification to accuse Islam of being incompetent by saying, “If your religion is so good, why did you convert to extraneous law?”

3. Muslims who ally with feseqah (a person who commits sins) will abandon the rubric of “allying Muslims and renouncing non-Muslims,” which is an essential rule in Islam.

4. Elections allow Muslims to stand firmly with the constitution and the law of Parliament, both of which include deviating opinions that clash with Sharia law.

5. Elections serve the interests of Jews and Christians, as they're established on external support from foreign nations and other infidel associations, which provide strong financial support to the elections.

6. Elections are prohibited because they give a firm foundation to the Jewish practice of “the end justifies the means.” Elections are a means leading to kofar (shirk).

7. Elections divide Muslim unity by

calling every group with different political beliefs to form its own party. As a result, every party competes with each other and grudges prevail.

8. Elections cause Muslims to espouse their parties and defend them, even if they're on the wrong track. This leads to factional crises, thus, Islam prohibits partisanship.

9. Forgery, fallacy, double dealing and lying are the main facets of most elections.

10. Citizens waste precious time talking about the elections everywhere, whether in their cars or their homes. Elections also become the main focus of lectures and sermons.

11. In addition to the evil of wasting time, millions of riyals are squandered in the name of elections.

12. Elections place women's votes on the same footing as those of men, as well as the votes of Muslims with non-Muslims and so on.

13. Election campaigners spread their nominees' pictures, whereas taking photos is unlawful in Islam.

Instead, Salafis believe there are only two ways to choose a country's leader in Islam. A leader must be selected by ahel alhel walaged (a group of pious, religious leading personalities in society) or a leader may choose his successor, who should be a Muslim man who has reached puberty, free meaning not a servant, knowledgeable, a sage, fear God and not affiliated with any party.

In the viewpoint of Salafis, a leader shouldn't be removed from office unless he goes crazy. They strongly criticize the democratic system because it allows women to come to power, which never happened during the life of the prophet (pbuh) and his companions.

Answering questions about the elections' legitimacy and disproving Salafi theory, prominent sheikh Abubakir Al-

Hadrami accused Salafis of having a rudimentary knowledge of religious science.

“What's strange is that some shallow-minded people accuse democracy of being infidelity. They don't delve into the kernel of democracy, they just judge it outwardly. Is democracy, which the world has struggled, called for and sacrificed millions of people to obtain, a debauchery or an atheist?” he wonders.

In the following six principles, Al-Hadrami fleshes out his theory in a paper written in Arabic and sent to the Yemen Times.

1. Islam approved the fundamentals of choosing a ruler, even regarding prayer. If an imam (leader of prayer) leads individuals without their consent, his prayer won't be accepted.

In Islam, citizens have the right to choose who will rule them. Even if a leader is selected by his predecessor, he won't be the leader unless citizens recognize him as such. For example, when first caliph Abubakir (pbuh) appointed Omer (pbuh) as his successor, Omer wasn't recognized as caliph until all Muslims pledged allegiance to him.

2. Citizens should choose ahel alhel walaged who will represent them and bring their leader to account. Nowadays, they're called Parliament, the Nation's Council and the Shoura Council. Due to the small number of Muslims during the prophet's lifetime, it was easy to form a council of highly pious individuals to elect a leader; however, it's now impossible to do so with such huge populations.

Humans previously knew about elections and there's no harm in taking what's good from others, except where the aya or Hadith prohibit it. For example, the prophet's second caliph adopted the land tax system and codification from the Persians and Romans.



Salafis believe there are only two ways to choose a country's leader in Islam.
YT PHOTO

Muslims also created sciences that didn't exist during the prophet's lifetime, like grammar, rhetoric and other sciences.

3. The group of ahel alhel walaged should impose the constitution upon the leader. Muslims should advise the leader and the nation must question him, impose virtues and prevent vices. Regarding Muslims, the constitution should be taken from Islamic law.

4. The nation should have representatives in Parliament in order to dismiss the leader if he deviates from the straight path. A leader shouldn't remain in power if he has abandoned Islam or if he acts treacherously toward his nation and religion. Unfortunately, in the Muslim world, there are other options to get rid of tyrant leaders besides their demise.

5. Citizens should have general freedoms like freedom of religion, political freedom, freedom of expression, freedom of press and freedom of thought.

Individuals shouldn't be obliged concerning something they don't want. For ages during the Islamic state, non-Muslims lived peacefully with Muslims and weren't forced to do anything contradicting their religion.

6. In some countries where the three powers – executive, legislative and judiciary – are separate, the executive noses into the competence of the other powers, thus resulting in injustice and arbitrariness. Islam discourages such disgusting actions. A leader has the right to appoint judges, but afterward, he must be completely independent. No one has the right to poke their nose into the work of judges.

Al-Hadrami concludes his paper, saying, “This is what democracy calls for in its marrow. These fundamentals of democracy also are available in our Sharia law. If we refer to the essential sources of it (the Qur'an, the Sunnah and the orthodox caliphs), we'll find these regulations in our own religion.”

يتقدم كلاً من :
سيد / أليستير جون مونكي

الرئيس - المدير العام

والأستاذ / علي محمد السحاكي
المدير التنفيذي

والإدارة انكيا ومونكو وشركة

كنيديان نكسن بنر وليج يمن

كافة وشركاؤها في قطاع المسيلة (١٤)

بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبد الله صالح

حفظه الله

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

وإلى جميع أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة

الثقة العالية التي منحها إياه الشعب اليمني بإعادة إنتخابه رئيساً

للجمهورية اليمنية عبر الاقتراع الحر والمباشر في الانتخابات

الرئاسية التي تمت في العشرين من سبتمبر ٢٠٠٦ م

Mr. Alistair John Mooney

President & General Manager

&

Mr. Ali Mohammed Sohaiki

Executive Director

The Senior Management Team and all staff of

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen

and its Masila Block (14) Partners,

Present their heartiest congratulations to

H.E. ALI ABDULLAH SALEH

President of the Republic of Yemen

and to all Yemeni people for the confidence given by

Yemeni people to the President, through re-electing

him for in a new term via free and direct elections on

Sept. 20, 2006

CANADIAN
nexen

يتقدم كلاً من :

السيد / أليسنر جون موني

الرئيس - المدير العام

والأستاذ / علي محمد السحاكي

المدير التنفيذي

والإدارة العليا وموظفو شركة

كنيديان نكسن بنر وليج يمن

كافة وشركاؤها في قطاع المسيلة (١٤)

بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبد الله صالح

حفظه الله

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

وإلى جميع أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة

حلول شهر رمضان المبارك

إعادة الله علينا وعلى الأمة العربية والإسلامية بالخير والبركة

والعيد الـ ٤٤ لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الخالدة

متمنين للجمهورية اليمنية وقيادتها الحكيمة المزيد من الإنجازات

والتقدم والرخاء .

Mr. Alistair John Mooney

President & General Manager

&

Mr. Ali Mohammed Sohaiki

Executive Director

The Senior Management Team and all staff of
Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen

and its Masila Block (14) Partners,

Present their heartiest greetings to

H.E. ALI ABDULLAH SALEH

President of the Republic of Yemen

and to all Yemeni People on the occasion of The
Holy Month of Ramadan and the Commemoration
44th anniversary of 26th Septmber

Wishing Yemen and its wise leadership more
achievements and prosperity.

رمضان كريم

CANADIAN
nexen

لأنك أمان الحاضر وضمان المستقبل أخترنالك

لمواصلة مسيرة التنمية والنماء والرخاء فهنينا لك ثقة الشعب و هنيئا للشعب بقائده.
وبمناسبة هذا العرس الديمقراطي وتجديد الشعب الثقة، وبمناسبة حلول شهر رمضان المبارك وأعياد ثورتي سبتمبر وأكتوبر.

بتقدم
البنك الأهلي اليمني

بأزكى آيات التهاني وأعطر التبريكات القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ الرئيس /

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى شعبنا اليمني العظيم .

مبروك فائدنا

On the occasion of re-election him for a second term and Ramadhan's arrival as well as the celebrations of September and October's Revolutions,

National Bank of Yemen

presents its warm greetings and hearty congratulations to H.E.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and to all Yemeni people.

عبد الرحمن محمد الكهالي
رئيس مجلس الإدارة - المدير العام

Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al -Kuhali
Chairman and General Manager

البنك الأهلي اليمني

National Bank Of Yemen



We send our warmest congratulations to the pioneer of modern Yemen and the reason for its current success.

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

On the occasion of re-electing him president of Yemen and on the commemoration of the 36th anniversary of the 26 September revolution and the holy month of Ramadan
Many Happy returns

أجمل التهاني لباني نهضة اليمن
الحديث وصانع الانجازات فخامة الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح

بمناسبة إعادة انتخابه رئيساً لليمن
والذي يتزامن مع احتفالات اليمن بالذكرى الرابعة
والأربعون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر المجيدة،
وكذلك حلول شهر رمضان المبارك،
وإلى الحكومة وكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني الكريم .
وكل عام وأنتم بخير ..

المؤسسة العامة اليمنية للإذاعة والتلفزيون

نتقدم بخالص وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات
القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

بمناسبة الذكرى الـ ٤٤ من ثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر
وكل عام وأنتم بخير

We Congratulate His Excellency President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

On the occasion of the 44th Anniversary
of 26 September
Many Happy Returns



شركة اتحاد المقاولين العالمية (C.C.C.)

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A Zorro in the Yemeni Elections

My colleague and friend Munir Al-Mawri believes that it is of great necessity that opposition candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan be elected President of Yemen.

He highlights 20 well-founded reasons to vote for him, among them the fact that he is a civilian at a time when people have grown tired of military men; that he is renowned for his virtue and religiosity at a time when people are fed up with corruption; that he is pure when people have had enough of the enduring rule of one leader. The fact that he's from the south means that electing him can only revere national unity and solidarity.

Yet despite all that, Bin Shamlan achieved modest results – only 20 per cent of the total votes. Have the results been tampered with?

It is the opposition's right to be skeptical, bearing in mind that the opposing candidate is the authority that is the government, the state security, and the money – which is



By: Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed

technically everything there is. However, it is also the government's right to insist on the legitimacy of the victory because the opposing candidate is an unknown face who competed against someone

the people have known for a quarter of a century.

Both interpretations are valid. Who would seriously believe that those from the ruling political party would intentionally use their presence and influence to correct the results, or blow the numbers out of proportion? We have no proof for that except a justified doubt and a long history of forgery and fraud in Arab organizations, and the glaring results the appointed always receive. In addition to people voting for the opposition not because they like it that much inasmuch as wanting to change a government as old as a tortoise – that is the attitude for all voters worldwide who desire change simply because they're bored or

frustrated with their current state. That's why it seems odd that Bin Shamlan only got 20 per cent of the votes. Yet at the same time, we must declare without a doubt that there are contextual explanations to support the likelihood of Bin Shamlan's defeat, primarily the fact that he is unknown to the public to a large extent. He also started his electoral campaign very late in life. In Yemen, by virtue of its limited capabilities it does not allow for an unknown's recognition to spread wide, as opposed to developed countries. Additionally, you cannot compare Bin Shamlan's capacity for mobilization to that of the president's, Ali Abdullah Saleh, who owns the whole government whose voice reaches to the furthest metre in the country.

As opposed to Bin Shamlan, everyone knows President Saleh in Yemen – the young and the old – he is part of their daily lives, and has been part of their history for quite a while. The new candidate only appeared recently and was solely known to specialists in the energy field when he was the former Minister of Petroleum. In this situation, the

largest contributing factor is what can be called commercial symbolism. When you walk into a supermarket, you decide in a matter of seconds what beverage you want to buy: You think either Coca Cola or its sister drink Pepsi Cola. You don't think about the other fizzy drinks for only one reason, and that's because you got used to them. You recognize them quickly and they have a dominant presence in your head. Had Bin Shamlan started his campaign earlier, he would have become an accepted commercial symbol, whereas today he cannot rival President Saleh in mass popularity. Whatever the case, whether the Yemeni elections were partially rigged or not, the fact remains that it was a compelling and courageous experience, and most important, is its establishment so that it becomes a paradigm rather than an exception in Yemeni life.

Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed is the general manager of Al-Arabiya television. He is the former editor-in-chief of Asharq Al-Awsat, and the leading Arabic weekly magazine, Al-Majalla.

Source: Asharq Al-Awsat Newspaper.

COMMON SENSE

Where do we go from here?

Yes, the Yemeni presidential and local council (governorate and district level) elections are over and as expected,

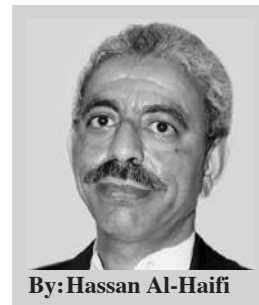
notwithstanding the strong efforts put up by the Joint Meeting of the Opposition Parties (JMOP) to present a meaningful challenge, president Ali Abdullah Saleh shall continue to rule for another seven years (or is it five years and then another five years after an amendment is introduced to the constitution to reduce the presidential Term to five years, in which case the president might be given a chance to go for two terms, since a new presidential term has been ordained – it has happened before). Indeed, the president and the General People's Congress put in all the muscle at their disposal to insure that the status quo continues, but could the difficulty of the challenge put up by the JMOP maybe lead to some optimism that indeed some possible reforms would have to be introduced in the way the government conducts its business. Whether such reforms could lead to the elimination of some of the almost unholo traits that have characterized the functions of government for over two and a half decades remains to be seen. However, such prospects would be beset with difficulties of an insurmountable nature, because the very machinery that helped insure the re-election of the president would stand in the way of the president, even if he has come down to the sensible reasoning that the challenge that was given in the elections had more to do with the failure of government especially in the last decade, to deliver competently and effectively the minimum desired output expected of a democratic government that puts public interest above all interest. Furthermore, previous promises of concrete government reforms after unification and after the Civil War of 1994, if the public supported the government, have not materialized into any effective re-steering of the government towards proper standards of efficiency and, more important, integrity as promised.

One is only hopeful that the president will now really feel obliged to meet the people's faith that the president is capable of maintaining the stability of the country, while at the same time appreciating their optimism that he can indeed initiate the required reforms that will make the institutional functions of government more receptive to the needs of the people and further away from meeting the narrow interests of those that deem themselves to be "the president's men".

If the president sternly recognizes how much faith the people of Yemen still have in him, then there is some room for optimism that president Ali Abdullah Saleh might want to cap his destiny as the longest reigning ruler of Yemen since the September 26, 1962 Revolution that toppled the monarchy with a favorable twist towards meeting the aspirations of those who refused to lose hope and faith in their president. One does not expect that this would be easy for the president to start challenging the intertwining web of narrow interests that have plagued the government for so long, especially as the people behind these interests would not be easily persuaded to give up their narrow-minded mindset. But Ali Abdullah Saleh has pulled quite a few surprises in his long tenure as the undisputed ruler of Yemen and there is no reason that a more favorable direction for his forthcoming term, would be the best way to guarantee that the next presidential elections would not be as challenging and could be won by the GPC candidate (who could possibly be the president himself or his favored heir) with less use of muscle and other irregular tools, that raise many questions about the ability of Yemen to enter the mainstream of truly democratic governments that rely on transparency, honesty and good sportsmanship in the electoral process.

Let us keep our fingers crossed and our prayers promising.

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

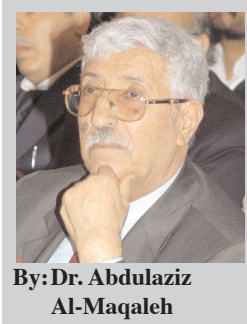


By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The Pope Bush & President Benedict XVI

It is regrettable President Bush is no longer the only one offending Islam and the Muslims, now the Pope of the Vatican has joined him with a rare and exceptional accordance between the worldly authority and papal authority in the contemporary history of Christianity. Here lies the danger of this bilateral accord, not only on Islam and the Muslims, but rather to the whole world and the necessity of calling the attention to keep away this accord and its reactions at both the Islamic and Christian worlds.

Those who will keep looking for justifications and causes of this accord in the campaign on Islam and those who will deny the existence of such accordance altogether and attribute it as per chance, are mistaken and deluded. Those looking for excuses do not need to search because the causes are very obvious and those



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

who deny such an agreement and accordance cannot hide. The accordance between the political poll in Washington and the religious poll in the Vatican seems comprehensive and complete. The Pope's talk concerning Islam

and the Prophet of Islam was not a tongue slip or resulting from lack of knowledge of the reality of Islam or what waves of Islamic anger and denunciation would sweep all over the world.

Clearly, the talk of the Pope came to frankly and to openly express his belittling of the Islamic world and the state of weakness, division and political differences it has reached in addition to deterioration of the relations among the rulers and themselves and between them and their peoples. This

situation made politicians and religious men in the world not care about whatever they want to talk about Islam without any feeling of fear or observance of an Islamic world drowned in differences and conflicts. Those differences and conflict that are repeatedly appearing and for those hostile to prove that such successive blows and slaps would not unite the Muslims or make them agree on one stand, it rather made them appear more different and disintegrated.

Those who accuse the Pope of ignorance about Islam forget he does not lack knowledge about the Muslims who represent one third of the globe population, he is rather assured their weakness has become so deep they cannot respond without denunciation and demonstrations, breaking street lamps and windows of cars.

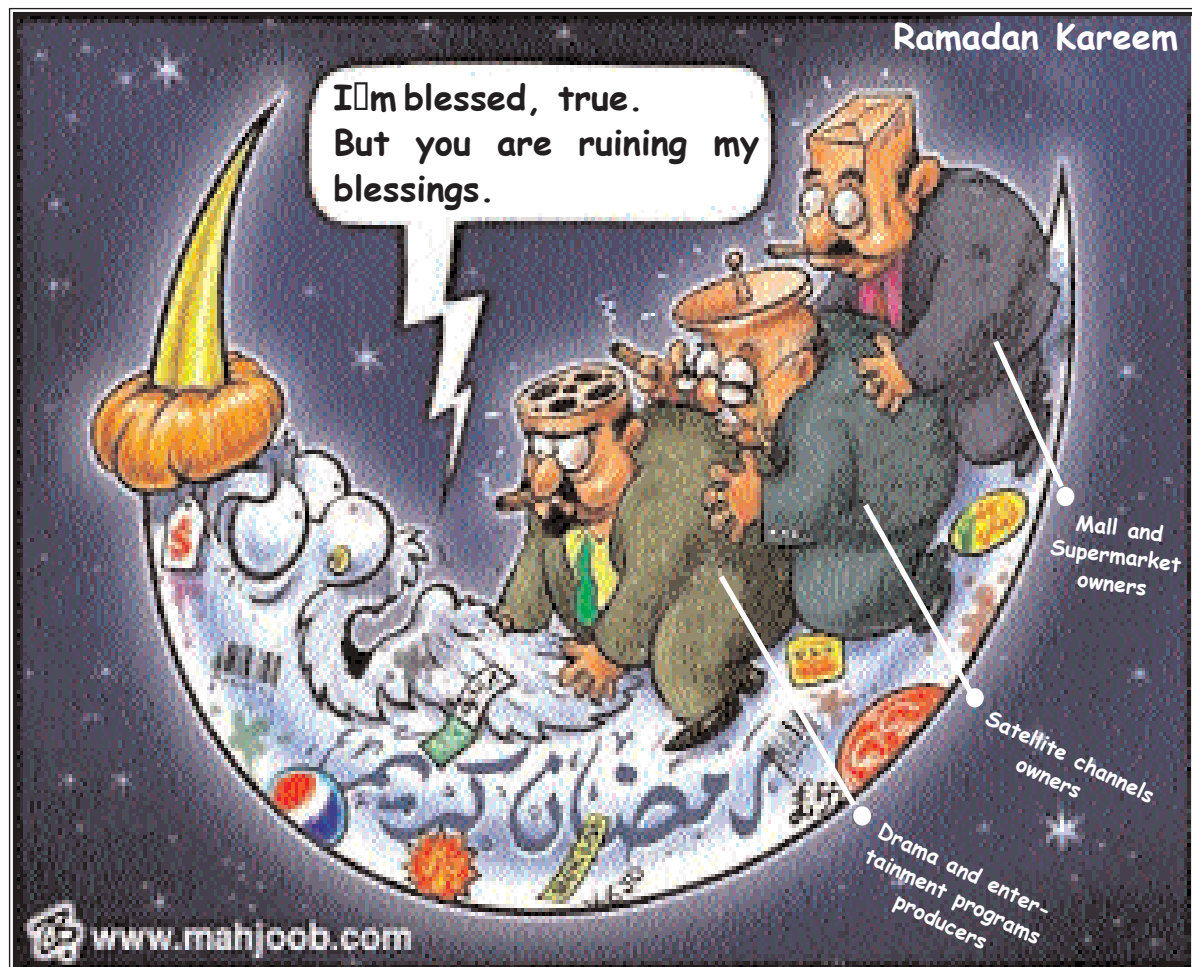
The talk of the Pope is almost very much like the talk of George Bush on the crusade war and fascism of Islam and though the phrases are different

the goal is the same and the purpose is common. The new extremists who govern the United States and influence policies throughout the world have accredited partners in the Vatican which changed from an abode of a religious spiritual care into an institution that does not stop its interference in world affairs.

There is no doubt the present Pope has been chosen to implement such irreligious and non-spiritual task in his installations there were issued from him same annoying signs, some people had been aware of and others neglected. If the previous Pope had succeeded in developing a kind of Islamic-Christian relations, his successor came to destroy what had been realized at the hands of that wise pontiff. What affirms this saying is the talk by the Pope about Islam and the Prophet of Islam in a well-prepared lecture and it was not an unscripted address that may contain mistakes or dominated with enthusiasm, as is the case with speeches addressed to masses, whether religious or political.

The short-term reply can be in this behavior should see Muslims agree on a form of unifying their stands and restoring to them their prestige and becoming an integrated power their adversaries and those of their religion will take into account.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies



Letters to the Editor

Regarding the Pope and Islam

I believe it is time for European leaders to start questioning whether mostly-Islamic Turkey should have a place in the European Union, especially following the country's reckless and overly critical reaction to the recent words of wisdom by Pope Benedict. The Pope's address was deliberate and intended to recall the necessity of conjoining faith and reason: it is the uncoupling of these twin values that

has delivered so much needless death in history.

Ironically, the Muslim response in many quarters has only underscored the veracity of the pope's remarks.

The irrational behavior toward the pope is a reflection of the great cultural and spiritual divide that exists especially between Turkey and Western nations which are fundamentally Christian. One need only look at Turkey's record on freedom of speech and what it is doing to writers in Turkey who want to speak out. From a political and

historical point of view Turkey has always represented another continent that is in permanent contrast to Europe.

Ultimately, Turkey's Islamic heritage makes it doubtful that the country would be easy to integrate into the European community, with its Christian cultural background. Surely a European community has to be more than economic. It has to have common values.

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Tuesday, September 19, we spoke at the United Nations.

Now you must speak

A delegation led by the Bush Crimes Commission delivered our verdict: that George W. Bush is guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. He is a criminal and does not speak for us.

This was a message that echoed what millions in this country and around the world know to be true. And when your government is guilty of crimes against humanity, silence is not acceptable. We refused to leave the area and our entire delegation was arrested, garnering wide coverage on TV in New York, and it was the front page story of El Diario.

The contrast was stark.

Inside the United Nations, like a global godfather, Bush was submitting his demands to a list of Muslim countries. To Syria: "Your government must choose a better way forward..." To Lebanon: you must accept occupation by "an international force, led by France and Italy." To Iran: "The United Nations has passed a clear resolution that the regime in Tehran meet its international obligations. Iran must abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions."

These were not idle threats, because the regime in Washington has more than ambitions. They possess the greatest number of nuclear weapons in the world, they have announced their plan to "remake" the governments of the Middle East, and they have demonstrated over and over again their utter disregard for international law and human rights.

Outside the United Nations, we came with the compelling evidence assembled by the Bush Crimes Commission, which has now found Bush and his cohorts guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity in launching wars of aggression, torture, destruction of the global environment, sabotage of international AIDS prevention programs, and the abandonment of New Orleans.

Our action at the United Nations was also a first step in making good on our pledge in the second Not In Our Name statement: "It is our responsibility to stop the Bush regime from carrying out this disastrous course. We believe his-



tory will judge us sharply should we fail to act decisively." This has now become an urgent necessity.

While the Congress debates over which bill should be used to destroy the right of habeas corpus, we must develop, spread and deepen a national debate on the war crimes and crimes against humanity that the Bush regime has committed. While the politicians contend over how to rewrite the Geneva Conventions to protect American torturers from criminal prosecution, we have to summon people to increased resistance.

Building on our action, we have several great opportunities now coming up.

1. We want to place as soon as possible a quarter-page ad in the New York Times. This ad would headline that Bush and his regime are guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. It would invite people to the Commission web site, promote the reading of the Commission Verdict and the purchase of DVDs featuring the key testimony taken at the Bush Crimes Commission hearings. These are very powerful moral indictments.

2. On the day following our action at the United Nations, the World Can't Wait organization placed a full page ad in USA Today calling for a national day of resistance on October 5. World Can't Wait was inspired by the Not In Our Name statement of conscience, and we urge all our signers and supporters to consider the importance of such an action. We can no longer be silent, because silence is complicity.

"I think it's incumbent upon everyone

to speak up," Sean Penn says. "Not enough people do it. Maybe they're afraid they'll be criticized or called a Nazi. But I hope that never makes me embarrassed to lend a hand or speak my mind." And torture? Molly Ivins was bitterly sarcastic the other day in calling us all to account: "How will you feel if you didn't do something? Well, honey, when the United States decided to adopt torture as an official policy, I was dipping the dog for ticks."

Finally, we want to remind everyone of the importance of coming to the defense of those arrested at the United Nations on September 19. In particular, Fr. Luis Barrios, an Episcopal priest and an associate professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice was knocked to the ground by police. As the result, he was charged with assaulting a police officer, the exact opposite of what happened. We urge you to contribute for the defense of "the UN 16."

Today, each of us has an urgent responsibility to act. Act in the streets, act in speaking out boldly, act refusing to be complicit, and act in contributing the money to mount the resistance that is now required of us. Let's be real -- no one else is going to do this for us. As the call to Drive Out the Bush Regime concludes: "history is full of examples where people who had right on their side fought against tremendous odds and were victorious. And it is also full of examples of people passively hoping to wait it out, only to get swallowed up by a horror beyond what they ever imagined."

Source: www.nion.us

Commission Finds President George W. Bush and His Administration Guilty of War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity

The Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity Committed by the Bush Administration released its final verdict on Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

An unprecedented Commission of Inquiry has found the President of the United States and his administration guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The five-member panel of jurists unanimously found the administration's actions "shock the conscience of humanity" in five areas -- wars of aggression, illegal detention and torture, suppression of science and catastrophic policies on global warming, potentially genocidal abstinence-only policies imposed on HIV/AIDS prevention programs in the Third World, and the abandonment of New Orleans before, during, and after Hurricane Katrina.

A delegation, headed by 27-year CIA veteran Ray McGovern and former US diplomat and retired US Army Reserve Colonel Ann Wright, will deliver the verdict to the gates of the White House at noon today following an 11AM press conference.

The Verdict

In their summary, the Commission jurists found that: "Each of these constitutes a shocking crime in itself, and taken together the full horrors are all the more unconscionable. It is also clear that this is an administration that demonstrates an utter disregard for

truth and flagrantly lies about the reasons for its actions.

"In arriving at this decision the jurists were particularly alarmed by the degree to which the Bush Administration's actions in all five indictments were informed by the extreme right. although the specific conduct differs among the indictments, the result is the same: human life was debased and devalued by gratuitous acts of violence, torture, narrow self interest, indifference, and disregard."

In arriving at their verdict, the Commission's panel of jurists examined a wealth of evidence with care and rigor. Consistent standards were employed, with well-established international law referenced where applicable

The panel of jurists consisted of Adjoa A. Aiyetoro, William H. Bowen School of Law, Little Rock; former executive director, National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL). Dennis Brutus, former prisoner, Robben Island (South Africa), poet, professor emeritus, University of Pittsburgh. Abdeen Jabara, former president, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Ajamu Sankofa, former executive director, Physicians for Social Responsibility-NY. Ann Wright, former US diplomat and retired US Army Reserve Colonel.

The Hearings

The Commission's year-long

investigation included five days of public hearings in October 2005 and January 2006 in New York City. The 45 expert and first-hand witnesses included former commander of Abu Ghraib prison Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, former British ambassador to Uzbekistan Craig Murray, former UN official Denis Halliday, former UN arms inspector Scott Ritter, Guantanamo prisoners' lawyer Barbara Olshansky, and Katrina survivors.

The verdict's release comes with war crimes again on front pages following President Bush's defense of secret prisons, rendition, and practices constituting torture under existing law, his demand that the War Crimes Act be fundamentally weakened, and his threats against Iran.

In a preface to the printed verdict, historian Howard Zinn writes: "The Bush Administration has been following a course, which can only now be described as a series of crimes against humanity. ... What could be a higher crime than sending the young people of the country into a war against a small country on the other side of the world, which is no danger to the United States, and in fact a war which is condemned by people all over the world and a war which results in, not only the loss of American lives and the crippling of young Americans, but results in the loss of huge numbers of people in Iraq? These are high crimes." Source: www.bushcommission.org

Crisis averse

By: Abdel-Moneim Said

The region is stumbling from one crisis to another. Over the past few years, we've seen major wars, a spate of terrorist attacks, as well as an intifada that has cost thousands of lives. We've seen countries fall apart, and we know that within a few years they will break up yet again into new countries. The ever-present Palestinian problem, the one problem that we've elevated into a cornerstone of our communal grievances, remains unresolved. Fifty-eight years after losing their homeland, the Palestinian people have yet to secure an independent state. Some territories were freed by the Oslo Accords, but these are now lost. As if this weren't enough, the victory of Hamas in Palestinian general elections has bankrupted the Palestinian Authority and put the nation on the verge of civil war.

It is a sad scene, indeed, even when you consider "lesser" problems. Look at Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan, and think of the horrors unfolding there. In the middle of all that turmoil, some Arab countries have managed to keep their stability and a modicum of respectability intact. But even they cannot afford to sit on the fence. Whether you're talking of a central issue or a peripheral one, Arabs who may not want to get involved end up doing just that. With every crisis spiralling into greater horrors, aloofness comes at a price. When Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and other Arab countries recently criticised Hizbullah's behaviour, saying that the Shiite group put an entire country at risk by acting irresponsibly, their remarks backfired. Domestic pressures were such that those who asked Hizbullah to put the jinni back in the bottle opened their own Pandora's box replete with regional and international demons. Arab honour, once again, was at stake.

What I am saying is that major Arab countries, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, cannot afford to ignore the perils stalking them every step of the

way. Every crisis ignored tends to snowball. Every disaster ignored comes back to haunt them. The balance of power in the region keeps shifting with every crisis, and no country can afford to block off the world and enjoy a moment of peace. Sooner or later one regional crisis or another will seep into the domestic situation of any given country.

What is remarkable, however, is that we have no mechanism of forecasting crises or nipping them in the bud. You can only manage a crisis if you predict with some accuracy the behaviour of its various players. In this region, this is not always possible. In the recent war in Lebanon, no one knew exactly what Hizbullah wanted, or even what Israel wished to achieve. As a result, the Arab world was engaged in a damage-limitation exercise. It got the Arab League involved somewhat, and promised material and moral assistance. While doing so, it didn't forget to denounce Israel and the U.S. for triggering the tragic situation.

Damage limitation can be expensive. In this case, things weren't so bad. Oil prices were at record highs, and Saudi Arabia was in a position to offer Lebanon \$1 billion or so. And thanks to Egyptian and Saudi pressure, U.N. Resolution 1701 turned out slightly better than the original French-U.S. draft. Furthermore, Lebanon is a small country. Imagine what would happen should a full-fledged confrontation break out between Iran and the U.S., or if Israel were to bomb Iranian nuclear installations. These scenarios cannot be ruled out completely. It is clear that Iran is playing its cards close to its chest, hoping to gain time and confront the world with a fait accompli in which it already has developed nuclear weapons. Iran is offering to negotiate with all major powers at one go, a matter that would elevate it to the position of being a regional superpower. Perhaps that's all Iran really wants. But the West doesn't seem to understand that, or is unwilling to give Iran what it wants. Reading reports from the U.S. and Israel, one detects the same mood that prevailed six months before the

invasion of Iraq. No one in the West wants to let a fundamentalist state acquire nuclear weapons.

Sadly, our decision-making institutions have no independent information on the situation. There is no sign that our intelligence services are active in Iran in any significant manner. Relations between Washington on the one hand and Cairo and Riyadh on the other are rather strained. Washington is not discussing regional policy with Arab countries, not even those countries upholding peace treaties with Israel. As a result, in the next major crisis in this region we will still be looking for a black cat in a dark room. Reacting to developments without having a policy of our own is what we've been doing all along and you might say we're getting better at it. But to lack policy is costly, and the cost increases when more countries are involved and when those involved are bigger. So the next crisis is likely to involve stakes that are higher than anything we've seen so far. We can always get lucky. Perhaps it's all one big Iranian bluff. Early in the summer, there was an indication that some people in Tehran were hoping for a deal with Washington. And already the U.S., the E.U., and other major countries have made Iran an offer, but Iran wants a better deal and is continuing to enrich uranium. Still, when the stakes are so high, luck is not enough. Leaders cannot make sound policy without having sufficient information and options. To this moment, we haven't decided whether Iranian nukes would be just as perilous to the region as Israel's nukes, or would ultimately reduce the Israeli threat. To my knowledge, Arab countries have not discussed this matter yet. They are worried, that much is clear. But more so, they are resigned to their fate.

Abdel Monem Said is the director of the Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.

Interfaith forum opens pathways to understanding

By: Gede MN Natih

Representing all major religious traditions, more than 800 religious leaders from more than 100 countries convened last month in Kyoto, Japan, at the Eighth World Assembly of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP), to address the theme, "Confronting Violence and Advancing Shared Security".

The first Religions for Peace World Assembly, convened in Kyoto in 1970, and every assembly since, has affirmed deeply held and widely shared religious principles that still inspire our search for peace with justice today. Sharing a conviction of the fundamental unity of the human family, and the equality and dignity of all human beings, delegates called to mind the declaration of that first assembly. It stated, "... It is not religion that has failed the cause of peace, but religious people. This betrayal of religion can and must be corrected." Never has it been more crucial to reflect and act upon this declaration.

Today we live in the grip of many forms of violence, both direct and structural, and violent conflicts take lives and destroy communities. The diverse and interconnected threats currently experienced by innumerable members of the human family call for a much broader understanding of violence in the world, and the world's religious communities must play a central role partnering with one another and all sectors of society to prevent and stop war, expose injustice, combat poverty and protect the earth. The time to do this is now and our key to confronting violence is cooperation based on mutual respect and acceptance.

Direct physical threats are the most commonly offered definition of violence, but in reality violence takes many diverse and complex forms. Economic injustices leading to extreme poverty and hunger kill 50,000 people each day, while preventable and treatable diseases

kill millions. Meanwhile, 25 million people have already died from AIDS while some 40 million more are living with AIDS and HIV. The impact on our communities is devastating.

Many corporations, especially at the multinational level, pursue their business interests without concern for values that foster sustainable development, while environmental degradation and dwindling resources threaten our planet's ability to sustain life. Victims are the poor and the powerless who are vulnerable to violence in all forms.

As people of religious conviction, all delegates agreed that we hold the responsibility to effectively confront violence within our own communities whenever religion is misused as a justification or excuse for violence. Religious communities need to express their opposition whenever religion and its sacred principles are distorted in the service of violence.

Our religious teachings call us to care for one another and to treat the problems faced by others as our own. Furthermore, there are practical grounds for cooperation. No group is immune to violence or its consequences. War, poverty, disease and the destruction of the environment have a direct or indirect impact on all of us.

Individuals and communities deceive themselves if they believe they are secure while others are suffering. Walls can never be high enough to insulate us from the impact of the genuine needs and vulnerabilities of others. No nation can be secure while other nations are threatened. We are no safer than the most vulnerable among us.

Security is a shared commitment and the moral and ethical convictions of diverse religious traditions around the world offer a moral foundation for confronting violence in its many forms. All people have a collective responsibility to meet our common need for security.

Looking back to the Seventh World

Assembly of Religions for Peace, in Amman, Jordan, in 1999, it is encouraging to learn about the peace initiatives that have been implemented by dedicated people around the world since that time. There is still so much to do but Religions for Peace has become a major global multireligious voice and agent for peace. Guided by respect for religious differences, in Indonesia and around the world, we will keep striving to foster multireligious collaboration harnessing the power of religious communities to transform conflict, build peace and advance sustainable development.

In Kyoto, the delegates committed themselves to prevent and confront violence in all its forms. They believe in the power of multireligious cooperation to advance a common vision of shared security. We are determined to mobilise our religious communities to work together and with all sectors of society to stop war, struggle to build more just communities, foster education for justice and peace, eliminate poverty and advance sustainable development for future generations.

Gede MN Natih is a member of the advisory board of the Indonesian Conference of Religions for Peace (ICRP). This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org



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رمضان كريم مع زيادي الهنا



Hussain Al-Maswari:

“The banking industry accretes with other commercial industries”

The Last decade has witnessed several economic transformations in Yemen. an industry that has changed to keep with the time in Yemen has been banking. Yemen & Kuwait bank is the oldest private sector bank in Yemen and continues to grow and expand its operations; in the first half of this year the bank has achieved an increase in profits of 38% compared to last year while it continues to grow its paid-up capital by 950 million Riyals to each the 6 billion Riyals quota specified by the Central Bank of Yemen by 2009. YemenTimes met Hussain Al-Maswari, Chairman of the bank.

Interviewed by: Yasser Al-Mayasi

Can you brief us on the bank and its establishment?

The Yemen & Kuwait bank started its operation in 1979, and it was the first private sector bank in Yemen with a paid-up capital of YR 100 million. The bank's prime operations include regular banking activities as well as taking part in investing through the establishment of partnership companies and joint ventures with other parties in line with the bank's mandate. The bank also focuses on gaining the trust of our clients through excellent customer service and facilitating banking operations to ensure customer satisfaction. We also emphasize on the importance of introducing state-of-the-art systems and technologies and keep up with the development of the banking sector in the Arab world as well as meeting international banking standards.

From your experience, how do you evaluate the banking industry in Yemen?

The government of Yemen represented by the Central Bank should give more attention to developing the industry as well as undertake the annual audit with all banks and make recommendations for all the banks to adhere. For example, should an error take place in one of the banks then the central bank should take action against that bank in accordance to the law, considering that the non-adherence of the central bank's report is a violation of bank and company law.

I would also like to stress that the success of the banking centers is subjective to a number of factors such as the busi-

ness environment as well as the success of the bank in delivering excellent financial services to their client in a very short time, also the understanding of the client's needs and demands is integral for the success of any service-oriented enterprise. And let's not forget that the central bank of Yemen aims at regulating the banking industry through its follow up mechanism and coordination between various banks and financial institutions to provide solid grounds for the growth and development of the current banking practices in a scientific manner. Local banks should increase their capital in order to be able to compete with regional and international players following Yemen's opening to global product and service markets.

Is Yemen ready for a stock exchange?

A stock exchange requires the involvement of the community as a whole in the economy, as the stock exchange is a mechanism which the market can deal with banks or other corporations through the purchase of stock and shares. The main factor critical for success for a stock market in Yemen is to have a strong and supportive legal framework which can protect both small and large investors in order to allow smooth transactions to take place through the stock market in terms of purchase of shares, then you will have the indicators that reflect the success of the stock market.

Are there companies in Yemen which can be listed? What is your view with regards to establishing a stock market in Yemen in the meantime?

The most important factor for any stock market is the existence of laws and regu-



Hussain Al-Maswari.

lations that regulate the operations of a stock market, only then will companies start to deal with the stock market and there will be new companies established through the stock market. Yemen & Kuwait bank have a vision to expand our operations into the stock market through our subsidiary company Aman Insurance which we plan to list in the stock market. Therefore you can conclude that I am with the establishment of a stock market in Yemen in spite of our limited capabilities as corporations or as citizens.

Wouldn't the limited capabilities limit the success of the stock market?

There are many countries in the world which have well-established stock markets; however, I am optimistic that we can grow out capabilities; the law proposal of the Ministry of Finance which Prof. Saif Al-Asali has brought forward to the cabinet to establish and regulate the stock market is the reason behind my optimism.

How are the growth prospects of the banking industry in Yemen?

The banking industry accretes with other commercial industries when it comes to growth. In general, banking services are still shy in their growth, it is true that we achieve considerable growth rate but those rates are in the Yemeni Riyal, plus any growth in the banking sectors is correlated with other sectors such as manufacturing, commerce and even tourism, all those industries are inter-related and growth in any industry affects the others in a similar manner.

How can the banking industry boost the growth of other industries?

Specialized banks ought to focus on developing large scale industry compared to smaller ones because large scale trade and industry have a bigger pool of knowledge and in turn its profitability is higher compared to small scale industries, for example, if you study feasibility of cotton production in Yemen you would find that masses of tiny enterprises generate a lot of employment, however we can't rely on those tiny enterprises due to the limited knowledge and growth prospects. Nonetheless banks such as the Agricultural Credit Bank can play a major role in providing micro financing for cotton producers and create a local cotton producing industry which can be very profitable after exports with a yield of up to 50 percent and provide employment for thousands especially in locations such as Hodieda and Abyan. Only once the local industry has been created then we can step in to boost their growth.

Similarly, in manufacturing and other industries which are dependent on local raw materials such as cement factories, as the raw materials for this industry is widely available in several governorates, therefore if we can crack down on price hikes of raw materials then I think any loan or investment in this field is a guaranteed success.

With new banks seeking a threshold in Yemen, how would that change the banking industry?

We have to understand the entry of foreign currency into Yemen is an important factor when it comes to economic development was it in the banking industry or in any other industry. However, we do not want big multinational investors to come to Yemen and announce huge investments and projects, then try to secure local means of financing these projects. What we want is to attract investors with good financial standing who can bring foreign currency into the country and establish investments or joint ventures with local businessmen. But the sort of businessmen who come to Yemen in search of loans to establish businesses do not help the economy in fact they compete with local businesses in need of loans to grow.

How do you react to the Central Bank demands of increasing the capital?

I assure you that the Central bank is following a wise policy as the future demands that we grow out capital and operations in order to have the confidence and the ability to compete with the new entrants into the market especially those with huge financial capabilities. Yemen & Kuwait bank have increased our capital following the Central Bank regulations and we have a plan to further to YR 6 billion by 2009.

The collapse of one of the national banks, how did that affect the industry and how did you overcome the negative impact?

Business in brief

GCC: Yemen development schemes finalized

Dr. AbdulAziz Al-Uwaishiq, director of the economic integration and research unit in the GCC general secretariat said a scheme inclusive of investment and developmental packages for Yemen has been finalized and the scheme's budget will be approved in October and will be presented in the London Donors conference in November. He also said the scheme includes several infrastructure development projects as well as other sector-centric developmental packages.

Yemen starts marketing LNG

Sources at the Ministry of Oil and Natural Resources have confirmed that Yemen will start marketing Liquefied Natural Gas in November after signing a rental agreement with A.P. Moller and Maersk shipping to hire four natural gas tankers to transport Yemeni LNG to prospected markets.

IMF: Yemen's accession to the GCC boosts growth

The International Monetary Fund emphasized that Yemen's accession to the Gulf Cooperative Council would result in increasing the positive-sum trade in the region as well as boost economic growth prospectiv, and potentially increase the market by over 50 percent within a few years of the accession.

Japanese grants for water infrastructure

The Japanese Ambassador to Yemen, Yuichi Ishii, said Japan will support several water and sanitary projects in Yemen with a total cost of US\$25 million in grants and loans. He also added that Yemen's political development will play a role in enhancing Yemen-Japan mutual respect and the relationship.

Construction starts in Mukkala

With a total cost of over YR 10 billion, construction of the Mukkala residential town started in Fouah area spread over 5000 square meters, and will include 1000 residential units on the first stage, while the second stage will include 426 units.

Pakistan studies investment opportunities in Yemen

The Pakistani Minister of Oil and Natural Resources, Amanullah Khan Jadoon, has stated Pakistan has come forward with two offers to invest in two petroleum sectors in Yemen, adding that a team of Pakistani petroleum experts will come to Yemen to study other investment and cooperation opportunities between Yemen and Pakistan. Sources at the Yemeni Ministry of Oil confirmed Yemen has plans to train more petroleum engineers in Pakistani institutes.

HSBC finances Sabafone

Sabafone Telecommunications and HSBC bank have signed an Islamic financing agreement for US\$ 50 million (Murabaha) in order to expand the services of the telecommunications company and expand its current infrastructure by the capacity to serve an additional 600,000 subscribers. Yemen has the fastest growing mobile telecommunications market in the region.

Qatar Airways expands fleet

Qatar Airways has announced an ambitious plan to increase the number of aircrafts in their fleet to 110 aircrafts from the current 49 aircrafts by 2015 to meet the increasing demand on the airlines in the middle east region which are growing by 6.4 percent annually.

OPINION

The case for Diversification

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

Poverty eradication does not simply mean ensuring our economic growth, it means ensuring economic growth for people's income in real terms. In Yemen, the real economic growth is at 2.4 percent while the population growth rate is at 3.4 percent, therefore the growth in people's income in real terms is -1 percentage because economic growth cannot keep up with the growth of the population to sustain the same level of income per person, that is even worse is we put into account the level of inflation which reaches 12 percent.

A study on the Yemeni economy illustrates the reason why poverty in Yemen is increasing; the study says that the income per person declines is because of the undiversified nature of the economy. The national economy can be segmented into three main parts, agriculture which accounts for 54 percent of the economy; services which account for 34 percent of the economy; and finally industry which accounts for 12 percent of the economy and it is inclusive of the oil and gas industry. These numbers mean the economic base of the country lies in agriculture and is the biggest employer especially in rural areas; therefore any growth in the agricultural economy would have a vast positive impact on masses of the Yemeni people.

However, Yemen's growth has been

mainly driven by growth of the oil sector, as oil revenues constitute up to 70 percent of the government's revenues, but has very little impact on the society and the income per person. Therefore the government focus and reliance on oil to finance its operations has affected its ability to tackle the real sources of growth in terms activities which increase income per person, such as manufacturing and industry.

Diversifying the Yemeni economy means new sectors and industries should emerge and provide employment and initiate non-oil based growth and reduce the government dependence on oil as new industries will result in taxable activities and also reduce the population's dependence on agriculture which is a low-value addition and has a relatively low economic return, all in search of a new source of growth through diversification.

The third national plan includes a vision to establish industrial zone for manufacturing in several locations in the country to host labor-intensive industries, in order to raise the average of real wages in the country and in turn the real income per person. Although in theory this plan would improve the real income per person, but in practice we are yet to see the fruits of this vision, although it is a step in the right direction towards diversifications of the economy and in turn growth in the diversified economy would result in growth in the real income per person, and in turn reduction of poverty

What happened to the bank was unfortunate and we believe the situation could've been handled in a better manner, as the Central Bank should have taken action earlier to avoid the collapse and in turn avoid the negative publicity that might affect other banks and the industry as a whole as well. I would not deny this incident has left a bad legacy on the banking industry, however, we have overcome this legacy through strengthening our ties with our clients and the mutual relationships we enjoy with our partners.

You are one of the few who worked in both business and politics. Explain the experience.

I am proud to have participated in the political life of Yemen, starting from defending the revolution of Yemen and taking part in a number of official posts in several ministries, the most recent of which is my work in the Shoura Council's economic committee. I don't think my work with the government conflicts with work in the private sector as long as we keep abiding by the law, adding my experience in the private sector proved very beneficial in my government work and most recently as a policy maker in the Shoura Council. The Shoura Council continue to provide visions and make studies that aim at enhancing economic development in Yemen.

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Invitation for Bids
Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health and Population
Health Reform Support Project – Cr. 3625

PROCUREMENT, SUPPLY, and INSTALLATION OF HARDWARE FOR
Inventory and Personnel AFFAIRS

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue no. (607) on 16th May 2003. Al-Thawra Newspaper issue no. (13944) on 28th May 2003, and Yemen Times issue no. (641) on 12th June 2003.

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the National Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health Reform Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurement and supply, an Installation of Hardware for Inventory and Personnel Affairs Bid No. (94).

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) now invites sealed bids from legible bidders for procurement, supply, Installation of Hardware for Inventory and Personnel Affairs as follows:

Description	Amount of Bid Security Required
Lot No. 1 Servers, Workstations, Network Components	1500
Lot No. 2 Printers, UPS's, Scanners,	800

The bidders may bid one or more Lots, and should quote separate prices using the forms provided for one or more Lots. The bid evaluation will be conducted per Lots.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Credit Administration Unit (CAU) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm** during official working days.

A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD\$50.00** for local bidders, the method of payment will be in cash or certified check and documents will be submitted by hand.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by **11:00 a.m. on 5th November 2006**. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security as indicated above. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **11:00 a.m. on 5th November 2006**.

Credit Administration Unit – Health Reform Support Project (HRSP)
Ministry of Public Health & Population
P.O. Box 1330 - Al-Hasabah – 4th Floor
Tel: +967(1)252224 – Fax: +967(1) 251622
E-mail: hrsp@y.net.ye

26 September

Mr. David Kimes - President & General Manager

The management team and all staff and Partners of
Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd.
Block (51)

Present their heartiest congratulations to

H. E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen
and the Yemeni people,

On the occasion of re-electing him president of
Yemen and on the commemoration of the 41st anni-
versary of the 26 September revolution and the
holy month of Ramadan
Many Happy returns

يتقدم

السيد / ديفيد كايمز - الرئيس و المدير العام

و الإدارة العليا و كافة موظفي وشركاء شركة كنديان نكسن بتروليم
شرق الحجر المحدودة قطاع ٥١ بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى
فخامة الأخ

عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

رئيس الجمهورية حفظة الله

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة إعادة انتخابه رئيساً لليمن

والذي يتزامن مع احتفالات اليمن بالذكرى الرابعة والأربعون لثورة السادس

والعشرين من سبتمبر المجيدة،

وكذلك حلول شهر رمضان المبارك،

وإلى الحكومة وكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني الكريم.

وكل عام وأنتم بخير..

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بمناسبة العيد الرابع والاربعين لثورة السادس
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رئيس مجلس الإدارة

أحمد هائل سعيد أنعم

نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة

المدير العام



ASA

26
September



أجمل التهاني لباني نهضة اليمن
الحديث وصانع الانجازات فخامة الرئيس
علي عبدالله صالح
بمناسبة إعادة انتخابه رئيساً لليمن
والذي يتزامن مع احتفالات اليمن بالذكرى الرابعة والأربعون
لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر المجيدة ،
وكذلك حلول شهر رمضان المبارك ،
والى الحكومة وكافة ابناء الشعب اليمني الكريم .
وكل عام وأنتم بخير..

We send our warmest congratulations to the pioneer of
modern Yemen and the reason for its current success,
H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh
On the occasion of re-electing him president of Yemen
and on the commemoration of the 44th anniversary of the
26 September revolution and the holy month of Ramadan
Many Happy returns



TOTAL

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

Freedom of expression

By: Barkatullah Marwat
marwat@kuwaitnet.com

The more concept of 'freedom of expression' prevails, the more 'aggressive interaction' we notice in society. Though there is supposed to be a spirit of tolerance when efforts are being made for building a society on the basis of co-existence. But let's not forget that all societies are not identical but classified into different segments based on cultural and traditional norms.

By the way, have you ever noticed the concept of freedom of expression has some demerits along with its merits? If it's applied to domestic level, it somehow shatters the bond between parents and their offsprings. How come? Well, those children who respect and obey their parents ultimately come up with their own say no matter if it is right or wrong. And consequently, the very roots of a home are seen being pulled up due to daily tense situations caused by freedom of expression.

Some quarters are giving a very wrong color to the concept of freedom of expression. They maintain that it's something like a spirit of self-confidence to be possessed by an individual for his/her successful future life. But by saying so they are just mixing up both concepts. In my view, self-confidence reflects a positive aspect of human behaviour while freedom of expression is negative.

For instance nowadays we are witnessing a lobby deeply engaged in bringing concept of womanization forth by all means and ways. Women forums have been set up to let her voice be heard more effectively than that of a man's. Wait wait...first let me ask those who are doing so, what's a

woman? Is it not a part of man? Was it not Eve [Hawwa] created out of his rib? What for? To claim her 'equality' with him or stand by him throughout their life?

I have some points given below that will make it clear that woman cannot come to the status of a man's.

- 1) Every child when gets born in all religions and faiths follows the concept of fatherhood, such as Amer son of Khalid, rather than Amer son of Fatima.
- 2) No woman prophet was ever sent down to guide and teach her followers as had been done by the male Prophets.
- 3) At the time of marriage, it's usually a bride who leaves her parents' home for bridegroom's home, not vice versa.
- 4) Man can marry 4 wives - if he can keep equality among them - but woman can marry only one husband at a time.
- 5) Why do most of the parents feel gloomy over the birth of their daughters?
- 6) To continue one's generation and race, he needs sons rather than daughters.
- 7) Man has been declared something like a 'second god' to his wife, meaning, she is bound to abide by his all orders, directives, requests, sayings. She has to keep him happy at all cost without if and but. A Muslim wife has no place in paradise if she has made her husband mad and displeased.
- 8) Hawwa [Eve] was not created out of a clay like what was done in the case of Adam (PBUH), but she was created from Adam's rib. So it's Adam whom all the angels were made to prostrate rather than Eve. Therefore, it's better not to challenge and amend Allah Almighty's laws or else get ready for His wrath.

Welcome Ramadan

By: Mohammed Al-Mekhlafi
Ibb University

Ramadan is a special month of the year for over one billion Muslims throughout the world. It is the name of the ninth month in the Islamic (Hijri) calendar. Ramadan derives from the Arabic root: ramida, meaning scorching heat or dryness.

Since Muslims are commanded to fast during the month of Ramadan, it is believed the month's name may refer to the heat of thirst and hunger, or because fasting burns away one's past sins. The start of the month is based on a combination of physical sightings of the moon and astronomical calculations. The end of the month, marked by the celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr, is similarly determined.

Fasting is the fourth "pillar" of Islam. The others are faith or testimony; prayer; charitable giving; and the pilgrimage to Mecca. The importance of fasting is that it is a secret worship.

The characteristics and virtues of this worship are as follows:

The rewards of this worship are given directly from Allah to the fasters as in the Hadith, "Fasting is for my sake and it is I who reward for it. The faster gives up his sexual desire, his food, and his drink for My sake. Fasting is like a shield. The faster has two joys: one when he breaks his fasting and the other when he meets his lord.

The change in the breath of the mouth during the fast is better in Allah's estimation than the smell of musk." During this month all the paradise's gates are open and all devils are restrained; the angels ask forgiveness for the fasters until the

last moment of Ramadan; Lailat al-Qadr "Night of Destiny," which is better than one thousand months in doing good deeds, is in Ramadan; the faster gets mercy and forgiveness of his sins in this month and is liberated from the hell in this month.

Muslims have to receive Ramadan with a true repentance and strong intention to take advantage of the whole time in doing the good deeds. Ramadan is a time of intensive worship, reading of the Quran, giving charity, purifying one's behavior, and doing other good deeds.

As a secondary goal, fasting is a way of experiencing hunger; while they are hungry and thirsty, Muslims are reminded of the suffering of the poor. During Ramadan, it is common for Muslims to go to the Mosque (Masjid) and spend several hours praying and studying the Quran.

In addition to the five daily prayers, during Ramadan Muslims recite a special prayer called the Taraweeh prayer (Night Prayer). At mosques during Ramadan, the Quran is recited each night in prayers. By the end of the month the complete scripture will be recited. Some Muslims also spend the entire night in prayer.

The daily period of fasting starts at the breaking of dawn and ends at the setting of the sun. During the daylight hours, Muslims totally abstain from food, drink, smoking, and marital sex. During Ramadan, Muslims are also expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam by refraining from violence, anger, envy, greed, lust, angry and sarcastic retorts, and gossip.

All obscene and irreligious sights and sounds are to be avoided. Purity of both thought and action is important. Fasting is an exacting act of deep personal worship in which

Muslims seek a raised level of closeness to Allah.

The usual practice is to have a pre-fast meal (*sahoor*) before dawn and a post-fast meal (*iftar*) after sunset. It is a common practice for Muslims to break their fast at sunset with dates (*iftar*), following the custom of Prophet Mohammed. This is followed by the sunset prayer, which is followed by evening meal.

Since Ramadan emphasizes intimacy and since everyone eats dinner at the same time, Muslims often invite one another to share in the Ramadan evening meal.

Fasting during Ramadan is not obligatory for several groups. Children before the onset of puberty are not required to fast, though some do. However, if puberty is delayed, fasting becomes obligatory for males and females after a certain age. According to the Quran, if fasting would be dangerous to someone's health, such as a person with an illness or medical condition, they are excused. For example, pregnant women usually are not expected to fast; they are encouraged to feed a needy person instead.

According to hadith, menstruating women are not allowed to fast. Other individuals for whom fasting is not obligatory are those in battle and the travelers. If one's condition preventing fasting is only temporary, one is required to fast the days that are missed after the month of Ramadan is over and before the next Ramadan arrives. If one's condition is permanent or extended for a period of time, one may feed a needy person for every day missed instead.

During Ramadan it is believed one of the last ten odd-numbered nights of the month is Lailat al-Qadr, the "Night of Destiny." It is the holiest

night of the holiest month; it is believed to be the night on which Allah first began revealing the Quran to Prophet Mohammed through the angel Jibril. This is a time for especially devoted prayer, and the rewards and blessings associated with this night. Muslims are told in the Quran praying throughout this night is better than one thousand months of good deeds. No one knows exactly which night it is; it is one of Allah's mysteries.

Additionally, Muslims are urged to read the entire Quran during the month of Ramadan, and its 114 chapters have been divided into 30 equal parts for this purpose.

When Ramadan ends, Muslims give charity in a prescribed amount, calculated to feed the poor. This is known as fitra, and is meant as another reminder of the suffering endured by many. Many Muslims also take this occasion to pay the annual alms which are due to the poor and needy, known as Zakah (2.5 percent of assets).

When the first crescent of the new moon is officially sighted by a reliable source, the month of Ramadan is declared over, and the month of Shawwal begins. The end of Ramadan is marked by a three-day period known as Eid ul-Fitr, the "Festival of Fast-breaking." It is a joyous time beginning with a special prayer, and accompanied by celebration, some visits for relatives, festive meals and sometimes very modest gift-giving, especially to children.

At the beginning of Ramadan, it is appropriate to wish Muslims "Ramadan Mubarak" which means "Blessed Ramadan." At its conclusion, you may say "Eid Mubarak."

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Woolen scarf
- 6 They may be tossed in the ring
- 10 Rap relative
- 14 J.J. and Florida
- 15 Varied mixture
- 16 Made a tapestry, e.g.
- 17 Splinter groups
- 18 Demeanor
- 19 Neighbor of Turkmenistan
- 20 Make off with
- 21 Recidivate
- 23 Like a peacock
- 25 Empathize
- 26 Baltic or Fifth
- 28 Turbulent disturbances
- 30 Bill attachment
- 31 God-fearing
- 32 Show deference
- 35 Organic fuel
- 36 Sagittarius and Virgo, e.g.
- 37 Bobby's blackjack
- 38 Pointed tool
- 39 Errors like thsi
- 40 Gasparo da Salo's instrument

- 41 Clementine's father, in song
- 42 Hibernating rodent
- 43 Dueler's attendant
- 46 28.35 grams avoidupois
- 47 Change for the better
- 50 Europe and Asia boundary
- 53 Out-of-favor apple treatment
- 54 Beaked pods
- 55 "The Rural Muse" poet
- 56 City with an infamous divorce rate
- 57 Star witnesses?
- 58 Throes
- 59 Gum or plum
- 60 One who ogles, e.g.
- 61 Special vocabulary

DOWN

- 1 Kind of egg or its place
- 2 Iris layer
- 3 Retreat
- 4 It contains forums
- 5 Braying beast
- 6 ___ in on (moved toward)
- 7 Settled upon the earth
- 8 Part of an opera house

- 9 Loud, deep or resonant, as a sound
- 10 Flows in a circular current
- 11 38th parallel country
- 12 Swabbie's warning
- 13 Overstrung
- 21 Regret bitterly
- 22 Fathoms
- 24 Sharer's word
- 26 Florentine angel's instrument
- 27 Word in a Forster title
- 28 Discipline
- 29 Electrically charged atoms
- 31 Native instrument of peace
- 32 Return to the initial position
- 33 Largest city of Norway
- 34 Reporter's question
- 36 Group of symptoms
- 37 Florentine insert, perhaps
- 39 Entertainer Turner
- 40 It may move you
- 41 Wife of DiMaggio and Miller
- 42 Election-year ammo?
- 43 Kickoff
- 44 Swiss mathematician Leonhard
- 45 "The Red Badge of Courage" author

- 46 Where the elated walk
- 48 Satisfactory
- 49 Primal impulse
- 51 Fleece-bearing craft
- 52 It may come before we forget
- 55 Financial auditor's designation, briefly

"U-TURN" by Alice Walker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	O	C	K	S	H	U	T	S	O	B	O	R
I	S	A	A	C	E	R	I	E	F	I	N	E
E	A	R	T	H	A	N	G	E	L	F	R	E
T	K	O	L	E	B	E	D	E	L	T	A	S
S	A	L	A	N	I	T	O	L	I	D		
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J	O	G	G	M	O	N	B	E	V	E	R	
E	A	R	E	S	P	O	U	S	E	"	I	R
S	T	O	D	L	S	P	R	I	P	L	O	Y
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S	H	A	L	A	N	D	L	U	B	B	E	R
B	I	O	R	I	D	E	A	"	S	A	L	A
S	A	D	E	"	H	O	B	E	"	E	N	E

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Calvin and Hobbes comic strip panels 1-10. Calvin is on a sled with his dog Hobbes, and they are being pulled by his father. Calvin is complaining about the sled and Hobbes is being playful.

Calvin and Hobbes comic strip panels 11-15. Calvin is still on the sled, and Hobbes is playing with him. Calvin is getting frustrated with the sled and Hobbes is being mischievous.

YEMEN TIMES

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

Made in Yemen - Ramadan delicacies

Ramadan has a special flavor for Yemenis especially when it comes to food. Housewives make it a point to start preparing delicacies ahead of Ramadan so that the whole family enjoys coming together around the Iftar table celebrating the holly month.

Every issue, we will bring you recipes of a number of Yemeni traditional foods made especially during Ramadan. We will also provide you with health tips regarding some of the food items for your benefit. **Bonn appetite!**

Shafout

Ingredients:
One piece of flat corn bread called Lahoo
One medium size yoghurt or buttermilk
Two garlic cloves
One chilli
Salt for taste
1 tsp cumin
_ cup fresh coriander leaves
_ cup fresh peppermint leaves
Finely cut mixed salad or pomegranate

Procedures:

1. Mix all ingredients expect for the lahooh together in a blender and blend well
2. Add _ cup of water and mix well again
3. Spread the lahooh bread on a plate with high edges
4. Pour 2/3rds of the liquid on the bread
5. Make sure the bread absorbs the liquid well
6. If served after one hour pour the rest of the liquid to make sure the bread does not dry
7. Decorate with salad on top of with pomegranate seeds
8. Serve cold as an appetiser.



Shafout with pomegranate seeds on top.

PHOTO BY FATIMA AL-AJEL.

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Health benefits of Shafout:

Yoghurt is an excellent appetiser and cooler for stomach heat. It contains three strong elements that make it a great refreshing light dish, these are yoghurt, coriander and mint.

Yoghurt:

It improves natural defense, it contains a good amount of phosphorus and 88% water. People with a risk of osteoporosis should eat at least one serving of yoghurt per day. Other benefits of live and active cultures in the yoghurt are, they may help to boost the immune system. They encourage the right kind of bacteria to multiply in the gut. These bacteria help to digest food and prevent stomach infections. Also, they help to provide relief from vaginal infections.

Coriander

Coriander is rich in various food elements. An analysis of coriander leaves shows them to contain moisture 86.3 per cent, protein 3.3 per cent, fat 0.6 per cent, minerals 2.3 per cent, fibre 1.2 per cent and carbohydrates 6.3 per cent per 100 grams. The mineral and vitamin contents include calcium, phosphorus, iron, carotene, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin and vitamin C. They also contain sodium, potassium and oxalic acid. Their calorific value is 44.

Coriander is used for various health remedies:

- Gastrointestinal trouble (including gas and bloating)
- Digestive problems
- Bacterial and fungal infections
- Loss of appetite

Peppermint:

In the world of health research, randomized controlled trials have repeatedly shown the ability of peppermint oil to relieve symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome, including indigestion, dyspepsia, and colonic muscle spasms. These healing properties of peppermint are apparently related to its smooth muscle relaxing ability. Once the smooth muscles surrounding the intestine are relaxed, there is less chance of spasm and the indigestion that can accompany it. The menthol contained in peppermint may be a key reason for this bowel-comforting effect.

It is a Potential Anti-Cancer Agent, an Anti-Microbial Oil, a rich source of traditional nutrients and it is beneficial in asthma.

Source: online-vitamins-guide.com & whfoods.com

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