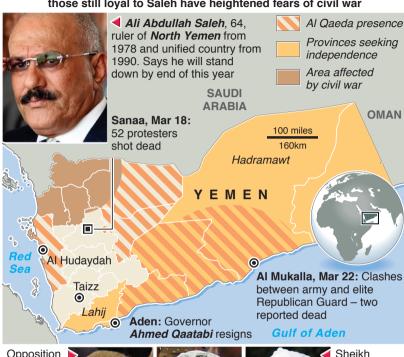
Yemen on brink amid senior defections

A succession of resignations by senior members of Yemen's ruling elite has increased pressure on President Ali Abdullah Saleh to end his 32-year rule. Clashes between soldiers siding with protesters and those still loyal to Saleh have heightened fears of civil war



Opposition coalition, led by *Yassin Noman*, rejects offer of early

elections







Sheikh

Abdel-Majid

al-Zindani –
spiritual
leader of
Islamic party
Islah – on
U.S. list of
terrorists

General *Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar*, commander of northwestern region, backed by Saleh's *Hashid* tribe as possible replacement, defected with most of brigade. Also defected: General *Mohammed Ali Mohsen* (eastern), General *Nasser Ali Shuayb* (Hadramawt) and General *Faisal Rajab* (Lahij province)