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عرض كرت المفاجآت من سبافون لجميع مشتركى الدفع المسبق والفتورة

- أعد تعبئة خطك بـ كرت واحد (فئة 80 وحدة - إكسترا) خلال الشهر للدخول في سحبيات على 10 جوائز مالية قيمة كل جائزة 50,000 ريال شهريا.
- أعد تعبئة كرتين (فئة 80 وحدة - إكسترا) خلال الشهر للدخول في سحبيات على 3 جوائز مالية قيمة كل جائزة 500,000 ريال شهريا.
- أعد تعبئة ثلاثة كروت (فئة 80 وحدة - إكسترا) خلال الشهر للدخول في سحب على جائزة 1,000,000 ريال شهريا.
- ومفاجأة "العرض الكبرى" من سبافون سيارة بورش 2008 او فيراكروز 2009 او سانتاج 2009 شهريا عند تعبئتك كرتين أو أكثر من (فئة 80 وحدة - إكسترا).

شروط المسابقة

- أن يكون الفائز بالجائزة هو مالك الخط المعتمد لدى الشركة من خلال بياناته وهويته الموجودة في نظام الاشتراك وبموجب عقد الاشتراك بالخدمة.
- يشترط صحة البيانات لجميع الفائزين ومطابقتها مع النظام الألى ويحق للشركة إلغاء أي جائزة ما لم يكن الفائز بالجائزة يحمل أوراقا قانونية تثبت شخصيته وملكيته للخط.
- يحق للشركة إعلان ونشر أسماء الفائزين في الصحف ووسائل الإعلام بما فيها الرسائل القصيرة المرسله من الشركة.
- تحدد الشركة فترة أسبوعين لاستلام الجائزة وذلك من تاريخ نشر أسماء الفائزين في الصحف. ويحق للشركة عمل وإجراء سحب آخر في نفس الشهر إذا لم يتم الاستلام والتسليم. ويتم الإعلان عن الفائزين حينها وتطبيق الأجراءات السابقة.
- إذا لم يتم استلام أو تسليم الجائزة لأي سبب من الأسباب تلغى الجائزة على الفائز الذي لم يستوفى الشروط أو لم يحضر لاستلامها. ويعاد السحب عليها مرة أخرى في موعد تحدد الشركة.
- تحتفظ الشركة بكافة حقوقها في التعديل أو الإضافة أو الإلغاء بحسب مقتضيات الحاجة و ما تراه مناسبا...



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Istanbul Shopping Fest

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Istanbul Shopping Fest (IFS), which is organized for the third time on June 8-30, 2013, gets ready to bring shopping and entertainment together for Turkish and international consumers in Istanbul. ISF aims to show the richness that Istanbul has through shopping and entertainment. It hopes to take firm steps towards

turning Istanbul into one of the most significant shopping destinations of the world. ISF, which will present shopping, fashion and entertainment together for shopping fans from abroad, organizes Patricia Kaas concert within the activity.

Festival kicks off with cortege

Stating that ISF which has become an unforgettable event ever, ISF General Manager Fusun Tavus says, "Istanbul Shopping Fest Opening Cortege, which is organized on Istiklal Street and Bagdat Street as a classic on its first anniversary, is inspired by the



colours of Istanbul this year."

Istanbul Shopping Fest's shopping bag opens and discounts special for fest begin

Everyone will feel the opening enthusiasm with events. After the opening cortege, ISF symbol shopping bag will be opened and discounts special for the fest will begin. This will go on for 23 days.

ISF to contribute value to Istanbul

Indicating Istanbul is a centre which can compete with many cities in the world thanks to both its geographical position and other richness and ISF will provide contribution to brand value of Istanbul.

Hadise and Patricia Kaas to be on the stage

Hadise will enliven the inauguration of the festival. Besides, world-wide known singer Patricia Kaas will give an unforgettable concert with Edith Piaf songs on June 16 at Life-Park.

Galata Fashion Fest to draw attention to design in ISF

Galata Fashion Fest was inspired from the idea of Fashion Designers Association (MTD), which was to

establish a fashion street in Istanbul, and is held every year. It will be held at Nisantasi Art Park on June 12-16. There will be entertainment with surprise parties as well.

A brand new service for foreign guests: Istanbul Shopping Fest Traveller Card

Istanbul Shopping Fest Traveller Card which offers exclusive and brand new services for foreign customers was prepared to turn Istanbul into one of world's shopping attractions.

Fusun Tavus: "Our target expenditure for this year is TL8.5 bln"

"Istanbul Shopping Fest isn't only a retail and shopping activity. ISF makes many contributions to Turkey's economy. ISF reached TL7.5 billion domestic spending volume in 21 days in its second year (2012).

Cooperation for Istanbul's brand value

Istanbul Shopping Fest which contributes a lot to Turkish economy will be held with the institutions that want to contribute to the brand value of Istanbul.

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Advertisement: Call for Specialized Researchers on Child Friendly Social Sector Budget Assessment

The Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation (MoPIC) is pleased to announce its need for specialized researchers to conduct study on Child Friendly Social Sector Budget Assessment, which will be prepared under the guidance of MoPIC, and in close collaboration with the UNICEF Office in Sana'a. The following is the terms of reference and scope of work:

Background

Social protection is highlighted as a key priority in the Transitional Programme for Stabilization and Development 2012-2014. However, there is yet no strategic framework on social protection. One key pre-requisite is to conduct a social sector budget assessment, which focuses on children, which will feed into two key processes: the formulation process of the national social protection strategy; and the child friendly budgeting process. This is key in a country like Yemen, where over half of the population are children whom continue to suffer from poor nutrition, inadequate health and education services among other things. Therefore, placing children at the centre of the development planning will allow for sustainable development.

Objectives

- Examine the resources that government is allocating and spending on programmes that benefit children, and whether these programmes adequately reflect the needs of children.
- Identify the resources gaps and challenges facing the social spending. Also, identify how to maximize the efficiency and efficacy of existing expenditures
- Improve public expenditure management, and raise its efficiency
- Provide policymakers, implementers, legislators, and civil society, donors with the necessary information and analytical resource to consider the particular needs of children.

- Review the process of social sector budget to be institutionalized within future routine tasks of the government.

The Research Team Key Assignments

- Map the budget process and stakeholders. The steps should include the following, but not limited:
 - Review of current legislations and policies related to central and governorate level budget.
 - Meet relevant officials to capture the budget processes.
 - Analyse budget process, transparency, efficiency, equitability, decentralization and disparity.
 - Include an investigation into what happens when the government does not provide the necessary social services for children.
- Analyse the public budget in relation to child focus/sensitivity. The analyses should include the following, but not limited:
 - Review budget allocations and spending, and identify budget gaps
 - Analyse planned allocation versus expenditure
 - Analyse areas that have the highest impact on the lives of children
 - Examining the budgetary trade-offs involved in the reprioritization of government spending.

3. Highlight the following issues:

- Weak fiscal sustainability and social sector budget,
- Impacts of new developments (2011) on social spending,
- Linkage between the distribution of public resources among governorates and key social (children) indicators.
- Needed resources to meet children rights and how it could be financed (financing options).
- Fiscal decentralization and social budget.

4. Propose policy options, resource mobilisation, and allocations options to be considered in the future

5. Facilitate dissemination workshops to present the results of the child friendly budget review assessment

6. In collaboration with the international consultant, develop a framework/tool for budget review suitable for the Yemeni budgeting context

Timeframe, Supervision, and Expected Deliverables:

The timeframe for preparing the study will consist of 6 months in total. Throughout the development of the study, the research team will report on progress to the steering committee on monthly basis or when required. Steering committee will comprise of key government officials from respective Ministries, and it will be instrumental in providing the appropriate government oversight and national ownership.

The Research Team will be responsible to deliver the following:

- Detailed schedule of activities, timeframe, workshops, and participation mechanisms including list of meetings with respective government officials
- Final and agreed conceptual and analytical framework for the study
- Draft and final inception report which include: methodology, availability of data sources, information gap analysis, outline of the study, detailed work plan
- Submit the comprehensive final draft of the study (soft and hard copies) in Arabic and English languages, which include executive summary in two languages (Arabic and English); as well as policy briefs

Qualifications/or specialized knowledge/experience required:

- Master degree, preferably PhD in economics, public finance, or related field.
- At least 10 years of experience of working in the field of public finance, or related field.
- Previous experience of undertaking similar assignments.
- Knowledge of social budgeting and social policy.
- Proven experience in writing analytical papers and demonstrated ability to produce clear policy recommendations.
- Good working knowledge in both languages English and Arabic.

Researchers are invited to send their CVs to the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation at the following e-mail (technical.mopic@gmail.com).

Deadline for receiving applications: June 15, 2013.

Power cuts got you down?



Electricity in the capital has gone out at least 25 times in the past two months, leaving millions in the dark. Sixty-year-old Haj Ahmed Bader has found his own way to cope with Sana'a's repeated blackouts, caused by repeated attacks on electrical infrastructure. He crafts homemade, recycled lanterns. "Necessity is the mother of invention," he says. Go to Page 5 for the full story.

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Air strikes hit Abyan governorate

Yemen's Air Force Commander denies involvement, American drones likely

The commander of Yemen's Air Forces, Rashid Al-Janad said that he was "unaware of any air strikes that have been launched" by Yemeni planes.

Lieutenant colonel Ahmed Qaed, the security officer of Aviation Bri-

gade 90 at Al-A'nd Air Base, a base located in the south of the country, said that to his knowledge no air raid has been launched in the last two days.

Al-Mahfad district is said to be one of the prime strongholds of

those Al-Qaeda members who were pushed out of Zunjabar, Ja'ar and Lawder areas by the Yemeni army last year in coordination with the Popular Defense Committees, local groups of militia which collaborated with the state.

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

ABYAN June 3 — Two suspected members of Al-Qaeda were killed on Saturday in two separate air strikes, both in the mountainous district of Al-Mahfd in the southern governorate of Abyan.

Brigadier Mohammed bin Mohammed, the head of the Intelligence Department in Abyan, could not confirm whether the attack was from an American drone, however he stated that previous instances of confirmed American drones strikes in the area make it seem likely that this case would be the same.

According to Mohammed, two drone strikes hit two separate vehicles within half an hour of each other. Mohammed suspects that Awadh Ali Lakra, a leading figure in Al-Qaeda in Abyan, was riding in one of the cars, but his death has yet to be confirmed.

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Yemeni entrepreneurs present their ideas in Sana'a

Story and photo by Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A June 3 — It's difficult for Yemenis to find platforms to show their talents and promising projects. But last week, Startup Weekend, a global network of entrepreneurs, brought dozens of talented youths together in Sana'a to present and share their ideas and small projects. Startup Weekend works to motivate, educate and enable ambitious youths and teams to share their ideas, talents and projects. Amal Al-Mureisi, one of the organizers of the event, believes that "such events are very important for the Yemeni society in order to

foster the entrepreneurial mindset especially among youth." "This project helps young people to think about entrepreneurship as an opportunity to develop their self-confidence," Al-Mureisi. For Al-Mureisi, such events help ambitious youths to test their skills and analyze the changes taking place in their country. Basem Al-Sulaihi presented his small project that was met with the applause of the attendees. He hopes to set up his own broadcast Internet channel. "We have many ideas but the problem is the lack of funding," he said. "Yemeni Youths have brilliant ideas

that need to be fostered." "It's a great opportunity for the youth not only to present new business ideas but also to link their innovative ideas to the investors and the market leaders," said Khalil Al-Mikhlaifi, an attendee who is working at Yemen Microfinance Network. He added, "I have seen a lot of innovative ideas presented by the youth. What makes the business ideas presented today very amazing is the comprehensive analysis of the real cost and the profit margin for each project." Holding events like this in Yemen will help to creating a good environment for young people to start their own business, Al-Mikhlaifi said.



Platforms for young aspiring businessmen are hard to come by in Sana'a, but this recent event was an exception.



The Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology started on Saturday to give out the discounts on Internet service which had been previously promised in January. The percent of the discount ranges from 28 to 50 for all subscriptions. The Internet service has been struggling since the last two months with repetitive cuts because of attacks on the optical fibers in many different areas.

Ethiopian detainees in the Central Prison of Taiz hope to go back to their home country in the coming days. Mustafa Ghanim, the deputy head of the Central Prison, said the Ethiopians entered the country illegally and have been detained temporarily inside the prison. He said about 400 Ethiopians were brought from Mocha Port, adding that they will be deported in the next two days.

It has been announced that 201 people were killed in traffic accidents nationwide in the month of May. In addition, a report from the Information Center of the Interior Ministry found that 914 people were injured in accidents. The report found the cause of these accidents to be "high speed and reckless driving." The previous month, reported traffic accidents numbered 150.

By Nasser Al-Saqqaf

Thousands of weapons seized in Taiz

Turkish embassy refutes connection with previous shipments of smuggled arms

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

TAIZ, June 3 — On Friday, the security apparatus seized a truck in Maoza District, loaded with weapons believed to have originated in Turkey, according to military officials. Brigadier General Mohammed Al-Shaeri said the arms were concealed in mounds of salt. The seized truck was taken to the Security Directorate in order to record the smuggling, and later sent the arms to a military region in Taiz. Brigadier General Ali Musad, commander of Taiz military region,

said the arms were confiscated in coordination with Taiz Intelligence Bureau. Military forces exchanged gunfire with the smugglers and shot out the truck's tires to stop it. The smugglers evaded capture and their whereabouts are unknown. The same day, two other boats were also prevented from unloading presumably smuggled arms in Mocha Port, Al-Shaeri said. The boats fled the scene with the weapons. This is the second attempt to smuggle arms to Taiz during May. It came only two days after the governor of Taiz announced that security procedures had been intensified. Mohammed Al-Khaled, a professor at the Police Academy, said these attempted instances of smuggling don't bode well.

"In the past, the security apparatus collaborated with smugglers," Al-Khaled said. "We haven't heard about smugglers who have been punished recently." Al-Khaled pointed out that the state should deal strictly with such things and bring smugglers to court. "The authorities in charge of the Turkish and Yemeni coasts seem to be collaborating with the smugglers. Otherwise, they won't be able to smuggle these arms repetitively." In a previous statement to the Yemen Times, the Turkish ambassador Fazli Chorman told the Yemen Times that Turkey was in no way tied to smuggled weapons which make their way into the country, even if markings on the guns may suggest so.

Two high level officers assassinated in Hadrmout

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

HADRMOU, June 3 — An unspecified but large number of soldiers from the Seyon air police are threatening to close the airport if authorities do not intervene and bring the murderers of two senior official who were killed in recent days to justice, Hussein Hashim, the security manager of Seyon district, said. Two high level government officers were assassinated Saturday in Seyon district of Hadrmout governorate in two separate accidents. Armed men shot brigadier Yahia Al-Umaisi, the head of

the air police branch at Seyon Intentional Airport as he was leaving the headquarters of the Migration and Passports Authority in the middle of a public market and in front of a police station, Hashim said. The perpetrators fled the scene. Colonel Abdulrahman Bashukail, the manager of the criminal investigations department in Wadi Hadrmout, was assassinated few hours later. Bashukail's car exploded in Seyon City, Hashim said, presumably caused by an explosive device installed inside the car. In addition to killing the manager, one bodyguard was injured.

Army foils attack in Shabwah

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SHABWA, June 3 — Army forces foiled on Sunday an attempted attack on gas pipelines in Belhaf, in Shabwa governorate. The deputy governor of Shabwa, Sheikh Nasser Al-

Mulaishi told the Yemen Times that two cars were driving towards the gate of the Belhaf Gas Company, in what appears to have been an attempt to strike pipelines. One car exploded, following clashes with soldiers who were

guarding the gas company, one of the biggest projects of its kind in Yemen. The second car sped off. Al-Mulaishi said that to his knowledge there were no casualties, but some injuries were reported among soldiers.

Security manager survives assassination attempt

Dhamar official says that armed gang, not Al-Qaeda, is behind attack

Mohammed Al-Hassani

DHAMAR, June 3 — Brigadier Abdulkareem Al-Odaini, the security manager of Dhamar governorate said that an "armed gang" is behind a recent attack that was launched against him. On Saturday, bullets spattered Al-Odaini's car while on Al-Husainya road, near the headquarters of the security department of the governorate. Al-Odaini was not hit and his

armed bodyguards exchanged fire with the gunmen, who soon fled the scene. No casualties were reported. Al-Odaini suspects that this attack was related with the recent capture of members of a local gang. The ringleader is still at large, Al-Odaini said. Al-Odaini indicated that four of the gang members were caught, adding that they have been referred to the specialized criminal prosecution in Sana'a to stand a trial. The security authorities in Dhamar said they have been receiving many notifications from

locals about this gang that practices thefts, looting and banditry on Dhamar-Hodeida-Sana'a road. Al-Odaini described the security situation in Dhamar as "good," but admitted that "there are some problems, but we deal with them. The security situation in Dhamar is better than some governorates." A statement from the Ministry of Interior said that some recent assassinations—like two which occurred over the weekend in Hadrmout—"bear the stamp" of Al-Qaeda attacks. However, the assassination attempt on Al-Odaini appears to have been launched by an armed gang, not the terrorist organization.

Campaign launched to keep Old Sana'a on UNESCO list

Samar Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, June 3 — On Sunday, the Ministry of Culture and the Capital Secretariat launched a national campaign for protecting Old Sana'a. Waleed Anaba, a local council member in Old Sana'a, told the Yemen Times that the campaign

will last one year, and will help eliminate new, unregulated constructions within the city and rehabilitate the antique buildings of the Old City. The budget of this locally-funded campaign is YR60 million (about \$280,000), Anaba said. Certain ministries in Yemen are currently in talks with UNESCO,

hoping to prevent the much-threatened removal of the Old Sana'a from the list of World Heritage Sites, due to the general disrepair of the city. Old Sana'a was built in the fifth century and is one of the oldest cities in the world. It includes 103 mosques and 6,000 houses that were built prior to the 11th century.

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“Yemenis themselves need help, but they provide aid for others” Syrian refugees in Sana'a

Rammah Al-Jubari

Abu Rahf came to Yemen five months ago as a Syrian refugee. He declined to give his full name to the press and didn't want to be photographed. But when it came to speaking about the details of his journey from Syria to Yemen, he had no hesitations.

Since the breakout of armed confrontations in Syria in March of 2011, roughly half a million have been displaced to Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Yemen, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Abu Rahf, along with his wife, mother and 8-year old daughter, chose Yemen to be their destination. Now they are among other estimated over one thousand Syrian refugees in the capital city of Sana'a.

Back in Syria, Abu Rahf recalled, he used to hug his family every day before going to work outside of Damascus. He stayed in the basement of his home, to protect his family from regular shellings and gunfire which ravaged his area.

Every time he left home, he remembered, he thought it might be the last time he saw his family, it was that dangerous.

Abu Rahf was already involved in the conflict which has gripped his country for the past two years. He worked at a relief station, providing aid for internally displaced people.

“But then my workplace was attacked [by state forces],” he said. “My hand was paralyzed after my right shoulder was hit.”

It was then that he made the decision to take his chances outside of the country.

Abu Rahf crossed first into Lebanon where about 400,000 Syrian refugees have stayed, according to the May report of UNHCR. After a few days in Lebanon he—along



Many Syrians live with family members in Yemen.



Some of those refugees who come to Sana'a set up successful businesses, others panhandle on the capital's streets.

with many other Syrian families—flew to Yemen.

Abu Rahf arrived in Yemen in the beginning of 2013.

He said the living situation surprised him here. “Yemenis themselves need help, but they provide aid for others.”

He is hosted by another Syrian family residing in Sana'a, but

currently out of work. “I'm unemployed,” he said. “I can't feed my family.”

The head of the United Nation General Assembly delivered a speech on May 15 of this year, indicating that over 80,000 have been killed during the armed confrontations in Syria. This has led many Syrians, around half a million

to leave the country to save their lives.

Set up in late 2011, the Popular Committee for supporting Yemen and Sham (the Arabic term for the countries of Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan) offers support for those Syrian refugees who arrive in Yemen.

Osama Nader is a committee member. He is a Syrian residing in Yemen. Nader said the committee operates to provide the Syrian refugees with residence and basic needs.

“The committee receives support from Yemeni and Syrian benefactors,” he said. “But there is no support from the Yemeni government.”

Nader asserts that many of the Syrians who arrived in Yemen are highly skilled. They are qualified workers, he said. The committee helps find them jobs so that could lead “a dignified life” here in Sana'a.

It is hard to gauge just how many Syrians, fleeing the conflict in their country, have come to call Yemen their temporary home. Jamal Al-Jabi, the Legal Protection Officer in the UNHCR's Yemen office, said that 144 Syrian families, each composed of 4 to 6 members, applied for asylum in Yemen and are still awaiting their official statuses. But not all Syrians have applied for asylum status.

The UNHCR in Yemen provides health services for refugees, Al-Jabi said, through its health centers and awareness campaigns. The group also works to get refugee children—not just from Syria but also for those coming the horn of Africa—for free.

Nader said instead of registering with the UNHCR many Syrians have opted to stay with family or friends who have already established themselves here.

Yemen is in the midst of its own crises, currently witnessing diffi-

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cult internal problems that make it hard for citizens, let alone refugees, to get good services, Abdulla Al-Zurqa, director of Deportation Department at the Immigration and Passports Authority said.

“The Interior Ministry gave orders to facilitate and exempt those Syrians who enter the country and leave from taxes imposed all people entering and leaving the country,” he added.

Al-Zurqa estimates that about 200 Syrian families, around 1,000 or 1,2000 individuals, have come to Sana'a since 2011. These families

can be classified into three categories, Al Zurqa said: merchants and businessmen who arrived in Yemen and start their own businesses, middle-income families who have been hosted by families here and those lower income Syrians, who Al-Zurqa said are living in poor, “destitute” conditions here.

Abu Rahaf and his family belong to the third category. He's eager to go home, he said, to Syria.

“I hope that my daughter will be able to keep studying,” he said. And that Syria will be safe and secure, like before.”

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Folk superstitions abound in Yemen Bad luck or good luck?

Amal Al-Yarisi

There are hundreds of superstitions in Yemen, passed down through the generations—a kind of living folk history of the country.

Many of them are still alive today, despite the fact that the superstitions are considered *haram*, or forbidden, in some religious strains. It's also a wonder that the folk traditions survive in a rapidly modernizing country like Yemen.

For whatever reason, these folk traditions are resilient.

Afrah Al-Ariqi's friend Jehan will be married soon. Afrah says that at the wedding the plans on pinching her friend, the bride, walking on her foot, and drinking a glass of juice that the bride has first drank from.

All of these things, Afrah says, will ensure that she, too, will get married soon.

"I'll be lucky and [have the] opportunity to get married soon," Afrah says.

Other superstitions revolve around recognizing ill omens as they appear around you.

"If a hornet comes into your house, it warns us against an ominous thing," said Fatima Al-Hakimi, a 90-year-old woman.

Al-Hakimi believes in this superstition. It's so important, she says, that she has made sure to pass it along to her four sons and 20 grandchildren.

"The insect enters the house to warn us against bad news on the horizon," she says. It is an omen.



Breaking an egg after a bride has left her family's home for the first time, superstition holds, will fend off any jealousy or envy that might be sent her way.

When she sees the bug, she prays to God to protect her family.

Believing in superstitions is not a matter of literacy or illiteracy as one might think. It can have nothing to do with the level of a person's education.

Sabah Mohammed belongs

to a well-educated family from Taiz. She thinks of herself as an intellectual, but she, too, believes in superstitions.

Some she follows on a daily basis.

When she lies down to sleep, Sabah doesn't lay on top of her

hand. This would bring bad luck, she says.

There is another superstition Sabah's family believes in. After a woman leaves the house for marriage, a family member takes an egg and smashes it on the ground.

Sabah said that after the egg is broken the bride will be protected from any envy and jealousy that might be directed at her because of her marriage.

Ayman Ahmed, a university student from Sana'a, wondered aloud how these superstitions continue in spite of changing times.

"We are not in the stone age," he said.

Superstitions such as these have been receiving criticism for years, though. In particular, many religious scholars say that belief in these superstitions have no place in Islam.

Najah Shahteer, a preacher in Belal Mosque in Sana'a, said that she regretted folk traditions had been passed down through the generations. Religion and a reverence for God should be the basis of a person's life, not superstition.

Abdulla Al-Radi sells religious books on Sana'a's Shumaila Street. He took his criticism one step further.

Superstitions are "triggered by Satan," he said.

Only God determines a person's destiny, he said.

Regardless of criticism, ask most Yemenis and they'll rail off a list of superstitions they know of. They might not be sure where they first heard them, their origins are murky.

But everyone knows: When the right hand itches, money is headed your way. But if your left hand starts to feel itchy, it means you'll spend money.

If someone takes off their shoes and the shoes overlap unintentionally, they will travel soon. It's also common knowledge that if your back starts to itch, someone is gossiping about you.

When a baby tooth falls out, it should be thrown towards the sun. This will guarantee that a new tooth grows in its place.

Afrah believes firmly in the value of such folk superstitions. She shrugs off the critics.

"Some people say these things are crazy and untrue," she says. But not her.

Shahi Haleeb



You're on a plane, not a bus!

Sara Al-Zawqari

Travelling in a Yemeni plane is an exceptional experience.

You can't get on without seeing an argument about seats. There is always a family that wants to sit together, even if they haven't booked the seats together beforehand. They stand in the airplane corridor refusing to budge, and people behind them wait until the dilemma is over.

The man shouts and shouts. The stewardess tries to calm him down, passengers interfere, but he keeps shouting until someone stands up and gives away his seat. When you finally get to your seat, you're faced with the reality that someone is already sitting refusing to move.

"I came first," they say.

There is something called a boarding pass—you know that small paper you hold in your hand and it has your seat number?—please sit where it indicates.

This is a plane, not a bus.

If you want to sit together with your family you have three options.



Talk to the hostess, talk to the person you want to exchange with nicely or to avoid all this hassle, choose your seat online.

Then there are the men and women who refuse to sit next to each other. These people cause the biggest drama, and make everyone feel awkward. What do you want the airline to do? Make a family section, or put the women on one side and the men on the other side?

Just sit. You don't have to talk to each other. Each one can read a book. You are in a public place.

Yemenis have a problem with turning off their phones on the plane. The plane starts moving, and the person in the back calls the qat seller on his phone.

"I'm on the plane, get some fine qat ready," he says. And they continue the conversation, not caring that the plane is taking off, or that using mobile phones is prohibited.

I just want to know what is the point of using phones when the plane is about to take off. Do conversations get sweeter? You had all the time in the world to talk, in the car, in the airport, and in the waiting room.

Finish your calls, and then get on the plane. Why can't people understand? Mobile phones are banned, it's written in Arabic, English French, Indian—in any language you like.

Once, when I was on the way to Aden, the plane stopped in Sana'a first to take a few passengers. A group of men huddles around the stewardess, arguing, begging nagging. They wanted to go down for a smoke. They made me feel like they were kids, who wanted to go out to play but they were grounded! You are not allowed to go out little ones. You're not allowed to smoke, my darlings.

Planes are also full of sleazy men who act like they have never seen a lady in their life. They press the stewardess button every 10 seconds, just to see the poor lady. One time they want water, another time they want salta, then they start flirting. If a hostess gets you water, it doesn't mean that she wants your number. It's her job.

So, take all of my warnings and tips into account. Save up and go for a trip if you can. Pack your bags, get out there.

I wish you a pleasant flight.

Hear more of Shahi Haleeb weekdays on Radio Yemen Times, aired 1:30–2:30 p.m. and 10:00–11:00 p.m., Saturday through Thursday. Tune your dial to 88.8 and thanks for listening!



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Power cuts may plague the capital but for this Sana'ani

Homemade lanterns light the way



Retired soldier and resident of Old Sana'a Haj Ahmed Bader won't let frequent power cuts stop him from living his life. He builds his own lanterns, filling old cans and bottles with kerosene.

Story and photos by Samar Qaed

Soft lights glitter in Haj Ahmed Bader's house during the evening. Although in his sixties, Bader is still strong. He holds one of his homemade lanterns in his hands. Methodically, he goes from room to room, lighting more of these small candles. There are over a dozen, some perched on stairs, resting on windowsills, on the kitchen counter and in the bathroom.

He looks proudly at the lanterns that light his entire house in Al-Tabari, a neighborhood of Old Sana'a.

Bader wouldn't call himself a romantic person. He's a stern man, a retired soldier. But he makes these lanterns, he says to light the black nights.

Life in Yemen, Bader says, inspires people to be inventors.

Bader hatched his idea long ago. During the brief, brutal Civil War of 1994 between South and North, Yemen, there was a shortage of basic items, such as bread, flour and

sugar. Power outages were common, Bader says, and candles were also scarce.

"One day, I went out looking for candles, but couldn't find any. The shopowners said they ran out," he said.

Bader went home empty-handed. Once he was in his house, he noticed that one of his children—six-year-old Ali—was missing. He couldn't see anything in the dark and began calling out his name. There was no answer and Bader started to really worry.

He searched for Ali in the dark and kept calling his name. He walked through the narrow, dark alleys of Old Sana'a, but didn't find his son anywhere. Just before he



Life in Yemen, Bader says, inspires regular people to become inventors.

gave up hope, he saw the sky light up as warplane fought overhead. That's when he saw his son, standing in the street and watching the fighting, as if they were fireworks.

He scooped him up in his arms, thankful. The story has a happy ending, but Bader was determined: he wouldn't be left in the dark anymore.

That night, he set to work. Seeing a lantern and a juice bottle made of glass beside him that day, Bader came up with the idea.

Bader brought the cotton, rubbing it in his palms, transforming it into a long, thick wick. After that, he fastened a hollow nail casing at the opening of the bottle. It was almost ready. Bader filled the bottle with kerosene and lit the wick.

Bader stayed up watching his new lantern's flames. It burnt all night. In the morning, Bader blew out the candle, proving to his family: he can provide for them during power outages.

Bader bought lots of glass bottles the next day. Now, it takes him only 15 minutes to make a lantern.

Bader gave some of his lanterns to the neighbors. Over time word spread. Everyone in the neighborhood asked for one. "Even some relatives in Taiz asked me to send them some," he said.

Bader sells his homemade lanterns for YR150.

Mohammed Al-Nisi, a childhood friend of Bader, was the first to be given three

lanterns as a gift.

"These lanterns help us overcome the current power crisis we have with these repetitive power cuts," Mohammed said.

Mohammed Al-Aqwa, a young man, came to Bader with two

bottles which he asked the retired soldier to transform into lanterns. Al-Aqwa said that these lanterns are economical. They're good for three months, using just with half of a bottle of kerosene.

In one of the narrow lanes in Al-Tabari neighborhood, Mohammed Al-Marwani, who has been a neighbor of Bader for about 40 years, said the government should reward Bader because he has helped locals address the problem of electricity cuts.

Two school girls, Eglal and Hanan, came to Bader asking him to give them two of his new lanterns.

"We have exams, and we can't study in the dark," she said.

Bader said that it's a shame that the electricity infrastructure is under constant attack. "The Interior Minister should take action and stop such attacks."

But Bader is also a realist. He doesn't think that the power cuts will end anytime soon. Life must go on.

"These crises are ongoing," he said. "But we can use our hands to find a solution. Necessity is the mother of invention."



During frequent power cuts, customers of Bader's study by the light of his lanterns.

Coping with the power cuts

Over the last two months, the power in Sana'a has been cut 25 times, officials sources say, leaving the capital—the largest city in Yemen—in the dark. The sputter and growl of small generators has become a common sound on the capital's streets. How are you getting by with no electricity?



Manal Saleh Hussein, studies at Sana'a University. "Once the electricity goes out, we invoke God against those people who sabotaged the power lines," she says. "After that, we look for flashlights. We're getting used to this situation."



Saleh Saleh Al-Thufri, a designer said, "We get depressed. We curse the people who cut the power. We also curse the Ministry of Electricity and the Ministry of Interior. Then we start our generator."



Abdualmalek Ameen Al-Sharabi, a waiter, said electricity is the "pulse of life." "Once the electricity goes out, we go onto streets," he says. "The climate is humid and it gets worst as we burn the candles inside."



Saleh Hassan Thawaf is a musician from Hajja governorate. "When electricity goes out, I go to bed or I turn on my cell phone to listen to religious sermon or some songs."



Bader winds cotton into a wick, which he will use to light his lanterns.

Zaid Al-Shami, the head of the Islah Party in Parliament, to the Yemen Times:

“The more concessions we make, the more arrogant GPC members become”

A dispute has surfaced between the General People Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) in the Parliament. The JMP accused the GPC of “hijacking” the Parliament and temporarily suspended their participation. But what is dangerous, according to some analysts, is that this disagreement could trigger a political crisis. The GPC and JMP are the main signatories of the Gulf Initiative and, some say, they are responsible for the success of the political reconciliation. The Yemen Times met with, Zaid Al-Shami, the head of the Islah Party in Parliament, one of the key parties of the JMP, to get to the bottom of this dispute.

Interview and photo by Mohammed Al-Hasani

Is the current parliamentary session different from past sessions?

As you know, the Parliament, according to the Gulf Initiative, should focus on the mission of political reconciliation and the National Dialogue Conference. This mission means that the Parliament represents a state of reconciliation, absolutely different from the past. According to the Gulf Initiative, there is no majority or minority. The JMP and GPC are [meant to be] equal in front of all the issues posed.

But some say the Parliament is illegitimate, and others say there is a regulation that streamlines the function of the Parliament.

First, in terms of the period of the Parliament, it was over in 2009. There was an extension according to a constitutional amendment. In my opinion, the amendment was unnecessary at that time.

Why?

Because the constitution stipulates the Parliament could persist if the circumstances are not conducive to conducting elections. However [it has been agreed that the] Gulf Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism substitute the contradictory constitutional provisions. Another article of the Gulf Initiative goes that all the decisions taken [in Parliament] should be unanimous.

Did this happen?

We have the understanding to reconcile. Our brothers in the GPC still think that they should continue as the sweeping majority and the ones who rule over the situation. We have gone on pairing up because we don't want to create any problems. Yet, when the situation diverts from the reasonable scope, persistence is hard.

Do you think the pause of parliamentary sessions after signing the Gulf Initiative contributed to settling the situation down?

No. The parliament went on recess in January as usual. But its resumption was late because of matters related to approving the budget. The recess was also put off because there were not urgent issues entailing a session or a meeting. The agenda of the current sessions of Parliament lists no urgent issues in need of resolution because the NDC is in full swing and it includes about 50 parliamentarians.

Why do you not suspend your participation since the start of the current session as long as the action mechanism is disputed?

Of course, we shoulder a huge deal of the fault because of our goodwill. We wanted the Parliament to be part of the solution, not the opposite. Since the first moment, we overlooked the end of the presidium period which came to a close in February of 2012.

The majority of these committees have not been functional thus far. We overlooked the progress of

the Parliament, its administration and its general secretariat. We did this in order to help the Parliament go on as per the reconciliation. We compromised and paired up. Sometimes, we disagreed.

But our brothers in the GPC want to restore the past, seeing that it is their right to resolve everything regardless of others. If any law or bill is proposed, it is supposed that we should agree on them and refer them to a specialized committee. In the reverse, when the law is proposed, they (GPC Parliament members) turn it down immediately, even before the passage of 48 hours according to the regulation of the Parliament. They agree on another law though we object. That means they have not understood the sense of partnership yet.

Do you think the delay of setting up a committee to explain the terms of the Gulf Initiative has been a reason behind the ongoing disagreement between the JMP and GPC?

Absolutely, I agree with you. This committee was supposed to be established since the start of implementing the Gulf Initiative. Anyhow, the delay of forming such a committee created problems not only in the Parliament, but also in many different aspects. I also notice another thing: neither the politicians nor the sponsors of the Gulf Initiative have given the Parliament enough attention. We attended many activities held in the presidential compound. The members of the Parliament and its presidium were unhappy about the neglect they faced.

Frankly speaking, everyone has contributed to marginalizing the role of the Parliament in this phase, including the political leadership and the president of the republic. Perhaps he thinks it is not important to resolve the disputes of the Parliament so long as things are going, and he reckons that the former-opposition is satisfied with its role at present.

What are the exact reasons that made you suspend your participation in the Parliament?

The direct reason is a bill that amends the government universities' law which the government sent to the Parliament. Such government bills are usually referred to the specialized committee to prepare a report to the Parliament. Sultan Al-Barakani, head of the General People's Congress' (GPC), Nasser Arman, head of the Independent Members' bloc and I were in a meeting with the Good Governance Committee in the NDC and didn't attend this session. Al-Barakani left in the middle of the meeting to attend the session in the Parliament. Suddenly, I received a call saying the Parliament turned upside down because this bill was voted for and the GPC's bloc rejected it and the Joint Meeting Parties' bloc (JMPs) withdrew because it wasn't given the opportunity to comment on it and deemed that great irreverence, which indicates the existence of several problems



Zaid Al Shami says that some GPC members want to “restore the past,” and are unwilling to move forward.

in the upcoming period. Therefore, we demanded correcting the work of the Parliament in the future.

Some say only Islah's bloc suspended participation in the Parliament?

Unfortunately, the GPC members are used to deal arrogantly with others. Although they know it's the stance of the entire JMPs, they spread through media that only the Islah party stopped attending the Parliament sessions. This is untrue and they may judge by the attendance of a member from the Nasserite Unionist People's Organization but we deal with the party as a whole which asserted they are of the same stance of the JMPs.

Did you stop attending the Parliament sessions only due to the refusal of the bill or for other reasons too?

No. Actually it's an accumulated matter. The more concessions we make, the more arrogant the GPC members become, as if they are the only members of the Parliament. We know that several blocs such as the Free Members bloc and Justice and Building bloc have left the GPC.

Do you mean the GPC invests its influence in the Parliament to oppose you following the change that took place?

First, I support the existence of the GPC either inside or outside the Parliament. We need a real political power either participating in authority or in opposition. So, since the very beginning of the 2011 revolution, all said the GPC should effectively contribute to the change process instead of being restricted to some individuals. Now the GPC is greatly contributing to the NDC and we're very pleased with that. The GPC should participate in forming the future because exclusion has caused Yemen several calamities. The Gulf Initiative stipulated the parliament should be reconciliatory run but the GPC members misunderstood reconciliation and thought we should agree

with them in everything.

But some in the GPC say the main reason behind your opposition isn't the reconciliatory work but that you want to get the Parliament head's position?

First the head of the Parliament isn't a sacred position that suits only some people. The GPC has half of the ministries in the government and all state associations. Even they want the job rotation law they prepared to be implemented only among them and forgot the various qualified people who have been ignored and marginalized.

Anyway, the Parliament head's position should be reconciliatory between us because the institutional work is absent in the Parliament. For example, if any of the GPC ministers is summoned to the Parliament to be questioned, a long time passes but he doesn't attend. However, if the summoned minister belongs to the JMPs, the National Council sends him five orders to attend and he attends within the same week and eventually everything he is accused of turn to be all wrong.

After all you said, do you think the Parliament is currently in a phase where its existence or absence is similar?

Yes. With this performance, the Parliament is only a stumbling block obstructing the political compromise. Unless the situation is improved, its existence or absence will be similar. Therefore,

the JMPs may take a final attitude of the Parliament if the president and politicians didn't intervene to save the situation and include the parliament among the reconciliatory system.

Don't you have any visions to improve the situation in the Parliament?

Actually we provided several visions long time ago. A committee headed by Mohammed Al-Shadadi, deputy head of the parliament, was established and we attended several meetings and presented visions to run the Parliament but then everything was canceled and we haven't been invited to meetings. Anyway, we have a vision through which we can run the parliament in a proper way to serve neither the JMPs nor GPC but the reconciliatory period.

How will you deal with what the Parliament issues?

All decrees the Parliament issues without reconciliation will be considered null and void and the GPC's General Committee will be the source of these decrees and the parliament will no longer be a parliament.

For how long you will suspend your participation?

Until GPC members come to their senses and [recognize the legitimacy] of the Gulf Initiative they signed.

Translated from the Arabic by Bassam Al-Khameri and Khalid Al-Karimi

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رئيس كتلة «الإصلاح»:

القرارات التي ستصدر عن مجلس النواب حالياً قرارات صادرة عن اللجنة العامة للمؤتمر



زيد الشامي

فيما اعتبر أنه عودة بالمشهد السياسي إلى المربع الأول، برز إلى السطح مؤخراً خلاف بين كتلة حزب المؤتمر وكتل أحزاب المشترك في مجلس النواب نتج عنه تعليق الأخيرة حضورها المجلس واتهام حزب المؤتمر باختطاف البرلمان، لكن الخطير وفق مراقبين في أحدث أزمة سياسية منذ توقيع المبادرة الخليجية، توقيت الأزمة الذي يأتي متزامناً مع حالة من الوفاق والحوار تشهدهما البلاد، للخروج من أزمتها المتفاقمة.. في هذا الحوار تستضيف الصحيفة رئيس كتلة حزب التجمع اليمني للإصلاح في مجلس النواب لمعرفة أسباب وتداعيات خلاف المؤتمر والمشارك الأخير في البرلمان.. فإلى الحوار.. حوار وتصوير / محمد الحسن

لإنقاذ الوضع وجعل المجلس ضمن منظومة التوافق الوطني.

أليست لديكم أي تصورات لإصلاح مجلس النواب بعد أن وصل إلى ما وصل إليه كما ذكرت؟

نحن في الواقع قدمنا تصورات منذ فترة طويلة. وكانت شكلت لجنة برئاسة الأخ محمد الشادي نائب رئيس المجلس، وجلسنا عدة جلسات، وبداننا تقدم تصورات كيف يدار المجلس، ثم فوجئنا بإغلاق كل هذه الأوراق والملفات، ولم ندعى لأية اجتماعات أخرى.. وعلى كل نحن لدينا تصور من خلاله نستطيع أن نسير بالمجلس السير المعقول الذي لا يخدم المشترك أو المؤتمر وإنما يخدم مرحلة التوافق عامة.

كيف ستتعاونون مع ما سيصدر عن المجلس حالياً؟

ما سيصدر عن المجلس من غير التوافق يصعب باطلا ومطعون فيه، وكل القرارات التي ستصدر عنه نعتبرها قرارات صادرة عن اللجنة العامة للمؤتمر الشعبي العام. ومجلس النواب لم يعد مجلساً للنواب وإنما أصبح كأى قاعة في صنعاء والمؤتمر نقل مقره إليها.

إلى متى سيستمر تعليقكم؟ إلى أن يعود المؤتمرين إلى رشدهم ويعودوا إلى ما وقعوا عليه في المبادرة الخليجية والآلية التنفيذية.

منه وبعد ذلك يتبين أن الكلام لا أساس له من الصحة.. وهكذا.

هل تعتقد بعد كل ما ذكرت أن مجلس النواب وصل إلى مرحلة يكون فيها وجوده مثل عدمه كما يقال؟

صحيح.. المجلس اليوم بهذا الأداء سيصبح فقط حجر عثرة أمام التسوية السياسية، وإذا لم يتم تدارك الأمر وإصلاح الوضع وإعادة الأمور إلى نصابها سيكون وجوده وعدمه سواء.. ولذلك ربما قد تتخذ كتل اللقاء المشترك موقفاً نهائياً من المجلس إذا لم يتدخل الساسة ورئيس الجمهورية

كيف ستعاملون مع ما سيصدر عن المجلس حالياً؟

ما سيصدر عن المجلس من غير التوافق يصعب باطلا ومطعون فيه، وكل القرارات التي ستصدر عنه نعتبرها قرارات صادرة عن اللجنة العامة للمؤتمر الشعبي العام. ومجلس النواب لم يعد مجلساً للنواب وإنما أصبح كأى قاعة في صنعاء والمؤتمر نقل مقره إليها.

إلى متى سيستمر تعليقكم؟ إلى أن يعود المؤتمرين إلى رشدهم ويعودوا إلى ما وقعوا عليه في المبادرة الخليجية والآلية التنفيذية.

لكن هناك في المؤتمر من يقول أن اعتراضكم ليس من أجل عدم العمل بالتوافق وإنما لأنكم تسعون للحصول على كرسي رئيس البرلمان.. كيف ترد على من يقول ذلك؟

أولا موضوع كرسي رئيس البرلمان ليس مكاناً مقدساً حتى نقول أنه يصلح لفلان ولا يصلح لآخر.. نحن تجاوزنا هذا الموضوع منذ عام ونصف ونحن لم نتحدث عن هذا الموضوع نهائياً.. والأخوة في المؤتمر عندهم الآن نصف الحكومة وزراء وعندهم كل مؤسسات الدولة وكل أجهزتها.. حتى قانون التدوير الوظيفي الذي عملوه يريدوا أن يكون التدوير بينهم فقط ونسبوا أن هناك عشرات الآلاف من الكفاءات والخبرات همشت وتركت.. وعلى كل رئاسة البرلمان يجب أن تكون بالتوافق فيما بيننا.. لأنه لا يوجد عمل مؤسسي في المجلس.. يعني واحد يقدم إستجابات يظل سنة لا يقدم لأن المستجوب من وزراء المؤتمر ويقدم بخمسة إستجابات من أعضاء المؤتمر ويتم إستدعاء المستجوبين في نفس الأسبوع ويحضر الوزير ويرد على الإستجابات ويتبين أن الكلام كله كان لا أساس له من الصحة.. لا يوجه حتى كلمة لوم واحدة لعضو.. يا أخي الإستجابات يعني سحب ثقة يجب أن يكون العضو متيقناً يقيناً مما يقوم به.. مثلاً أحد الأعضاء إستجوب وزير التربية لأنه قال إنه يتعاقد من مدرسين فلسطينيين ويجب أن تسحب الثقة

هل كان تعليقكم بسبب رفض مشروع تعديل قانون الجامعات أم هناك أسباب أخرى؟

لا.. هو في الحقيقة تراكمات. كلما قدمنا حسن نية وتنازلات زاد المؤتمر إستعلاء وتمهيشاً، وكأنه لا يوجد إلا أعضائه الحاليين فقط.. لذلك فقد خرجت منه كتل كثيرة مثل كتلة الأحرار وكتلة التضامن وكتلة العدالة والبناء.

وكأنك تقول أن المؤتمر يستغل نفوذه في مجلس النواب كوسيلة لمواجهةكم بعد التغيير الذي حدث؟

أولا أنا مع أن يبقى المؤتمر الشعبي العام سواء في البرلمان أو خارجه.. نحن بحاجة إلى قوة سياسية حقيقية سواء كانت مشاركة في السلطة أو حتى في المعارضة، ولذلك من اللحظات الأولى للثورة الشبابية الشعبية كان الجميع ينادي أنه يجب ألا يختزل حزب المؤتمر في أشخاص، وأنه يجب أن يسهم بشكل فاعل في صياغة التغيير، واليوم المؤتمر يمثل بشكل كبير في مؤتمر الحوار ونحن مسرورون بهذا التمثيل.. يجب أن يشارك المؤتمر الشعبي في صياغة المستقبل، لأن موضوع الإقصاء قد جر على اليمن الويلات.. المبادرة الخليجية قالت مجلس النواب يسير بالتوافق.. للأسف الأخوة في المؤتمر يفهمون أنه إذا وافقناهم يعني هذا هو التوافق وإذا لم نوافقهم فيجب أن يمضوا هم على حالهم.

الوطني لأن هناك نحو ٥٠ نائباً مشاركاً في الحوار.

لماذا إذا كان هناك خلاف حول آلية العمل ككل لم تعلقون مشاركتكم منذ بدأ دورة المجلس الحالية؟

الواقع نحن نتحمل جزء كبير من الخطأ، لأننا تعاملنا بحسن نية.. أردنا أن يكون مجلس النواب جزءاً من الحل لا سبباً في المشكلة، ولذلك منذ أول لحظة تجاوزنا عن انتهاء فترة هيئة رئاسة المجلس التي انتهت في فبراير

هناك من يقول أن كتلة الإصلاح فقط هي من علقت حضورها في المجلس؟

للأسف إعتاد الأخوة في المؤتمر أن يتعاملوا مع الآخرين بشيء من الاستعلاء.. رغم أنهم يعلمون أن الموقف هو موقف كتل المشترك عامة، لكنهم للأسف ينشرون عبر وسائل الإعلام الرسمية بأن الإصلاح هو فقط من علق الجلسات، وهذا كلام لا أساس له من الصحة. هم ربما يستدلون بحضور أحد أعضاء التنظيم الوحدوي الناصري، لكن نحن نتعامل مع التنظيم الذي أكد أن موقفه من موقف المشترك.

بحسب المبادرة الخليجية لم يعد هناك أغلبية وأكثريّة

هل كان تعليقكم بسبب رفض مشروع تعديل قانون الجامعات أم هناك أسباب أخرى؟

وكأنك تقول أن المؤتمر يستغل نفوذه في مجلس النواب كوسيلة لمواجهةكم بعد التغيير الذي حدث؟

أولا أنا مع أن يبقى المؤتمر الشعبي العام سواء في البرلمان أو خارجه.. نحن بحاجة إلى قوة سياسية حقيقية سواء كانت مشاركة في السلطة أو حتى في المعارضة، ولذلك من اللحظات الأولى للثورة الشبابية الشعبية كان الجميع ينادي أنه يجب ألا يختزل حزب المؤتمر في أشخاص، وأنه يجب أن يسهم بشكل فاعل في صياغة التغيير، واليوم المؤتمر يمثل بشكل كبير في مؤتمر الحوار ونحن مسرورون بهذا التمثيل.. يجب أن يشارك المؤتمر الشعبي في صياغة المستقبل، لأن موضوع الإقصاء قد جر على اليمن الويلات.. المبادرة الخليجية قالت مجلس النواب يسير بالتوافق.. للأسف الأخوة في المؤتمر يفهمون أنه إذا وافقناهم يعني هذا هو التوافق وإذا لم نوافقهم فيجب أن يمضوا هم على حالهم.

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بداية أستاذ زيد.. هل تختلف دورة مجلس النواب الحالية عن دوراتها السابقة؟

كما تعلم أن مجلس النواب بحسب المبادرة الخليجية وآليتها التنفيذية، يجب أن يركز على تنفيذ ما يتعلق بإنجاز المهمات الخاصة بالتسوية السياسية، وما سيأتي عن مؤتمر الحوار الوطني، ليخرج ذلك بالشكل الدستوري والقانوني، وهذه المهمة تعني أن المجلس يمثل حالة من التوافق تختلف عن كل الفترات السابقة، ولم يعد هناك جهة تحكم وجهة تعارض. كما وبحسب المبادرة الخليجية لم يعد هناك أغلبية وأكثريّة، والمشارك والمؤتمر متساويان أمام كل القضايا المطروحة.

لكن هناك من يقول إن المجلس غير شرعي؟ وفي الطرف الآخر من يقول إن هناك لائحة للمجلس هي من تسير عمله؟

أولا المجلس من حيث العمدة.. فمدته انتهت في ٢٠٠٩ ثم جرى التمديد له بتعديل دستوري. وكان هذا التعديل في اعتقادي غير ضروري في حينها.

لماذا؟

لأن الدستور ينص على أن المجلس يستمر إذا كانت الظروف لا تسمح بإجراء انتخابات.. لكن الآلية التنفيذية للمبادرة الخليجية قد نصت في المادة الرابعة بأن المبادرة الخليجية و الآلية التنفيذية تحل محل

مجلس النواب لم يعد مجلساً للنواب وإنما أصبح كأى قاعة في صنعاء

النصوص الدستورية التي تتعارض معها ولا يجوز الطعن في هذه المواد أمام أي جهة، بمعنى أن المبادرة و الآلية أصحاً بمقابلة إعلان دستوري مهيم على النصوص الأخرى بصورة مؤقتة حتى يتم الاتفاق على الدستور الجديد.. النص الآخر من المبادرة يقول إن جميع القرارات التي تتخذ في المجلس يجب أن تتخذ بالتوافق.

وهل تم ذلك؟

في الحقيقة نحن لدينا فهم للتوافق، لأن الأخوة في المؤتمر ما يزال لديهم فهم أنه يجب أن يستمرروا كأكثريّة وغالبية وهم اللذين يتحكمون في الأمر.. ونحن قد تجاوزنا هذا الوضع لعام ونصف وظلينا نسد ونقارب، لأننا لا نريد أن نحدث أية عرقلة، لكن عندما يخرج الأمر عن نطاق المعقول يكون الاستمرار صعب.

هل تعتقد أن عدم انعقاد المجلس لفترة طويلة بعد توقيع المبادرة الخليجية هو مساهم في تهدئة الأجواء؟

لا.. المجلس أخذ إجازته المعتادة في يناير.. ولكنه تأخر في عودة انعقاده هذه المرة لأنه لم تكن هناك قضايا ملحة تستدعي أن المجلس يدعو إلى دورة أو اجتماع.. أيضاً مع انعقاد دورته الحالية نلاحظ أنه ليست هناك في بنود وجدول أعماله قضايا ملحة تحتاج البت فيها.. وأيضاً بسبب انعقاد مؤتمر الحوار

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4,000 seedlings planted in Old Sana'a's gardens



Yemen Times Staff

Last Thursday, Radio Yemen Times' Hand in Hand initiative, the cooperation of the secretariat of Sana'a planted about 4,000 small trees in 10 green areas and orchards, or *mukashem*, in Old Sana'a.

The project aimed at restoring garden areas, in Sana'a's Old City through plantings.

Listeners, as well as youth groups, took part in the project which was welcomed by locals of Old Sana'a. Residents, including children and older people, participated enthusiastically in planting and watering the garden areas.

The secretariat of the capital provided the project with 40 farmers and about 4,000 seedlings of coffee, apple and pomegranate trees. Hand in Hand initiative is carrying out a project every month. Stay tuned and get involved in our next initiative!



Women and children contributed to planting seedlings in the orchards, including Shusha and Al-Tabari.



Several locals participated in planting the garden areas that were ignored for years.



Children were keen to participate in the project



More than 4,000 seedlings were planted in the garden areas.



Cleaning workers took part in the project and helped with cleaning the outdoor theatre



To start off the event, a Yemeni traditional dance was presented.



Locals called for providing water for them to irrigate these areas

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