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Thursday, 16 August, 2012 • Issue No. 1599 • Price 50 Yemeni Riyals

www.yementimes.com • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Separate military forces feud



Republican Guard troops and military protecting the Defense Ministry exchanged fire for hours.

Amal Al-Yarisi and Ahlam Mohsen

SANAA, Aug. 15 — Two civilians were killed and fifteen injured in the capital Tuesday when Republican Guard troops—commanded by the son of deposed President Ali Abdullah Saleh—surrounded and opened fire at the Ministry of Defense.

Military forces loyal to the government defended the building, with civilians caught in the crossfire. This most recent act by mili-

tary came on the heels of President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's visit to Saudi Arabia, sparking rumors of a military coup. The clashes are the result of Hadi's military reforms, meant to alter current power dynamics—reducing former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's influence over the military, particularly those forces loyal to Saleh.

Bullets whistled around the Bab al-Yemen area, near the Defense Ministry, starting Tuesday morning around 6 a.m. Security forces were dispersed in the streets—

tanks and military trucks with positioned snipers could be seen throughout the area. Tear gas was also detected.

Sixty-two Republican Guard Troops from Brigade 2 were arrested for their involvement.

"They will be held accountable," Military Committee spokesman Ali Saeed Obaid said. The confrontation is over and settled, he said.

The Republican Guard is an elite unit of the Yemeni military. Hadi tried to weaken the Saleh family's grip on power by transferring some

Republican Guard members to a newly created presidential protection force.

Disgruntled members stormed the ministry to signal their refusal to join the presidential protection forces, according to Mohammed Yahya, a soldier stationed near the Ministry of Defense.

"The two sides exchanged fire."

In a statement released Tuesday, the European Union called on all political factions in Yemen to respect the institutions of the state and to implement President Hadi's decisions.

Sheikh Waleed Al-Dhafiri of Tadamon district called the situation awful. He said the clashes led locals in the district to flee the area, fearing random shelling.

Al-Dhafiri said military police expelled Republican Guard affiliates who surrounded the Ministry of Defense compound, demanding their salaries be paid.

"The finance minister cut their pay due to political hostility and wrangles," Al-Dhafiri said.

Al-Dhafiri condemned Tuesday's clashes, saying, "This sort of retaliation is wrong and hurts all the people of the nation."

Power struggles involving the military in the wake of the Arab Spring movements are not unique to Yemen. After the ouster of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) led the country. Although the arrangement was intended to be temporary—SCAF's rule was to end

once a democratically elected government was chosen—the post-revolution realities have been less clear. Newly elected president Mohammed Morsi fired his defense minister and military chief of staff. He also retired chiefs of the air force, air defense and navy, according to various news reports.

The recent military shakeup in Yemen mirrors Morsi's efforts in some regards—with a significant difference being Morsi does not have to consider his predecessor's influence, while Hadi must contend with Saleh's. Saleh was granted immunity in the GCC brokered deal that ended his 33-year rule.

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Al-Sabeen blocked to end traffic accidents

Story and photo
by Ashraf Al-Muraqab

SANAA, Aug. 15 — On Tuesday, dozens of people blocked 45 Street, which stretches to Al-Sabeen Street, in reaction to the repetitive traffic accidents, which have recently claimed the lives of three people. Residents appealed to concerned authorities to make practical solutions in order to mitigate accidents on the road.

They used a symbolic funeral to obstruct the main road in order to lobby the government to find a prompt remedy for the problem.

"Traffic incidents on Al-Sabeen Street are on the rise," Mohammed Al-Nimr, a resident of the Al-Sabeen neighborhood, said. "The locals contacted the authorities at the helm many times, yet no response was given."

A pool of officials, headed by Al-Sabeen's district manager and the general secretary of the capital, pledged to tackle the issue; residents did not consent to open the road before tangible solutions were provided.

Marwan Al-Jawbi, a local, said over the course of the past three days three young people, including a child, were exposed to sporadic traffic incidents in the same street.

"There is no government role witnessed."

Al-Jawbi called for the concerned authorities to bear responsibility



Residents gathered on 45 Street, demanding the city do more to improve traffic safety.

and to start constructing a bridge in the Al-Sabeen area so as to control traffic accidents that turned out to be worrying problems.

Colonel Mohammed Al-Ghadra, the traffic general manager in Sana'a, said incidents during this year's Ramadan rose to 260,

resulting in 15 people dead and 198 wounded. One hundred sixteen people were seriously injured.

Al-Ghadra said there is a decline in the number of traffic incidents on Al-Sabeen Street compared to the last year. He said there were 29 deaths and 182 injuries—of which

107 were serious—last year.

The Traffic Administration proposed a traffic plan for Ramadan in Sana'a this year, particularly near overcrowded markets. The prime reason behind the traffic accidents is high speed, insomnia and driver fatigue, they said.

Hadi to Saudi Arabia for Islamic summit taking place in Mecca



President Hadi has arrived in Saudi Arabia for a multi-day summit attended by Arab-Islamic leaders.

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANAA, Aug. 15 — Yemeni political analysts said President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's visit to Saudi Arabia coincides with Yemen's tough economic and security situations. Saudi Arabia is a main supporter of Yemen.

Ahmed Al-Sabahi, a political analyst, said Hadi's visit to Saudi Arabia is very reasonable; there was also a visit to Qatar.

"That is to say, the Saudi-Qatari mercenary support is the biggest."

He said that perhaps Hadi largely concentrates on Saudi Arabia due to the size of the Saudi backup provided for Yemen annually.

"This year the support has increased in comparison with the last years," Al-Sabahi said.

Al-Sabahi said he expected the visit would result in increased support and scope for Hadi to continue disintegrating the power of the former regime and to reorganize the army under a single leadership.

"I don't think his (Hadi's) absence triggered the Defense Ministry events," he said. "Prior to this occurrence, the Interior Ministry was exposed to destructive attacks and robbery while Hadi in Yemen. Indeed, these acts will be negatively inflicted on the remnants of the former regime."

Hadi met with Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz on Tuesday in Mecca, where he was received alongside other presidents and princes of Arab-Islamic nations. They all arrived in Saudi Arabia to take part in the Islamic Solidarity Summit. Abdulaziz inaugurated the summit Tuesday evening, and it will last two days. He denounced violence and disputes, saying polarization sparks bloodshed between the generations of the Islamic nations.

"I implore you to bear the responsibility and be eligible to do so," Abdulaziz said.

He also proposed the establishment of a dialogue center for all Islamic doctrines located in Riyadh; the Islamic Cooperation Organization will select the members.

Hadi left for Saudi Arabia on Monday; it is the second visit to the country since his installation six months ago as president, following the ouster of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Salah Al-Deen Al-Asadi, a journalist, said Yemen's participation in such a summit is substantial because this will enhance the role of the country regionally and in Islamic nations.

"There are also subsidiary things pertinent to the Gulf Initiative," Al-Asadi said. "It is important to discuss that with the patrons of the initiative and search the latest developments".

People's Committees fighter shot in Abyan

Ghayda Al-Ariqi

ABYAN, Aug. 15 — A fighter of the People's Committees was shot Tuesday in Jaar, allegedly by the hands of Ansar Al-Sharia affiliates who attacked a military checkpoint in Abyan.

Mas'wood Ali Rajeh, security chief of Khanfar district, said the man was at a checkpoint and was hit with three bullets.

He said snipers hiding behind Dabi Gas Station shot the People's Committees loyalist. Pedestrians reported seeing the snipers flee in a car.

Rajeh said the fighter was shot while working at the checkpoint.

Rajeh also said that Ansar Al-Sharia militants cause problems and hinder work of the People's Committees in the governorate.

Abyan was a stronghold for the militants of Ansar Al-Sharia, who have now withdrawn to mountains and valleys surrounding the governorate after being forced out by the Yemeni military.



The Peoples' Committees member was shot with three bullets before he died.

Demonstration outside U.N. office meant to garner support for Muslims in Burma

Nadia Haddash

SANAA, Aug. 14 — Young Yemeni men from different youth initiatives and groups held a demonstration Monday in front of the United Nations building in Sana'a, protesting against the ignorance of the international community by taking no serious actions against what they consider to be acts of genocide and massacre against the Muslim minority—the Rahwanji—by Buddhists in Burma.

Genocides against Muslims in Burma once again renewed during the past two months, when 420 Buddhists killed 10,000 Muslims and burnt 16 villages, causing the deaths of thousands of Muslims.

"We demand urgent intervention to stop the massacre and genocide against Muslims in Burma," Zuha Yaseen, a coordinator of the demonstration, said. "We condemn that no actions are taken by countries and international organizations in the Arab and Islamic World against what is going on in Burma."

For his part, Abdulnasser Al-Hamadi, another organizer of the demonstration, said the demonstration in front of the United Na-

tions office in Sana'a is the first step, and the second will be held in front of the Human Rights Ministry to put pressure on decision makers and civil society organizations to take actions that stop violence in Burma.

Sana'a Al-Ariqi, a college student who participated in the demonstration, said nobody knew about what was happening in Burma 60 years ago. It is an ethnic cleansing against the Muslim in Burma, and it is time to do something, Al-Ariqi said.

"It is a religious and a human duty to participate in this demonstration," activist Nojood Al-Rawm said. "It isn't a political demonstration and doesn't belong to any political party."

Essam Al-Nozaili, one of the protestors, said, "What is happening in Burma gives me the chills and makes me cry. Unfortunately, Arabs or Muslims didn't do anything, and this makes me sorrowful. What is happening today in



Yemenis called on the international community to help marginalized Muslims in Burma.

Burma may happen in any other Islamic or Arab countries if we don't support one another."

The demonstrators threatened to start an open sit-in in front of the U.N. building if relevant authorities don't take actions to support the Muslims in Burma.

The demonstrators demanded that the Muslims in Burma be given all rights based on the in-

ternational conventions of human rights issued by the U.N.

Al-Hamadi said a plan has been set to contact several Arab countries, including Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia to specify a day when all Arabs will organize demonstrations to support the Muslims in Burma. The demonstrations will continue until actions are taken to save those Muslims.

India provides rice for food insecure in Yemen governorates

Nadia Haddash

SANAA, Aug. 14 — The Indian embassy in Sana'a, with the cooperation of the World Food Programme (WFP), donated rice valued at around \$2 million to assist with the current food shortage facing Yemen.

Parry Came, an information officer for the WFP, said the donated food will be distributed to approximately 330,000 hungry people throughout the coming month.

Half of the donations are to be distributed to the Yemeni's in need to food, and half of the donations are to be distributed to So-

mali refugees living in Yemen.

"This is the first cooperation between the WFP and the Indian Embassy, and there will be more cooperation in the future," Came said. "We welcome all the embassies here in Yemen to deal with us in such projects."

R. Ventkatesan, second secretary at the Indian Embassy, said there is a commitment from the Indian government to make an additional food donation, again valued at around \$2 million. The donation will be in the form of wheat, Ventkatesan said, and it supposed to arrive in Yemen in the coming days for disbursal.

Six months later: Where Hadi fails and where Hadi succeeds

Ahmed Dawood

Great challenges are still facing President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi since he was elected president in February following the ouster of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Although it appeared that stability was restored in Sana'a, Taiz and other governorates, and the military gained control of Abyan and cleared Al-Qaeda affiliates out of the area, terrorism and extremism remain the greatest challenges for Hadi in the upcoming period. Al-Qaeda militants have resorted to carrying out different operations targeting soldiers in several countries using car bombs and explosive belts.

So far, Hadi's decrees are still faced with refusal by some military leaders. Hadi's last decree regarding mixing brigades from the First Armored Division and the Republican Guard, under the name "President's Protection," was met with refusal.

The question now is, "What has Hadi achieved and what has he not achieved since he was elected president?"

Mahmoud Bokari, a political sociology professor at Sana'a University, said the new president has achieved several great things. According to Bokari, Hadi saved Yemen from a civil war that nearly destroyed the country. He also said Hadi is still trying to find a way out of this political impasse.

Bokari said reconciliation won't be achieved unless the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), which



is planned for November, succeeds. He said the dialogue must include a reasonable agenda disassociated with the personal interests of all those involved with the dialogue.

Bokari said the financial and economic difficulties Yemen faces are a big challenge for Hadi. The economic situation will be linked to the results of the NDC and the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections.

Hadi was elected president in a difficult security situation and in a revolutionary movement that still continues today.

Hameed Rezaq, a columnist and a journalist, said he thinks Hadi is a real president who avoids the disagreements of the former regime.

He also said there was a hope for several powers that were negatively affected by the former regime, adding that all political powers and parties accepted Hadi because he had neither revenge nor grudge with them.

"However, Hadi couldn't play his role in creating reconciliation between all parties because he doesn't make decisions alone," Rezaq said. "He shares decisions with the Gulf Initiative brokers, America and Saudi Arabia, who prefer the Muslim Brotherhood because of a plan intended to face Iran in the future. And so, Hadi's decrees enforces one part [of the plan] over the others."

Rizq said the most balanced decree made by Hadi was forming the

Technical Committee to pave the way for the NDC. Influential members of the former regime didn't accept it, and it was criticized and opposed by the Joint Meetings Parties. The decree has been met with sharp criticism by religious and military figures across the country.

Rizq said he believes that the success of the NDC will be a real achievement for Hadi. However, he isn't hopeful that the NDC will in fact succeed because some parties have their own interests and want to hold an exclusive dialogue. They put pressure on Hadi to follow their ways instead.

Thus far, Hadi is neither supported by all parties nor criticized by all parties. However, the revolution-

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ary youth—who have been active in change squares throughout Yemen since the beginning of 2011's political uprising—remain unconvinced by what Hadi has accomplished so far because he issued a decree to release all detained revolutionary youth, but the youth have not yet been released.

Sagr Abu Hassan, a journalist and a self-labeled revolutionary youth, said young men are detained in prisons without being released, and those who have been wounded during the uprising haven't re-

ceived treatment.

Abu Hassan said he thinks Hadi tries to remove the dominating military powers by issuing decrees, though he issued a decree to mix troops from the First Armored Division and the Republican Guards to protect the president last week.

However, Abu Hassan isn't convinced because Hadi has not reorganized the military so far, has not attempted to improve the economic situation of ordinary people and did not impose state control over all the Yemeni governorates.

ADVERTORIAL

QATAR AIRWAYS INCREASES FREQUENCY TO YEMEN Award-winning airline reintroduces three flights on Sanaa – Doha route

Qatar Airways, the national carrier of the State of Qatar, will reinstate three flights between its hub in Doha and Sanaa on September 2, bringing the total number of services to Yemen to daily.

Services to Yemen were reduced to four-flights-a-week in October 2011 after being impacted by the country's political instability. With the additional frequency resuming to daily flights to Yemen, passengers looking to travel to and from Sanaa will have more choice with further convenience and flexibility to their travel plans.

With the region becoming more stable, the additional capacity has been introduced to Yemen providing added convenience for both business and leisure travellers. Passengers now have greater access to a number of routes in the airline's extensive network of global destinations.

Qatar Airways Commercial Manager Yemen, Wael Sabri Al Khaldi said the extra capacity would be a great boost for the travelling public to cities around the world.

"As part of Qatar Airways' ever-expanding route map, a key pillar is to also evaluate existing routes and increase capacity where there is passenger demand.

"After a brief reduction of services to Yemen, Qatar Airways is pleased to be returning to the original frequencies," said Al Khaldi.

Among the 118 destinations currently served by Qatar Airways are New York, Washington, Houston, Sao Paulo, London, Paris and Frankfurt –

all better connected from Yemen with the convenient timing of the additional flights.

The Doha - Sanaa route is operated by an Airbus A320, featuring 12 seats in First Class and up to 132 seats in Economy. Selected A320s feature seatback TV screens providing all passengers in both cabins with the next generation interactive onboard entertainment system – a choice of more than 800 audio and video on demand options.

Qatar Airways was recently voted World's Best Airline for the second consecutive year following the annual Skytrax survey of more than 18 million international passengers.

The airline is continuing to expand at a rapid pace currently operating a modern fleet of 110 aircraft to business and leisure destinations from its Doha hub to cities across the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia Pacific, North America and South America.

Qatar Airways recently launched flights to the Croatian capital Zagreb, the Iraqi cities of Erbil and Baghdad, the western Australian city of Perth, Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and is gearing up to launch new destinations, including Yangon in Myanmar on October 3, Maputo in Mozambique on October 31, and to the Serbian capital Belgrade later this year.

The 3 additional SANAA-DOHA flights, effective September 2:

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The current SANAA-DOHA schedules:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
Depart Sanaa QR453 at 1645 hrs, arrive Doha 1905 hrs
Depart Doha QR452 at 1305 hrs, arrive Sanaa 1545 hrs

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Turkish Ambassador Fazlı Çorman to the Yemen Times:

“We cannot predict the future, but if the place successfully, then it will also be a



Turkish Ambassador Fazlı Çorman

Interview and photo by Amira Nasser

How do you evaluate the current situation in Yemen?

Yemen came a long way since the signature of the Gulf initiative. I would like to stress the positive side of the developments, as we all need some optimism and good mood in Yemen. The National Reconciliation Government was established in December 2011, and the Presidential elections were held in February 2012. Now that the National Dialogue steps are being taken, the process moves forward, albeit slowly. The international community appreciates the achievement of Yemen in finding a negotiated solution to its current conflicts and many, like us believe that this solution can be an example for some countries having the same conflicts in the region.

Recently, Yemen entered into the second phase of the transition period as per the GCC initiative, and during this period of two years Yemen will try to establish a new political system by making a new constitution and new election laws. The success of the transition period depends on the active participation of all sides of the youth, the Southern Movement, the

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The international community appreciates the achievement of Yemen in finding a negotiated solution to its current conflicts and many, like us believe that this solution can be an example for some countries having the same conflicts in the region.

Houthis and the other sides to the process. In this critical process, the National Dialogue Conference will serve as a basis for the transition period if Yemeni people can reach a consensus in the new social contract of Yemen.

The Technical Committee for preparing the National Dialogue Conference has been established. Moving forward, how do you think this step will help Yemen?

The Technical Committee has very critical responsibilities in the way forward. Although it is named as “technical” it will be responsible for the preparations of the National Dialogue Conference, holding the conference itself and drafting the constitution in accordance with the results of the conference, approval of a new electoral law and holding the elections according to the new constitution. The committee will act like the secretariat of the conference since it is an ad hoc body, which has no structural background. Therefore, it is very important for the success of the transition period that the committee works in harmony, puts aside the political differences they have and convinces all parties in Yemen to participate in the conference.

“

Yemeni identity should be the prevailing notion in the dialogue and everyone should be loyal to Yemen and only Yemen.

As I told all those who conducted an interview with me, Yemeni identity should be the prevailing notion in the dialogue and everyone should be loyal to Yemen and only Yemen. The dialogue should include a political process that attempts to satisfy all or at least the majority of the Yemeni people. There should be decisions taken for improving the economy and speeding up development so that Yemeni people can feel secure about future.

I wish this conference will be held successfully with the spirit of reconciliation and solidarity; and the immediate initiation of the structural reforms enabling to overcome the multi-dimensional challenges faced by Yemen. I hope that the wisdom of Yemeni people will lead to the success of the National Dialogue so that Yemen can restore its prominent role in the region, which she deserves.

How had Turkey has played a role in observing the implementation of the transitional period of power?

The people and the government of Turkey observe the situation in Yemen very closely and have blessed the political movements that have a popular backing in the hearts of Yemeni people. During the events,

Turkey supported by all possible means Yemen's national unity, territorial integrity and stability.

Turkey considered the presidential election as an important step taken in the transition process and sent a National Observer Delegation in order to monitor the elections as a signal of support.

After President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi came to the office, Abdullah Gul, president of Turkey, sent his Special Envoy Erşad Hüürmüzlü to Yemen to extend Turkey's full support and his best wishes for his critical mission.

During the Friends of Yemen Meeting in Riyadh, the Turkish delegation was headed by H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç, the deputy prime minister, which was the highest representation in the meeting. This is one concrete indication of how Turkish leadership is interested in the situation in Yemen and Turkey's support to our Yemeni brothers and sisters.

For the upcoming period, we are actively participating in the efforts of the “National Dialogue Working Group” established by the ambassadors of the “Group of Ten” countries in Yemen. In this framework, we took responsibility and extended assistance to women's organizations and civil society

"The National Dialogue Conference takes success for the transition period."

“

What we care about is the prosperity of the country that will lead to a big progress, development and simultaneously lead to stability in the political situation.

organizations in order to facilitate their smooth participation in the conference.

How do you evaluate the performance of President Hadi? And the government?

Evaluating the performance of the president remains the sole right of the Yemeni people, but from our perspective, President Hadi is doing an excellent job. His wise leadership and cautious but determined conduct helped stop the bloodshed through the implementation of GCC Initiative, and he put Yemen on its right path.

We are supporting the current direction of the Yemeni government under the guidance of President Hadi and also Prime Minister Basindawa. We have very good relations and close cooperation with the prime minister and all other ministers. I had the honor to accompany the prime minister and three ministers visiting Turkey in May. I have to say that Prime Minister Basindawa is shouldering a very big responsibility, and he is pragmatically successful in managing a government which is composed of different political parties.

What do you think about the transitional justice law, which is being discussed in the Security Council?

All parties in Yemen should know that transitional justice is a concept used during extraordinary times like Yemen is passing through. Therefore, it should be kept in mind that it does not necessarily mean "full justice," but it is something between complete justice and total lack of it. During these extraordinary times, transitional justice mechanisms—as opposed to continuing feuds and hostilities—are very useful to reach an agreement.

In my opinion, the transitional justice law in Yemen should take

into account all stakeholders' rights, including victims of 1994, 2005 and 2011, if we are talking about a renewal of the social contract in Yemen. This kind of a comprehensive approach to embrace all in Yemen who thinks justice and closure is the only way to gain the support of all Yemenis in the result of this transitional period. By the way, I would like to call all parties to help facilitation of parliamentary ratification of this law as it represents the beginning of the closure of the grievances felt by various segments of the Yemeni society.

How do Yemeni revolutions and recent troubles in Yemen affect the relations between Yemen and Turkey, especially after the bombings and violence that recently occurred?

We all know that Turkey and Yemen have had strong relations for centuries. There are strong cultural affinities, ties of brotherhood, as well as a firm solidarity between Turkish and Yemeni peoples. We are determined to further develop our deep-rooted relations.

On this occasion, I repeat the condemnation of the heinous terrorist attacks targeting the stability and security of Yemen as expressed by Turkish leadership whenever or wherever they occurred. I want to take this opportunity to remind the Yemeni people that perpetrators of the attacks will never succeed if the people themselves decide to fight against it. The fight against terrorism is an all-encompassing one, only the government or the army cannot succeed without the support of the people.

What are the Turkish priorities for the upcoming phase in Yemen?

All those Yemenis I met tell me that Turkey should play a more

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In my opinion, the transitional justice law in Yemen should take into account all stakeholders' rights, including victims of 1994, 2005 and 2011, if we are talking about a renewal of the social contract in Yemen.

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I hope [for] a secure Yemen, where people are no longer in need of carrying arms and live together happily and peacefully.

active role in the upcoming phase in Yemen. They say that Turkey is considered as a good example for Yemen. Everyone is looking forward for the Turkish assistance particularly in the fields of training, expertise, knowhow, management of big projects like road networks, seaports and airports. That's why I am very much enthusiastic as Turkey has the will and ability to help Yemen in these areas.

We will help Yemen to economically and socially prosper and will devote all our abilities and experience in these fields in order to help Yemeni people overcome their current challenges. Our main priority is to build capacity in Yemen. We will do this by providing our know-how and experience to the use of our Yemeni brothers and sisters through training and educational programs. We wish [for] a stable and affluent Yemen so that we can have a trusted, dependable partner also in trade and investment, in addition to our strong partnership in culture and religion.

Thus, we greatly depend on improving all facets of the economy in Yemen. What we care about is the prosperity of the country that will lead to a big progress, development and simultaneously lead to stability in the political situation. It is with this understanding that we encourage Turkish investments in Yemen, especially in the fields of trade, tourism, industry and health and education.

Your Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) project provides many countries with developmental support. How can Yemen take advantage of this project?

In addition to multilateral efforts exerted in the development field, Turkey is also committed to extend bilateral assistance to Yemen. The decision taken by

Prime Minister Erdoğan to open a Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) Program Coordination Office in Sana'a is a visionary step taken to this aim. TIKA has already started its activities. Dr. Faruk Bozgöz was appointed as the TIKA representative and he began his mission last month. [The] TIKA office will be very helpful for accelerating some pending projects such as establishing dialysis centers in three governorates.

I advise my Yemeni brothers and sisters who have good projects that will be conducive for the development of Yemen to propose them to TIKA. In addition to the projects proposed by Yemeni people, TIKA will also try to implement its own projects for the well-being of Yemen.

We've heard about Turkey providing Yemenis with many scholarships and free medical visits. Do you have the intention to increase your cooperation in this field?

Yes, for sure. Normally, we have been providing a number of free of charge treatments in Turkey for patients that cannot be cured in Yemen, in accordance with the cooperation agreement between the two countries in [the] health sector. This year, we have already sent more patients to Turkey in this program. We are going to make this number much more increased until end of the year.

We are also providing scholarships every year for Yemeni students to have education in Turkey. This year, there was record number of 1,700 applications from Yemen to the scholarships. A delegation came from Turkey and they conducted more than 200 interviews with the best students.

As a result, I can easily say that our cooperation in these fields is already increasing.

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For the upcoming period, we are actively participating in the efforts of the "National Dialogue Working Group" established by the ambassadors of the "Group of Ten" countries in Yemen.

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Therefore, it is impossible and also not necessary to implement a wholesale "Turkish model" neither in Yemen nor in other countries of the region.

There was an agreement between Turkey and Yemen to cancel visas; however, this agreement has not been activated yet. Why?

The visit of President Abdullah Gül in January 2011 reflected the great stage and hope for improving the relationships between the two countries. The visa abolishment agreement between the peoples of Turkey and Yemen was signed during this visit. Unfortunately, the difficulties Yemen went through last year led to freeze the procedures on some of the agreements, including the visa abolishment agreement, and stood before their implementation. We are working hard and I am visiting all relevant Yemeni Ministers to give impetus to the parliamentary ratification process and implementation of the said agreements. I am in close contact with the parliament and the parliamentarians as well.

Will your partnerships be with governmental facilities or will there be space for participation by youth and civil society organizations?

Besides the improvement in the state-to-state relations, there are many examples of cooperation between the Turkish and Yemeni youth and civil society organizations. We, as the embassy, also have good cooperation with the youth and civil society organizations, and we are ready to evaluate and utilize any new areas of further cooperation with them.

In September, it's expected that a number of official Turkish figures will meet members from the government of the national unity. What are your expectations from the outcome of this visit?

H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Turkey, will visit Yemen at the end of September or early October as

the co-chair of Turkey-Yemen Joint Economic Commission, which will have its sixth meeting. Many agreements are expected to be signed in the meeting to boost our bilateral trade relations.

Moreover, H.E. Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, foreign minister of Turkey, is going to pay an official visit to Yemen, which was postponed twice due to the regional developments around Turkey, in the said months. I am hopeful that the visit will provide a good opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and ways of boosting them as well as regional developments.

How could the Turkish experience in development be an inspiration for Yemen, especially while it's under the circumstances of the current political power transition?

As I mentioned in a previous question, there is a great demand from the Yemeni public opinion to learn from Turkish experience. Prime Minister Basindawa himself expressed many times in front of the media his desire for his country to be like Turkey or Malaysia by following similar steps.

What I am saying cautiously to these comments is that every country has its own characteristics. Therefore, it is impossible and also not necessary to implement a wholesale "Turkish model" neither in Yemen nor in other countries of the region. On the other hand, Turkey is ready to share its experience with any country and especially with brotherly Yemen and can only be a source of inspiration in this sense.

Do you think that Yemenis can improve their economic situation regarding the present time?

Yemen has a great potential to improve its economic situation. It has a young population that can be a vital generator of economic growth—if it is well educated, well motivated and well organized. It has natural resources more than many countries. I am sure that by the help of its friends and the strategic management of this young population and natural resources, Yemeni economy will rise to its feet in the very near future.

What do you think about the future of Yemen?

We cannot predict the future, but if the National Dialogue Conference takes place successfully, then it will also be a success for the transition period. We all know that the real and best solution is not an imported one but a Yemeni one and may not come in two years, thus Yemeni people should be patient. I know that it is not easy, there may be some obstacles, but I am very optimistic about the future of Yemen.

I hope [for] a secure Yemen, where people are no longer in need of carrying arms and live together happily and peacefully. I hope [for] a Yemen without public consumption of qat, which has many negative consequences for the society. And finally, I hope [for] a prosperous and "happy" Yemen like in its past.

Sex worker's profession ensures survival

Ahlam Mohsen

The political instability of the past year has further intensified a dire economic and humanitarian crisis in Yemen, pushing more and more Yemeni and non-Yemeni women into the world's oldest profession. With rising food, fuel and water prices and nearly half of Yemenis facing food insecurity, sex workers say the number of women in the profession is increasing.

Sex work, according to the Women's Forum for Research and Training (WFRT), is a profession forced on poor women facing severe economic circumstances. In Yemen, sex work is punishable by stiff prison sentences of up to three years; sex work remains an underground industry in this highly conservative Muslim country. While solicitations for sex are easy to come by, precise figures and statistics about the sex industry in Yemen are not.

Sayida, a Somali refugee sex worker, has nearly two decades of experience. She opens the door in a tight, knee-length red dress and fishnet stockings. Her bone structure is striking and her complexion perfect. Although she's in her early 30s, Sayida doesn't look a day over 19—her youthful beauty failing to hint at the hard life she has lived. She is open and engaging but shaking and affected when discussing Somalia and a childhood spent surviving and fleeing war.

She matter-of-factly lists the costs, services and dangers involved with her job. On the high end, women earn 50,000 to 60,000 riyals per client. Brothels are owned by Yemeni women, she says, who take an additional 30,000-40,000 riyals from customers. Wealthy Gulf playboys are known to drop 100,000 riyals

or more per woman. Rates decrease significantly if a woman is picked up at a restaurant or club. These women earn between 10,000 and 15,000 riyals.

Condoms are standard, Sayida says. Testing for sexually transmitted diseases is less common but not rare.

The dangers of the job can be high, she says. Sayida shares stories of beatings—some so severe the women nearly died. Because of the illicit nature of the work, sex workers have virtually no protections against abuse. It is not uncommon for men to refuse to pay. Sometimes, a woman will meet a client, only to discover his three friends have accompanied him. Her close friend was gang-raped by four men. After discovering she was pregnant, Sayida's friend tried to induce a miscarriage by swallowing a large amount of pills, which resulted in severe bleeding. A doctor eventually performed an abortion. After three months of further bleeding, she died.

Strong survivor

The daughter of a high-level military official, Sayida was seven years old when armed opposition groups toppled Somalia's military government—her father died attempting to evacuate the president.

Despite fleeing Somalia at a young age, Sayida remembers her childhood and her village vividly.

"It was everything you could imagine. We grew mangos, watermelons and bananas. Every morning I would accompany my older sister to milk our cow, and we were free to play outside at our heart's content. I still dream of those bananas; I was never patient enough to wait for them to ripen, and I remember how they would dry my mouth. I pray to taste them again."



The sex industry has relevance in Yemen, and many women turn to the profession for survival.

Unable to understand the political situation developing in her country, Sayida only knew that armed men were entering cities and villages such as hers and killing men. Her mother sent her three brothers to Kenya before her village was invaded. While peeking outside a window, she witnessed seven men being blindfolded and shot dead.

After a year in a refugee camp in Mogadishu, Sayida made the sea voyage from Somalia to Yemen with her aunt. Sayida's mother and two sisters left for Kenya to reunite with her brothers. Sayida's aunt agreed to take Sayida to lessen her mother's

burden. She hasn't seen her family since 1992.

After the journey to Yemen, Sayida lived in a refugee camp for three years before separating from her aunt and moving to Aden, alone, at age 12. After four months serving as a housemaid for a Yemeni family, Sayida left for a better paying position tending bar in a hotel. It was there that she was introduced to the profession that ensures her survival even today.

Few prospects

Her first client was a Greek man, about 70 years old. She cringes at the

memory of him but flashes a smile when describing the her first taste of chocolate—a gift from her client. All alone with few prospects, Sayida married the man only to discover a year later that he was married with three children in Greece. She asked for a divorce.

Without a husband to help provide for her, 13-year-old Sadiya returned to work.

"I remembered the pain of hunger while living in the camps. I was determined to never be that hungry again. It's not the work I wanted, but I had no other options really. It was hard, but I didn't dwell on it."

A true love

At fifteen, Sayida discovered she was pregnant.

"I was so happy; I couldn't believe I made this baby. She was so beautiful. I was in the clouds. I couldn't leave her alone for moment, not even to sleep. She was always in my arms."

After moving to Sana'a and remarriage, Sayida was able to temporarily leave sex work behind. When her marriage ended, she found herself with little money and a daughter to raise. She resorted to the only work readily available to her.

Looking forward

Sayida is clear that she wants a better life for her daughter. She also wants a better life for herself; she hopes to take English classes soon and her dream is to land a job for a foreign company.

Sayida said she believes educating women and girls is the way to reduce poverty and to give women options other than sex work. Sayida's education ended after being forced to flee war in Somalia.

"The girls that live in Yemen work in prostitution because there's no work. Sure, we get money, but it comes with problems. Some [women] die, some are beaten, some get sick. We can't just arrest prostitutes; we have to address the root causes of the problem so women don't have to resort to this work."

According to the U.N., nothing is more effective at reducing poverty than educating girls. It is also the policy most likely to improve nutrition, health, infant and maternal mortality and to raise economic productivity. Yemen is the poorest country in the Middle East, and one of the poorest countries in the world.

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Recycling ablution water advantageous

Story by Muaad Al-Maqtari
Photos by Ashraf Al-Muraqab

Mosques in Yemen number approximately 75,000, according to the Ministry of Endowment's 2008 report. The statistics suggest the number could rise to 95,000 this year.

Although programs warn about water depletion in Sana'a Basin based on the current consumption rates, the water used for ablution in mosques across the nation reached 3 billion cubic meters annually, based on Environment Protection Authority estimates.

Water used for ablution cannot practically be used; it becomes greywater—water generated from activities such as household cleaning and shouldn't be used otherwise—that exacerbates the already scant water resources.



Ablution water is estimated at 3 billion cubic meters annually, according to the Environment Protection Authority.

Seven mosques could water Aden's streets

The Natural Resources Sustainable Authority, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, is a project of the Environment Protection Authority. This project aims to reuse greywater in limited scopes.

Engineer Ali Al-Dabhani, a project participant, said the reuse of ablution water in seven mosques helped water greenery in Aden's streets.

The green places in the streets, he said, are estimated at 10,000 square meters, starting from Rejil roundabout, passing Exhibitions Square, Airport Road and ending along the Abyan coast, roughly ten kilometers long.

The idea of the project proved successful. Thus, project organiz-

ers decided to launch a similar initiative in Taiz. Ablution water from six mosques will be used in Sala district in order to water planted areas on the road of Al-Hwban.

The ideal way

Engineer Ali Al-Adeemi, the Natural Resources Sustainable Authority manager, said recycling ablution water is an important way to preserve water resources, particularly for agricultural use. He said agriculture counts on groundwater.

"This program can be applied taking into account the environment and economic factors."

"Ablution water can be used to

improve the environment and human health through irrigating the streets and the green places in cities like the gardens and the factories' botanical belts around the city," Al-Adeemi said.

If projects aim at recycling ablution water so as to repair and rehabilitate the green places, this will result in improving the air quality and mitigating the temperature, he said.

"This will be a lung for nature," he said.

An additional advantage of recycling ablution water is to provide grass for cattle grazing from the garbage. The recycled ablution water augments the green places

and helps to decrease the use of drinking water for agricultural purposes.

Polluting water resources could also decrease due to organizing the distribution of ablution water.

The ideal way is to generalize the advantageous results of this project through educational campaigns targeting the public sector, the private sector and people connected with mosque construction, Al-Adeemi said.

He said some experts in the Environment Protection Authority are working to prepare a law that stipulates all bodies and persons building mosques ought to implement this program.



Ali Al-Adeemi said recycling ablution water saves resources.



Al-Adeemi said mosque builders should consider recycling.

عيد مبارك

Eid Mubarak

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Many Happy Returns

Why Yemen Isn't Afghanistan or Iraq

By John Bennett
Usnews.com
First published Aug. 9

A senior U.S. counterterrorism official spoke before a packed room at a prominent Washington think tank Wednesday, touting the White House's "comprehensive approach" that emphasizes "governance and development" in a faraway land.

Yes, you have heard these buzzwords before. But John Brennan wasn't talking about Washington's policy for Iraq or Afghanistan. He was describing the Obama administration's approach to Yemen, the newest front in the war against Al-Qaeda.

President Obama "has insisted that our policy emphasize governance and development as much as security and focus on a clear goal: to facilitate a democratic transition while helping Yemen advance political, economic, and security reforms so it can support its citizens and counter [Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP]," Brennan told an audience at the Council on Foreign Relations.

One longtime Pentagon observer who was in the room E-mailed U.S. News & World Report to ask whether Brennan had mistakenly brought his Afghanistan speech. The quip could have been repeated when Brennan later dropped the phrase "clear, hold, build." There were glances in the room at the irony of Brennan's endorsement of that George W. Bush administration concept, which the Obama administration scrapped in favor of a revised approach that focused on transferring duties to Afghan officials and forces.

But make no mistake, Yemen is not Afghanistan, nor Iraq. At least not yet. Here are three reasons why:

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Syria and Iran meddled in Iraq for years, allowing Al-Qaeda fighters to cross their borders into Iraq and interfering in Iraqi politics.

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Al-Qaeda was formed in part because of Osama bin Laden's gripes about how the Saudi royal family ruled his native country.

valed the population of a medium-sized U.S. city.

U.S. officials have acknowledged at least one small team of 20 U.S. commandos is in Yemen working with indigenous forces and officials with training, intelligence, and surveillance. Speculation within national security circles is rampant that more American special operations forces and intelligence personnel likely are there, as well—but nothing rivaling the massive Iraq and Afghanistan deployments.

The U.S. has relied largely on "targeted strikes" to take out AQAP leaders and operatives in Yemen using missiles fired from drone aircraft. Brennan was opaque about those strikes on Wednesday, acknowledging "targeted strikes" are part of the U.S. approach to Yemen, but later saying with a chuckle that some unnamed nation is responsible for drone attacks there.

Civil War. Al-Qaeda was in Afghanistan before 9/11 not to rule that nation but to plot and prepare for terrorist attacks on the United States and its allies. And the terrorist organization established a presence in Iraq only after U.S. troops ousted Saddam Hussein from power in 2003.

Al-Qaeda's main cell in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region features few Afghans and Pakistanis, Brennan said. But AQAP is made up mostly of Yemenis. While they have tried to attack the United States, the al Qaeda affiliate's main goal, Brennan said, "is to overthrow the government in Sanaa," Yemen's capital.

AQAP has been clashing with Yemeni security forces for years, claiming ample territory in southern Yemen earlier this year in a series of high-profile attacks. Al-Qaeda forces even "fly their flag" to show they, not the central government, control specific parts of the Middle East nation, Brennan said. "That Yemen did not devolve into an all-out civil war is a testament to the courage, determination, and resilience of the Yemeni people," he said.

Saudi Arabia. Foreign policy ex-

perts have said the U.S. missions in Iraq and Afghanistan were plagued by myriad problems due in large part to efforts by those nations' neighbors to thwart America's goals. Syria and Iran meddled in Iraq for years, allowing Al-Qaeda fighters to cross their borders into Iraq and interfering in Iraqi politics. Pakistan and Iran have frustrated U.S. officials with similar actions in Afghanistan.

But in Washington's Yemen toolbox lies an important, influential and wealthy ally: Saudi Arabia. Al-

Qaeda was formed in part because of Osama bin Laden's gripes about how the Saudi royal family ruled his native country. AQAP gains in Yemen, Saudi officials worry, could stoke political unrest at home.

And the Saudis are writing big checks to keep that from happening.

"The international community has threatened U.N. sanctions against those who would undermine the [Yemeni political process], provided humanitarian relief, and offered assistance for the National

Dialogue and electoral reform," Brennan said. "International partners—including the UK, Germany, China, Russia, India, the EU, and the UAE—have pledged aid. Saudi Arabia offered \$3.25 billion, on top of the significant fuel grants it gave Yemen to offset the losses caused by attacks on oil infrastructure."

John T. Bennett covers national security and foreign policy for U.S. News & World Report.

Yemen needs clear presidential authority

Gulfnews.com
First published Aug. 15

Yemen continues to suffer from poor leadership and an ineffective government as the new President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi has not tackled vital reforms and has failed to stamp his authority on government. It is essential that he introduces more effective governance across the country and gains control of the country's military establishment. He also needs to tackle the growing threat to national unity from supporters of Al-Qaeda.

But resistance to reform is being led by former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who maintains an office in Sana'a. His ousting last year included immunity from prosecution but did not ban him from politics, so he feels free to receive government ministers who regularly check with him on what they should do, despite him being out of office and having nothing to do with the government.

A dangerous example of his lingering influence is how his son, Ahmad Ali Saleh, is still commander of the Republican Guards, a crack force of nearly 90,000 troops. The opposition has asked that he be relieved of duty in return for their participation in the National Dialogue Conference in November. When President Hadi tried to move the command of units of the Republican Guards to be directly under his authority, the move was resisted and hundreds of Commander Saleh's supporters surrounded the Ministry of Defence.

While this dangerous failure of governance continues, the security situation is getting much worse. An Al-Qaeda suicide bomber killed 45 people at a funeral last week in the southern city of Jaar as he targeted the tribesmen that sided with the army in an offensive against Al-Qaeda in Abyan.

Yemen needs a strong central government to save it from becoming a failed state. The lack of authority from President Hadi is a

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A dangerous example of his lingering influence is how his son, Ahmad Ali Saleh, is still commander of the Republican Guards, a crack force of nearly 90,000 troops.

symptom of the general situation in Yemen. A useful start would be to remove former President Saleh from anywhere near power, and ask him to go into exile, which would at least give Yemen a clear line of presidential authority.

Assisting the people of Yemen

VOAnews.com
First published Aug. 13

On the heels of the revolutions in Tunisia and in Egypt, the Yemeni people began their own demonstrations. At first, the demonstrations were held against unemployment, economic conditions and corruption, and the government's proposals to modify presidential term limits in Yemen's constitution to allow President Ali Abdullah Saleh to remain in office. Later the protestors began to demand President Saleh's resignation. Their protest was successful, and a year later, on Feb. 21, 2012, Yemenis went to the polls to choose a new president. Yemen had started on its path to political transition.

The success of that transition will require Yemen to meet a number of serious, complex, and interrelated challenges. Working to help Yemen achieve its goals, the United States has increased its assistance, from \$147 million in fiscal year 2011 to 337 million in fiscal year 2012. This is the largest amount of annual assistance provided by the

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The success of that transition will require Yemen to meet a number of serious, complex, and interrelated challenges.

U.S. government to Yemen to date.

There are nearly 550,000 internally displaced persons, over 225,000 refugees, and 140,000 migrants and asylum seekers who are in need of assistance. About half the Yemeni population is in need of food assistance, and nearly one million children under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition. The United States has significantly increased its humanitarian aid to Yemen in fiscal year 2012

and is delivering funds to provide food supplies, water and sanitation, health care and protection to vulnerable populations.

To improve the livelihoods, economic opportunity and well-being of the Yemeni people, we are supporting small infrastructure repairs and rehabilitation; offering micro-finance and small-enterprise support; improving the health system by renovating health clinics, providing health facilities with basic medical equipment and training midwives and doctors in maternal and child health.

We are also supporting the Yemeni government in its quest to improve security and restore stability; to reform the constitution, the electoral system, laws, and to enhance law enforcement; to reorganize the military and restructure it under civilian control, and hold elections by early 2014.

The United States is committed to supporting the Yemeni people as they undertake their political transition. Through a comprehensive strategy that promotes political, economic, and security sector reforms, we will help the Yemeni people address their challenges and achieve their aspirations.

SKETCHED OPINION

By Rashad Al-Samei



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والقيادة السياسية الحكيمة ممثلة بفخامة

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Abduction of children a means of retaliation

Ghaida Al-Ariqi

Ali Ahmed Al-Awbali, 10, and his brother Khalid, 12, were playing with their friends near their home in Al-Aroosh in Khawlan district. An eight-member gang approached them and tempted them, saying their father had come back home. But their father hadn't come back home. Instead, the group kidnapped the two boys.

The story of these two kidnapped brothers started when their uncle fell into a quarrel that led to his treacherous murder. Thus, their father insisted on following the perpetrators who killed his brother. He succeeded in obtaining orders from the court and imprisoned them. In retaliation, the relatives of the gang decided to abduct the two children.

Ahmed Al-Awbali, the father of Ali and Khalid, said he spent one full year pursuing the issue of his kidnapped children; the state was unable to help get his boys back.

Al-Awbali said that because of the commonplace insecurity, confrontations and disputes, particularly in Khawlan, kidnapping has become a common occurrence.

"Kidnappers resort to this method in order to pressure the opposite side to do what they desire," he said.

"I sent some people to make sure of the health situation of my kids," he continued.

It was reported back that the boys were shackled with chains.

"I used to contact them stealthily. Once the abductors discovered that; they deprived me from being in touch with them."

“

Kidnapping cases in Yemen have largely spread. This Ramadan, five kidnapping cases were reported. Most of these cases took place in Khawlan and Sanhan.

Al-Awbali informed security in the district about the incident. He obtained mandatory orders to capture the kidnappers, yet security was not able to break into the area and catch them.

Al-Awbali said he is not convinced the government is capable of bringing his sons back home.

"I am certain that the state cannot enter Khawlan area with a military vehicle because of banditry and the common checkpoints spread among tribes, especially over the course of the current events Yemen is witnessing."

Al-Awbali called on all organiza-

tions and on the government to focus on dangers of this phenomenon of kidnapping so that it can stop happening.

"My children were denied peace and education last year. Now they have been deprived of their family."

Akram Al-Qubati, Al-Awbali's lawyer, said, "The case requires the intervention of the tribal solution because the insecurity in the area exposes security personnel to abduction as well once they intervene."

In Yemen, there are dozens of children who are exposed to kidnapping or have been kidnapped in the past.

Nada Al-Faqih from the Observation Unit head in Syaj (Fence) Organization for Protecting Children said, "Kidnapping cases in Yemen have largely spread. This Ramadan, five kidnapping cases were reported. Most of these cases took place in Khawlan and Sanhan."

She said the reason for this phenomenon is revenge and domestic problems among the tribes. It is a means that leads to victimizing children.

Al-Faqih said that, though the government takes action in response to such an issue, abductions remain commonplace in rural areas and tribes.

She said there are other types of kidnappings in Yemen.

"There is human trafficking. Twelve children have been smuggled to Egypt in order to sell their organs. There is also a smuggling network in Yemen through which children are smuggled to Saudi Arabia for labor reasons, begging or sexual manipulation."

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Table with columns for bank names and their phone numbers, including 'بنك التضامن الإسلامي' and 'بنك اليمن الدولي'.

Table with columns for taxi services (تأجير سيارات) and car rental (أجرة سيارات).

Table with columns for computer training (مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر) and ITIL training (NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر).

Table with columns for postal services (البريد السريع) and shipping (شحن وتوصيل).

Table with columns for medical services (مستشفيات) and dining (مطاعم).

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IMPORTANT Numbers... Phone numbers for various government departments and services.

Table listing government ministries and their contact information.

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الكلمة المفقودة كلمات متقاطعة

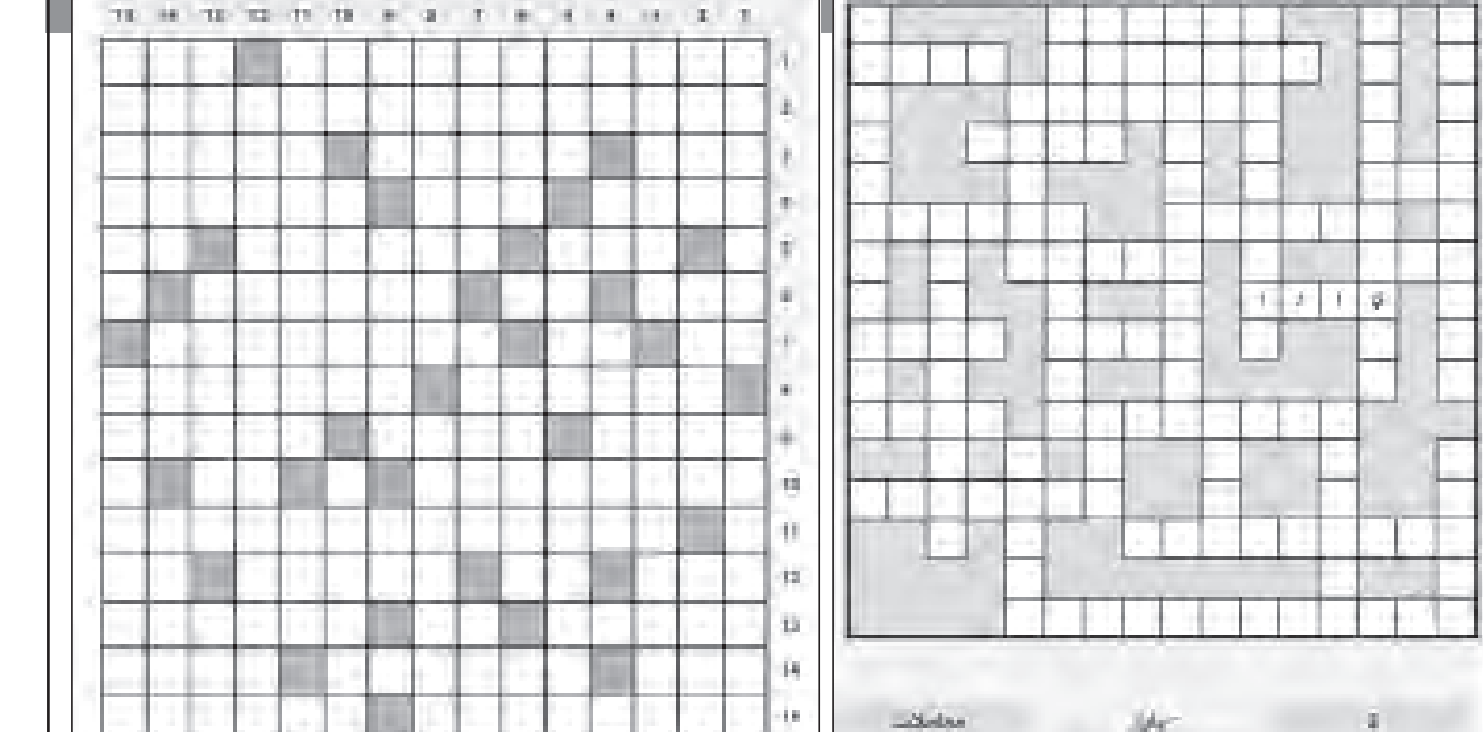


Table with crossword puzzle answers and hints in Arabic.

استراحة العدد

Coffee Break section featuring a crossword puzzle, a word search, and a word puzzle.

Table with crossword puzzle answers and hints in Arabic.

Carnivals at Eid monotonous, too similar

Amal Al-Yarisi

“I spend the Eid holiday visiting relatives, then monotony and sleep overcome me,” Tawfeek Al-Humaidi, a taxi driver, said, claiming there is no fit place he can go in order to enjoy the Eid atmosphere.

He said he has never heard about any carnival that appeals to people and lets them feel interested during Eid.

“Some carnivals are held only during Eid.”

Al-Humaidi's children wait for the carnivals shown on T.V. screens. They ask him to take them to venues, but it's expensive.

He said he wishes to go with his family to other cities or governorate; however, his economic situation leaves him in Sana'a. Al-Humaidi is happy only when he visits his relatives.

Najat Abdul Wahid, a housewife and mother of one son and two daughters, said she prefers to re-



Carnivals at Eid provide entertainment options for families.



Some say Eid carnivals have become monotonous and too similar.

main at home; carnivals are not good enough to draw our interest.

“It is supposed that Eid ceremonies are diverse to provide a means of recreation for people and to alleviate their frustration.”

“I am fed up with the routine of going to a few gardens,” she said, hoping that she would see carnivals with numerous activities such as art, drama or acrobatics.

Wafa No'man, a nurse in Sana'a, opined identically.

“There are no interesting places or carnivals. I don't know where to go.”

She said the government and the people do not care about these carnivals; perhaps it is a lack of awareness.

“If there are carnivals, there are competitions and rewards,” No'man

said. “This is monotonous.”

No'man said she does not like to go to the garden because families flock to such venues, crowding them.

Eid carnivals differ

Nawdir Band holds an annual carnival in Al-Sabeen Park called “Our Eid Carnivals are Different,” which aims to bring an interesting Eid atmosphere in addition to providing educating messages.

Abdulrazaq Al-Azazi, the band's information assistant, said they held their seasonal carnival in Eid,

indicating this carnival involves many musical items such as poetry, acting and bodybuilding games.

He said the carnival continues for six days, starting with the second day of Eid. The carnival attempts as much as possible to instill happiness in people's hearts.

He hopes this carnival can be held everyday, not just at Eid.

“The fund obstructs this hope; there must be a budget for such activities.”

This is the eighth time the carnival has been held in Al-Sabeen Park.

Water campaign aims to collect a million signatures

Nadia Haddash

A campaign, launched in Sana'a last month under the slogan “Water a Matter of Life,” continues its mission to gather a million signatures from residents in different governorates to support the right of having access to healthy and pure water.

The campaign aims to make water an issue that is a government priority.

Having access to water is a religious, national and human right, just like the rights of thought and expression, according to Najeeb Al-Maqtari, a prominent member of the campaign.

Al-Maqtari said the water issue should be one of the most important issues discussed at the upcoming National Dialogue Conference, slated for this fall.

“Providing healthy water throughout Yemen is more important than political issues,” Al-Maqtari said.

About the mechanism of collecting signatures, Saeed Al-Hawsaly, a campaign team member, said the campaign targets people of all ages and backgrounds in Yemeni society because the water shortage is a universal problem that everyone in the country suffers from.

“We will distribute forms to be signed through companies, as-



The initiative is in support of the rights of Yemenis to have access to healthy, clean water.

sociations and private and public centers,” Al-Hawsaly said. “We will spread them among the youth initiative to be able to reach all people.”

“Long ago, we started to suffer from a water shortage,” Dema Al-Hamadi, a student who put her signature down in support of the campaign, said. “It is an opportunity to join this campaign and have my right to receive pure water.”

Jalal Qaed, an accountant in a private company, said it is a very good step to collect a million signatures, but what is important is whether or not the government will

pay attention to it and whether or not there will be positive results.

The campaign started at the end of July and will last for three months. The campaign's team attempts to reach the largest possible number of people through online social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter. It also distributes forms to sign through companies and associations.

Al-Maqtari said at the end of three months, the campaign team will hand over the signatures to Yemen's prime minister along with the priorities of the Water Conference scheduled to occur in September.

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