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سبأفون تجرى السحب التاسع لعرض كرت المفاجآت في العاصمة الثقافية تعز

تتوالى أفراح مشتركي سبأفون للشهر التاسع على التوالي حيث احتفلت شركة سبأفون مؤخرا بإجراء السحب التاسع لجوائز كرت المفاجآت في حفل بهيج أقيم في العاصمة الثقافية تعز.

وفي مستهل الحفل رحب الأستاذ / محمد الشامي مدير عام اول استراتيجيية وتطوير الاعمال في قسم التسويق بالجمهور مشددا في كلمته على أهمية استمرار عرض كرت المفاجآت ومدى الإقبال على العرض من قبل المشتركين خلال الأشهر الماضية الذي يدل على نجاح العرض ويشجع الشركة تقديم عروض مبتكرة مماثلة. وفي الحفل تم إجراء سحب الجائزة الكبرى "سيارة سانتايغ" والتي كانت من نصيب الأخ منصور قاسم علي مهدي كما جرى اعلان أسماء الفائزين بالجوائز المالية الأخرى، حيث أعلنت الشركة عن اسم فائز الجائزة المالية الكبرى "مليون ريال" والتي كانت من نصيب الأخ خالد مصلح عبدالله عاطف فيما تم اعلان بقية أسماء الفائزين الآخرين. و احتوى الحفل على عدد من الفقرات الترفيهية كما تم توزيع الهدايا والجوائز على الحاضرين يذكر ان عرض كرت المفاجآت أعلن عنه مطلع العام الحالي كأكبر عرض تسويقي مقدم من شركة سبأفون في سوق الاتصالات اليمنية، وتتنوع الجوائز المقدمة من سبأفون حيث تمنح شهريا سيارة كجائزة كبرى إضافة الى جوائز مالية عبارة عن 3 جوائز مالية بقيمة اجمالية مليون ونصف ريال و 10 جوائز مالية أخرى بقيمة اجمالية نصف مليون ريال. ولايزال بإمكان كل مشترك سبأفون الاشتراك والفوز من خلال تعبئة كرت اكسترا 80 وحدة.

أسماء الفائزين:

الفائز الأول بالجائزة الكبرى (سيارة سانتايغ) - منصور قاسم علي مهدي
الفائز الثاني بجائزة مليون ريال - خالد مصلح عبدالله عاطف
الفائز الثالث بجائزة 500.000 ريال - يحي علي احمد الحكمي
الفائز الرابع بجائزة 500.000 ريال - خالد نعمان علي عبده
الفائز الخامس بجائزة 500.000 ريال - عبدالله عبدالمجيد عقلمان

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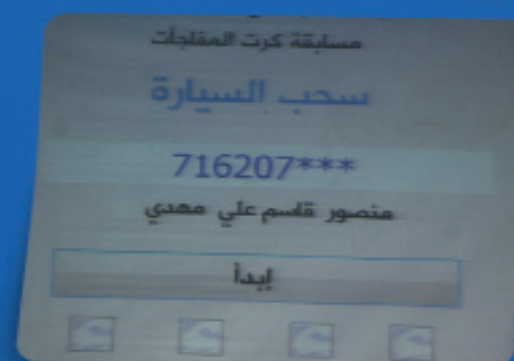
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It's all in the wrist: Calligraphy is a hobby for many Yemeni artists. While there are several independent schools and institutions that teach calligraphy classes all over Sana'a, enthusiasts would like to see the art form become a part of Yemen's school curriculum. *Read more on page 7* (Photo by Samar Qaed)

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NDC members stage demonstration, demand minimum marriage-age law

Conservative NDC groups have refused to put the issue to a vote

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Sept. 9—Nearly two dozen representatives of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) demonstrated on Sunday during sessions, calling for an end to child marriage. The demonstration followed the launch of a campaign by the Folkloric Heritage House to pass a law that sets 18 as the minimum age of marriage.

Rights and Freedoms Committee Arwa Othman said that NDC members have a duty to help end the ongoing practice of child marriage. The demonstration and campaign launch followed the news of an alleged death of an eight-year-old female child identified as Rawan. Media outlets reported that Rawan died of internal bleeding on the day of her wedding to a 40-year-old Hajja man this week. The Yemen Times could not independently verify the story's validity. However, advocates say they will continue fighting for young women's rights. The Folkloric Heritage House coalition aims to pressure concerned bodies, both authorities

and NDC representatives, to set a minimum age for marriage when Yemen's new constitution is supposed to be drafted later this year. "There are various [plans] for the campaign, [including] a documentary film illustrating the plight of child brides, a photo exhibition, seminars, gathering of statistics and documenting the stories of child victims," Othman said. The minimum marriage age was discussed and included in the NDC's first stage agenda which began on March 18 and is scheduled to end September 18. The issue has been high contested between traditional and leftist groups at the NDC. The Rights and Freedoms NDC committee was tasked to address

the minimum marriage age. "[The] child marriage issue was discussed during the first stage of the conference, but no decisions were made because of the strong opposition of traditional, conservative forces. Tribes and religious groups refused to put the issue to a vote," Othman said. A 2012 government-issued report revealed that 48.4 percent of Yemeni women will marry before reaching age 18. The issue of child marriage in Yemen made international headlines six years ago when the world heard the story of 8-year-old Nujood Ali, who ran away from her husband and petitioned the court for a divorce, which she was granted.

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Ongoing conflict in Amran leaves at least 16 dead this week

With conflicts in various governorates, security manager says Houthis are being spread thin

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

AMRAN, Sept. 9—At least 16 people were killed and dozens injured over the past five days in Al Asha, Amran in violent clashes between Houthis-supporters and armed tribesmen loyal to the Al-Ahmar family.

Al-Asha district security manager Mohammed Al-Raei told the Yemen Times that the casualties belonged to the Al Ahmar-affiliated Alusaimt tribe.

Al-Raei said the Houthis are presently positioned in Jamih Mountain. The number of Houthi casualties is unknown.

"Light and heavy weaponry were used in the clashes, destroying sev-

eral houses in the area," Al-Raei said.

Security forces have not intervened, Al-Raei said, because both sides possess heavier weapons than Amran security forces.

Amran security manager Mohammed Turaik told the Yemen Times that the conflict began last month because of a dispute over Jamih Mountain, as both sides wanted to control the area.

Al-Raei claims that Houthis from outside Amran have flooded the governorate to help local Houthi affiliates seize the area.

NDC Houthi representative Ali Al-Emad said that militants from both sides were Amran residents.

Houthi supporters are few in Amran, Al-Emad said, leading others to assume that Houthis must be getting reinforcement from outside the governorate.

"Security officials are failing to uphold their responsibilities," he said. "There are political powers out there that are trying to exhaust the Houthis by encouraging numerous conflicts so that the group has to fight on numerous fronts in various governorates."

Security analyst Mohammed Al-Khalid said the ongoing clashes in Amran, Sa'ada and Ibb are due in part to the security vacuum the country has been experiencing since the 2011 uprising.

Cease-fire agreement fails in Ibb

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

IBB, Sept. 9—Clashes re-erupted in Ibb Saturday between the Houthi Al-Seraji tribe and the Salafi Al Da'm tribe, ending an hours-long cease fire that had been brokered by a mediation committee headed by Ibb's governor, Ahmed Al-Hijri.

Both sides breached the agreement, Ibb deputy governor Ali Alzalm said.

The agreement that had been reached on Saturday stipulated that the side that had suffered the most casualties would be given 20 rifles in return for a one-year long cease fire.

Alzalm told the Yemen Times that the Al Da'm tribe backed out of the cease fire when they learned that the Al Seraji side had suffered the most casualties and would be given the rifles. Both sides also agreed to evacuate the areas they had positioned themselves in over

the past two months. As of press time, neither side had left.

Al Da'm tribal sheikh Abdulwahid Haza told the Yemen Times that the tribe objects to providing 20 rifles to its rival tribe as a solution to the conflict.

After the Al Da'm tribe had changed its tune, Alzalm told the Yemen Times that the Al Seraji tribe indicated that they were unwilling to accept the rifles as compensation for the casualties they've suffered.

Al Seraji tribe supporter and Houthi activist Ali Al-Emad criticized the government-led mediation, saying it wasn't a sincere effort to end the conflict.

"The governor led the mediation for the purpose of giving the [Al Da'm tribe] the opportunity to launch further attacks [on the Al Seraji tribe]. The mediation was not intended to resolve the conflict," Al-Emad said.

President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi and the Defense Ministry first assigned the mediation role to Al-Hijri a month ago. The governor is continuing mediation efforts in Al Radhma district, Alzalm said.

"The Al Siraji tribe has suffered the largest number of casualties over the past two months. 11 Al Siraji are also still being held by the Da'm tribe," Alzalm said.

The conflict between the two tribes erupted in July when Al Seraji tribesmen set-up checkpoints at the entrance of Al Radhma district, preventing armed Al Siraji tribesmen, who were preparing to hold a festival, from entering.

Both sides have positioned themselves in the surrounding mountainous areas since the outbreak of the dispute.

"The situation blew-up again after a few hours of tranquility on Saturday," said Al Radhma resident, Arif Al-Shalali.

Two explosives detonate in Sana'a streets

No injuries reported, officials believe devices were targeting military buses

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Sept. 9—Two explosive devices went off on two separate streets in Sana'a early Monday morning.

The first device exploded on Al-Nasr Street, in the north eastern part of the city and the second went

off near Al-Matar Street, near the airport, according to eye witnesses.

Eyewitness Abdul-Elah Al-Faqih, who was in close vicinity when the second bomb went off said he heard a loud noise.

Abdul-Rahman Al-Hilali, the spokesperson for Yemen's Air forces, said early investigations indicate that the bombs may have been targeting military buses.

At the time of the explosion, Al-Faqih says he saw a military bus drive by carrying only the driver.

Eyewitnesses at the other bomb site also corroborate that a bus drove by at the time of the explosion.

"Air Force buses [are known] to take the same routes everyday, [making them] easy to recognize," said Al-Hilali.

"It seems that the bomb was planted at night and remotely exploded," Al-Hilali said, adding that there are currently no suspects.

At the end of August a bomb exploded on a military bus in northern Sana'a. The Airforce says they continue to investigate the incident, but they have revealed the bomb had been likely attached to the bus the night before the explosion. Three people died as a result of the explosion, one instantly and two others a week later in the hospital.

Migrants continue to pour into Yemen from Africa

International organizations struggle to keep up with new arrivals

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Sept. 9—Recent statistics issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) say that approximately 50,000 African refugees have arrived in Yemen since the beginning of 2013 through the end of July.

The breakdown of statistics are roughly 42,000 Ethiopians, 8,000 Somalis and a small minority of refugees from other nations.

African migrants often find themselves trapped in Yemen on their way to richer Gulf nations—predominately Saudi Arabia—in search of work.

The Haradh area on the Saudi border is filled with thousands of migrants living in dire conditions with very little food or shelter, who have failed to cross the border, international organizations say.

Around 70,000 migrants are believed to be in the Haradh area, according to Colonel Abdulla Al-Zorqa, the director of the deportation department in the Emigration



UNHCR

and Passports Authority.

Last week the International Organization for Migration (IOM) deported over 300 Ethiopian migrants from the Haradh area as part of their Assisted Voluntary Return Program for refugees who ask to be repatriated.

"Children, women and elders were among the repatriated Ethiopians," said Saba Al-Malme, the deputy head of IOM in Yemen.

Al-Malme described the harsh

conditions that many migrants face. "Some of them were blackmailed and some women were raped by armed men," he said.

Al-Zorqa said his authority has deported over 6,000 Ethiopians since the beginning of the year at the expense of the Yemeni government.

IOM reports having deported around 20,000 Ethiopian refugees since the Assisted Voluntary Return Program began in 2007.

Three suspected AQAP cells busted in August

A total of 27 alleged terror-affiliates arrested

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Sept. 9—Government security forces announced on Sunday that men from three suspected Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

(AQAP)-affiliated cells were arrested during the month of August.

According to officials, one cell was located in Al-Baida'a governorate, one in Hadramout and one in Sana'a with 13, six and eight members arrested respectively.

However, there was no indication of the exact dates of the arrests or why the announcement is being made now.

"Yemen's security apparatus pursued these cells and arrested them

without any external assistance," Aish Awad, the director of the Security Office for the presidency, said when asked where the intelligence leading to the arrests came from.

Colonel Najm Al-Deen Harash, Al-Baida'a security chief, said the 13-member cell arrested in his governorate was found with several weapons including machine guns and explosive devices.

"The arrested militants were sent to National Security," Harash said.

AROUND TOWN



Sana'a—Twelve participants prepare to compete in the 2013 Arab Boxing PRO Championship on Monday. Yemeni—English boxer Prince Naseem Hamed was the guest of honor at the event. Yemeni National Moncef El Hmoukhani, 56 kg., won the featherweight division of the championship. Photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki



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—United Nations’ Special Adviser to Yemen, **Jamal Benomar**, offering praise for the country’s ongoing National Dialogue Conference

“We are [one people], separated in two countries, and we hope this new route will be the beginning of a relationship that will result in further fruitful investments.”

—Yemen’s Transport Minister, **Waed Batheeb**, on the Emirati airline carrier Ethiad’s recent announcement of direct flights between Abu Dhabi to Sana’a. (The National)

“Lack of awareness about health matters among Yemeni society is our biggest problem.”

—**Abdul-Qawi Al-Shamiri**, the head of the Yemeni Doctors and Pharmacists Syndicate on the troubling number of attacks made on health care workers in Yemen.

Government finalizes appraisal figures for property damaged in 2011 uprising



Two men walk through a house they abandoned in 2011 following battles in the Hasaba area.

Residents claim estimates are lower than actual damage costs

Story and photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANAA, Sept. 9 — The government committee assigned to determine the cost of repairs to homes and buildings damaged during Yemen’s 2011 popular uprising announced the total cost of repairs to be YR3 billion, or \$17.7 million. The committee also put forth a plan to distribute the money to homeowners, who have been waiting on the compensation for two years.

“We will finish reviewing the [list] of victims’ this week and compensation will start within

a month,” said engineer Waheed Rase, director of the Public Projects in Sana’a and head of the committee. He said the figures went through a number of channels including the Capital Secretariat, the Ministry of Public Works and Highways and the Supreme Ministerial Committee, which endorsed the suggested compensation.

The compensation will be distributed through the Post Office. Those receiving YR5 million (about \$23,000) or less will receive the entire amount in one payment. Those receiving more than YR5 million in compensation will collect the money in two phases.

Those affected by the uprising are required to bring their identity cards or home ownership titles with them to the Post Office to collect compensation, Rase said.

Only structural damage to homes was taken into consideration when calculating each house’s damage. Furniture was not included in the estimation, per a decree put forth by the prime minister in 2011.

As many as 3,380 houses were damaged during the events of 2011, 33 percent of damaged property is located in Hassaba, the residential neighborhood of the Al-Ahmar family. The area was the epicenter of clashes between former President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s forces and tribesmen associated with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, who defected from the regime.

Hassaba is home to several ministries, state prime facilities and many officials.

Many Hassaba residents, including Ali Abu Oraig, are skeptical of the compensation pledge.

“We had to leave our home and head to our village in Arhab for a year. We spent YR500,000 to repair half of the damages [our home sustained],” Oraig said. “The ministerial committee pledged to compensate us, but we don’t believe them.”

Shattered windows, looted stores and destroyed homes can still be found all around the Al-Hassaba area.

Al-Hassaba resident Ali Ab-

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dulla Abas told the Yemen Times that his three buildings were seriously damaged during the uprising. Abas says his damages amount to YR100 million, about \$500,000, but the committee only estimated his damages to be YR30 million.

“I usually rent these buildings for about YR2 million per month total, but demanded has fallen, no one wanted to lease the buildings once the uprising began two years ago. The government keeps

making unfulfilled promises,” Abas said.

Abdulsalam Al-Surihi, another resident in Al-Hassaba, said he sustained over YR20 million in damages and has had to rent in the Bab Al-Yemen area for YR50,000 a month since 2011.

“I used to lease out four apartments and shopping centers in my building for YR200,000 total per month and they were all looted by armed men during the [chaos],” Al-Surihi said.



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With no specific law to protect them

Health care workers are at risk



Services healthcare workers provide in rural parts of Yemen are vital, but clinics, hospitals and organizations say they are having a hard time attracting workers due to threats of attacks.

Sadeq Al-Wesabi

At the end of 2008, Dr. Dirhem Al-Qadasi, the head of the emergency room at the Science and Technology Hospital in Sana'a, a private health care facility, was stabbed to death. Those responsible for his murder are believed to be family members of an elderly man who died while at the hospital who were seeking revenge for the man's death. According to former patients and colleagues, the doctor had a sterling reputation. News of Al-Qadasi's death caused a media

storm and popular outrage, but no one was ever tried for the doctor's murder.

Al-Qadasi and healthcare workers like him, ranging from domestic doctors to volunteers with local and international health organizations, are often at the mercy of a population, who can be very mistrustful of healthcare practices.

All over Yemen, healthcare workers are struggling to protect themselves against attacks varying from threats on their lives to kidnappings to the robbery of vital medical supplies, and little seems to be done to mitigate the problem.

Following the 2011 uprising that toppled President Ali Abdullah Saleh, security all over Yemen was compromised. Several healthcare workers say this is when a growing number of attacks on those in their field reached its peak. A countless number of ambulances were stolen all over the country and even female medics, a group that typically is not targeted in attacks, were being kidnapped.

"Lack of awareness about health matters among Yemeni society is our biggest problem," said Abdul-Qawi Al-Shamiri, the head of the Yemeni Doctors and Pharmacists Syndicate.

This was especially true in rural parts of Yemen and those labeled conflict zones, where fighting between warring tribes or the government and militants already poses threats to anyone in the area.

"They say they aren't crazy to sacrifice their life," said Dr. Yahya Al-Thawr, a neurosurgery consultant and the head of Yemen's Private Hospitals Union, referring to the growing reluctance of doctors to enter conflict zones where the need for qualified doctors is usually the highest.

"Attacks totally destroy the reputation of medicine in the country," said Al-Thawr, who also runs the Modern German Hospital in Sana'a, a private facility. "Many Yemeni professional and skilled doctors have left Yemen to work in other safer places."

Al-Thawr says it's hard to convince international professionals to come to Yemen given the current climate.

"I used to have proficient German doctors but they have departed Yemen because they were afraid of being attacked."

Yemeni-born Abdullah Radman, a medic at Doctors without Borders, said while working in the field he has been detained by tribes asking for medicine. Radman says he and colleagues were forced to surrender their car after refusing to dispense medicine.

"There is no interest in attacking us," he said. "Those who assault the medical staff are the first to be negatively affected by the lack of health services in their areas."

Over the last three years, the Doctors without Borders also known as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), an international medical humanitarian organization that has been operating in Yemen since 1986, documented 45 attacks on their services including gunshots fired inside their facilities by disgruntled locals. MSF offers medical assistance in Amran, Aden, Al-Dhale, Abyan and Sana'a governorates.

Last year, MSF temporarily suspended the health services they offer in Aden after a group of armed men stormed their facilities and beat up at least one medical staffer. The organization opened operations back up after local officials and social leaders apologized for the incident and promised to help offer protection for the organization.

Attacks on health workers in rural areas are often committed by tribesmen or groups of men who control certain areas. These men are often skeptical of outsiders in their communities. Because they often have strong alliances and loyalties, they have been known to accuse medical care providers of offering services to certain groups and not others.

"Some people think that we come to rescue specific people and neglect others," said Adel Thamer, a communication officer at the Yemen Red Crescent Society, which provides first aid assistance and financial support during natural disasters and armed conflicts.

But Thamer defends his organization's international policy of equal

treatment for all.

"Whenever we wear the Red Crescent clothes, we totally abandon our political thought and forget about our tribal affiliation," he said.

Both Thamer and Radman believe a lack of awareness about the live-saving services they offer contributes to their organizations being targeted.

"Unfortunately, one attacker could deprive thousands of people from health services," Radman said. "We try our best to reach all areas despite serious challenges."

"We call for mosques imams, sheikhs and local council's members to help protect us to enable us to help them," Radman urged. However, he praises what he calls the majority of tribal leaders who have come out and condemned attacks on medical organizations.

Sheikh Yahya Al-Qabbas, a tribal leader in Arhab district of Sana'a explained that tribes often use medical staff as leverage to make demands of the central government. However, the sheikh says these people are in a minority and the majority of "tribes resent such acts."

Al-Qabbas also believes there is a "lack of seriousness of the government's part to deter the assailants."

According to international humanitarian law stemming from the

Geneva Conventions, protection for medical personnel, establishments, transports and equipment is supposed to be provided in armed conflicts. However, Yemen lacks legislation that specifically criminalizes attacks on health care workers and provides umbrella protection.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is regarded as the "guardian" of the Geneva Conventions and the various other treaties that constitute international humanitarian law said that with the cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defense, the ICRC is sponsoring working groups that are compiling information on the challenges faced by healthcare missions.

"The foreseen outcome of these working groups is a set of procedures [and possibly laws] that facilitate the work of healthcare [facilities and workers] taking into consideration all the security constraints," said Marie-Claire Feghali, the communication coordinator for the ICRC.

Al-Shamiri believes strict legislation could create an environment that would allow healthcare workers to thrive.

"If [assailants] realize there are strict rules that punish them if they attack healthcare crews, they won't dare to make such attacks," he said.



Doctors Without Borders has had to temporarily suspend their activities in Aden last year in order to protect employees.



The Yemen Red Crescent Society provides first aid assistance during natural disasters and during time of armed conflicts.

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Yemen's fitful dialogue

Fatima Abo Alasrar
Mideast.foreignpolicy.com
First Published Sept. 6

It wasn't too long ago when Yemen launched its ostensibly inclusive National Dialogue process. The conference, which started on March 18, was meant to mend the wounds of the society and lead to the promulgation of the Yemeni constitution. But whoever thought that six months were sufficient for reconciliation and change was overly ambitious. The conference uncovered deep-rooted differences that confounded its participants and further polarized discussions, leading to a further indefinite delay.

In order to salvage the situation, the government of Yemen issued a statement on Aug. 21 apologizing to the people of the southern, eastern, and northern provinces of the country for the wars and military campaigns launched during the Saleh regime. At the outset, the move seemed to be mature and reconciliatory, but it had counter effects on the ground. The apology came across as insipid at a time when the government has been either aggressive or ambivalent toward these areas. To make matters worse, the government exerted no effort in conducting consultations on the draft prior to issuing the statement. If it had done so, it would have probably been advised to remove some of its belligerent language that has inflamed, rather than quelled, the fury of many Yemenis.

There is little evidence that the current government is capable of addressing different societal grievances that were unleashed after the Arab Spring uprisings.

Yemen is imploding in more than one region: The Southern secessionist Hirak movement is controlling the South, the Tihami Hirak movement recently emerged to protest the disenfranchisement of its region, and the Northern city of Sada'a has been left to fight the Salafis with minimal protection from the government. Other cities like Marib and Al-Jawf, which were previously out of control, still maintain their dangerous reputations. The government and Friends of Yemen have shown that their attention is focused on the political process in Sana'a, and have scant ability when it comes to responding to crisis outside of the capital.

The National Dialogue turned into a self-indulgent process more concerned with placating politicians than serving people. As pressure on achieving a successful outcome mounts, politicians resort to striking deals that are incongruent with their constituencies. This is conspicuous in the case of the Southern representatives who were cherry picked to advocate for federalism, in lieu of the right of self-determination, for which the majority of the South is asking.

It is perhaps time to realize that the great expectations of the National Dialogue Conference that were envisaged at the beginning need to be tempered. At the start of the process, policymakers felt that this is the only way to save the country from a real crisis, and as such downplayed any challenges. The international players, too, were eager to present Yemen as a successful case for the Arab Spring, remaining unusually positive on the dialogue. While some level of overzealousness at the start of the dialogue was expected—as well as

the lethargy toward the end—the polarization that followed was not. Yemen today is more divided and further from a consensus than it was six months ago.

In the halls of the Movenpick hotel, the National Dialogue Conference comprises an impressive gathering of different strands of Yemeni elites with a disenchanting sense of partisanship. It is akin to walking into a spectacular wedding where no one wants to get married. Granted that top intellectuals, activists and civil society groups

The National Dialogue turned into a self-indulgent process more concerned with placating politicians than serving people.

are present, the majority of these participants (besides the 10 percent parliamentarians) are not people who would get elected at any given point in time. Power and influence in the Movenpick reside with individuals who either have party affiliation or had former cabinet positions.

The General People's Congress and Islah Party representatives have an astute alliance in the conference; they both are firmly focused on reducing the rising threat of the Houthis who seem to have garnered a countrywide popularity

that could challenge them at polling stations. As such, Sanaa based politicians trivialize issues that seem to be less threatening. Fiery and contentious politics such as the secessionist demands in the South are exclusive to the Southern region, which does not constitute any electoral majority. Southerners are outnumbered demographically, represented by different polarizing figures, and their plight is isolated from the majority. This is all too convenient for elites in the capital who sideline Southern politics, frequently capitalizing on the leadership divide among the Southern ranks.

There is a crisis of confidence intensifying in the National Dialogue and spilling over to the country. Mainstream politicians may show humility, but they cunningly exercise control. Just recently, senior Northern-based leaders from the National Dialogue cobbled together some deals purportedly to save the dialogue process and the future of the country; this was done without the inclusion of all participants, especially the Southerners who felt betrayed and protested the "cooked-up process." As a result, around 85 Southern representatives suspended their participation from the dialogue based on the secretive nature of informal coalitions. The absence of the Southern participants now is filling the dialogue with ambiguity and caused a further delay to the process, which was supposed to end this month.

It is well known that the South is now beyond the control of the government of Yemen. The Southern street is rife with resentment over the current economic situation and fraught with instability. There is a protest

in the South at every national and symbolic Yemeni holiday calling against unity. The ongoing rage is fuelled by current and former Southern leaders who vehemently believe in secession. But what exactly is the government doing to bridge the gap with the South? Absolutely every wrong action from the authoritarian handbook. The government ostensibly promises development and change, while hiding, minimizing, and dismissing the desire of the South for self-determination.

It is well known that the South is now beyond the control of the government of Yemen.

Many activists believe that the call for secession is a tactic intended only to raise the bar high in order to score points in the negotiations over federalism. Given the only two choices between secession and federalism, the latter appears to be the lesser of two evils. But if federalism is the only option for Yemen, the street has certainly not caught up with it. Furthermore, the National Dialogue has done very little to explain the haphazard ideas for federalism to the public. Many regions in Yemen desire some sort of administrative and

financial autonomy but are fearful that a federal system will still not protect them from the greedy elites who have always managed to find creative ways to exploit their people.

The National Dialogue should tread carefully when it comes to negotiating the new administrative plans. The past period raised enough red flags that should prompt an assessment on the effectiveness of this process: there is reluctance in achieving consensus, delay in decision making, and secretive deals among participants which have broken confidence in the process. As it is, the current design of negotiations risks political positions hardening. Furthermore, the political focus overshadowed the economic reality. In order to show real commitment to change, the government of Yemen and donors including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will have to work at making an economic investment that extends outside of Movenpick-land to the real one.

Fundamentally, the process needs to shift toward making the government of Yemen work for the people through providing much needed basic services while working on the constitutional process. More attention has to be given to the polarizing politics of the North-South divide. The first step is acknowledging that this divide exists; otherwise Yemen will find itself conceding political space to extremists of every stripe who appear to be more in tune with the frustrated society.

Fatima Abo Alasrar is an independent Middle East policy analyst from Yemen and a former OSI International Policy Fellow.

Many Arabs are seeking a 'third way' toward representative democracy

Daoud Kuttab
DailyStar.com.lb
First published Sept. 9

Throughout the post-colonial period, Arab countries have consistently failed to produce an efficient—let alone democratic—system of government. Now, after a half-century of competition between military or royal dictatorships and militant Islamist regimes, many Arabs are again seeking a "third way" — a path toward a credible form of representative democracy. But will their efforts prove as futile now as they have in the past? The Middle East—named for its geographic position between Europe and East Asia—was under Ottoman rule for 400 years before the Allied powers, after defeating the Ottomans in World War I, partitioned the region into distinct political units that, under the Sykes-Picot Agreement, fell within spheres of influence carved out by Britain and France. But, in

response to these new divisions, an Arab awakening—shaped by pan-Arabism and support for Palestine—was occurring.

Charismatic young military rulers-turned-dictators such as Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser, Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, Yemen's Ali Abdullah Saleh, and Syria's Hafez Assad used these popular causes to win public support. But their failure to deliver better lives to their citizens, together with the discrediting of left-wing ideologies following the Soviet Union's collapse, fueled the rise of a rival movement: political Islam.

The Muslim Brotherhood — established in the Egyptian town of Ismailia in 1928 and political Islam's oldest, best organized and most widespread proponent — was (and is) despised by secular Arabs and Arab monarchies. Indeed, secular dictators have worked to suppress the Brotherhood at every turn — often violently, as when Assad ruthlessly crushed a Brotherhood-led uprising in Hama in 1982.

Forced to operate clandestinely, the Brotherhood built its support base with a social agenda that targeted the needs of the poor, while consistently reinforcing its Islamic ties, even using the compulsory zakat (annual financial contribution to religious causes) to build up its social network. The Brotherhood, with the help of a conservative society and the mosques, was prepared to seize power whenever the opportunity arose.

Another Islamist movement, Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front, almost had such an opportunity in 1991, when it won the first round of a general election. But the military prevented its victory by canceling the second round, triggering a brutal eight-year civil war in which an estimated 200,000 people died. Palestine's Hamas, an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, succeeded at the ballot box in 2006, but has since failed to deliver credible governance.

Then the Arab Spring erupted in 2011, creating new opportunities for political renewal. Within months, Islamist parties shaped

by the Brotherhood's ideology had replaced secular dictators in Tunisia and Egypt, and seemed poised to take over Yemen and Syria, largely because they were the only well-organized political movements on the scene.

Moreover, the Muslim Brotherhood gained control of Egypt, the largest and most influential of the Arab Spring countries. But their exclusive, rigid ideology was poorly suited to governing such a large and diverse country. As a result, after only a year in power, the military — backed by the same secular, liberal young people who had opposed it in 2011 — drove President Mohammad Morsi out of power. Unable to mount a political alternative, however, the protesters' rejection of the Islamist government served only to put the army back in charge.

Some argue that the absence of a secular liberal option in Arab politics stems from fear of political Islam. For decades, Western powers backed military regimes in the Arab world, willingly ignoring their systematic repression of democratic movements and rights,

in order to ensure that Islamists did not gain power.

Now that both the military- and Islamist-led systems have been discredited, an ideological vacuum has appeared in Arab politics. But Arabs today — most of whom are under the age of 30 — are less interested in an overarching political ideology than they are in an efficient representative government that implements sound policies aimed at creating jobs and bolstering economic growth. In short, they want a government that is focused on improving citizens' lives.

In fact, the absence of a specific ideology was essential to the Arab Spring's initial success in Egypt and Tunisia, for it allowed a large number of young activists to forge loose alliances. But mass movements can take a country only so far; establishing a credible representative government requires political parties organized around clearly defined principles.

While the Muslim Brotherhood has such an organizing principle, its internal rigidity — at least with Morsi at its helm — made

it unfit to govern. Meanwhile, infighting among Egypt's liberals prevented them from establishing a disciplined, reliable alternative to the Brotherhood based on principles like diversity, plurality, respect for women and freedom of expression. So when the Islamist government's credibility collapsed, the military was Egypt's only remaining option.

In order to make progress, the youth-led movements that drove the Arab Spring must translate their shared principles into effective political structures, and choose leaders who are capable of placing the search for consensus ahead of personal ambition. If they succeed, the Arab world may finally have an alternative to rule by generals or mullahs. Even if they fail to gain power, the emergence of such an alternative would surely influence the Arab world's agenda for years to come.

Daoud Kuttab, who formerly taught at Princeton University, is the founder and former director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al-Quds University in Ramallah.

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Making art out of words

Calligraphers ask government to add craft to school curricula

Story and photos by Samar Qaed

Amani Mohammed Al-Kabodi, 18, stands beside a table placed inside a room at the Arab Painting Forum in Sana'a, carefully drawing the Arabic alphabet in black ink with studied brush strokes.

Special pens, ink, paper, brushes and other tools are scattered on the table next to her. Every time Al-Kabodi starts drawing a new letter, she cleans the pen off with a tissue and dips it into a special ink.

Calligraphy, both for secular artwork and for religious depictions is practiced in Yemen by a number of talented Yemenis and immigrants.

Calligraphers say the art is an important part of Islamic and Arab identity and many complain about the absence of calligraphy in school curricula. Students are often taught calligraphy as part of the Arabic language, instead of as a separate subject. Many are encouraging the education sector to take it a step farther and offer calligraphy courses.

Al-Kabodi, a recent high-school graduate who will begin medical school next year, has been practicing calligraphy since age 10.

"I decided to enroll in Arabic calligraphy courses after my relatives encouraged me to improve my handwriting," said Al-Kabodi.

"Because of the lack of Arabic calligraphy departments at Yemeni universities, I will go to medical school and look for institutes that teach the art so I can improve my skills," she said.

Al-Kabodi studied Riqaa', Al-Dewani and Al-Thlth Arabic cal-



Many have picked up calligraphy as a hobby, attending classes outside the home. While advocates would like to see the written art form become a part of school curriculum, it doesn't appear that officials will be adopting it in public schools anytime soon.

igraphy font courses at the forum. Many want to expand access and availability.

"Calligraphers don't have an identity here in Yemen due to the lack of Arabic calligraphy curricula, departments and local competitions," said Khalid Al-Ward, an Arabic calligraphy trainer involved with school curriculum at the Education Ministry.

Al-Ward has been working in the Education Ministry for 18 years. He started teaching Arabic calligraphy courses at private institutes five years ago and has improved his skills by learning from talented Syrian, Egyptian and Iraqi teachers in the '80s.

"Other countries have a special Arab calligraphy curriculum for

students. So, we were very happy when teachers from these countries come to Yemen because they teach us many things about Arabic calligraphy. I also read old books about calligraphy. Yemen is at the end of the list when it comes to the art," Al-Ward said.

To improve that ranking, calligraphy will need public support.

"We want to enrich generations and history with multi-faceted calligraphy, but we cannot as long as we receive no government attention," he added.

Al-Ward says that those interested in Arabic calligraphy are a small, cultured group. This, he said, is the reason why the number of talented calligraphers is so few.

"Yemenis are busy earning a liv-

ing and chewing qat. For them, the art is unnecessary entertainment," said Al-Ward.

At another table at the forum sat Hisham Al-Ulafi, practicing his craft. Like Al-Kabodi, Al-Ulafi was also interested in improving his handwriting, but mostly, he wanted to improve his paintings with calligraphy.

A young painter, Al-Ulafi has been taking classes for a month.

"Once training finishes, I'll be able to use Arabic calligraphy in my paintings," he said.

Though Yemeni calligraphers are few, they are a presence at Arab exhibits.

Yemeni calligrapher Hamoud Al-Bana is an award-winning artist who has participated in several Arab calligraphy competitions. The last competition he participated in was in 2011 in Jordan. Al-Bana blames the government for the lack of talented calligraphers.

"I am awarded by foreign countries, but I cannot find funds for an Arabic calligraphy exhibition in my [own] country," Al-Bana said.

Al-Bana put together a beginner's guide to teaching Arabic calligraphy. The guide has not been approved by the Education Ministry to be used as part of public curricula, but some private schools are making use of it for extra school activities.

Over the past five years, Al-Bana, in cooperation with calligrapher Nasser Al-Nasari, has been preparing a methodology for teaching Arabic calligraphy. The methodology will be used in training courses over the next two years.

He indicated that this methodology, if used, will help establish the first Arabic Calligraphy Institute,



which will enable talented and aspiring calligraphers to hone their skills.

"We will be strong competitors in international calligraphy exhibitions," Al-Bana predicted.

The work of Al-Kabodi and many other trainees were thoughtfully displayed on the forum's walls. Al-Ward called Al-Kabodi's work cre-

ative and encouraged her to stick with the art.

She is looking forward to taking part in calligraphy-related exhibits organized by independent Yemeni calligraphers.

"Our [appreciation for the craft] needs to evolve. Arabic calligraphy is representative of our Islamic identity," said Al-Kabodi.



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“Inadequate representation of independent youth was the last straw.”

The National Youth Conference, the first of its kind since Yemen's popular uprising in 2011 led to the ousting of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh, was held almost two weeks ago. The two-day long event was designed to create a united youth vision for many of the issues being discussed at Yemen's National Dialogue Conference including those of calls of secession in the South and a growing insurgency in the North. Over 500 young people under the age of 30 attended the conference, which was a stipulation of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative.

Many have praised some of the conference's outcomes including concrete demands that Yemen's new government include a 30 percent quota for women and that all persons injured in protests receive promised compensation and treatment. However, a lot of controversy also accompanied the conference, as critics accused organizers of excluding many prominent and active participants from the 2011 protests.

At the heart of this issue is the conference's Preparatory Committee, which is now working with Yemen's president, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, to integrate the youth visions into outcomes at the National Dialogue Conference.

In an interview with the Yemen Times, Akhlaq Al-Asli, the deputy head of the Preparatory Committee for the National Youth Conference defends the conference as inclusive and a necessary project in Yemen's ongoing reconciliatory process.

To counter Al-Asli, Dr. Abdulla Al-Shami, a representative from Yemen's Justice and Building Party, explains why he resigned from the committee as a result of controversy surrounding the conference.

Interview and photos by Mohammed Al-Hasani



Let's start with you, Dr. Al-Shami, how was the Supreme Preparatory Committee [for the conference] formed?

Al-Shami: The committee was a result of a lack of a united vision for the revolutionary youth who protested in squares [during the 2011 uprising]. [It was designed] to unite youth groups who had rifts. So, the committee saw an opportunity to create a united front that embodies the major concerns and aspirations for youth and that reflects the

youth's points of view regarding many national issues.

At the beginning, a preparation committee was formed and included [representatives of] the Islah Party, the Nasserite Party and the Socialist Party. The program [for the conference] was then prepared and signed by the government. Representatives of the Justice and Building Party, the Houthis and other independent [factions] came later after seats had been divided. On principle, we rejected the [seat]

divisions.

That is to say, the Islah Party, the Socialist Party, the Nasserite and the Houthis were given 7, 6, 4 and 4 seats respectively. This shut the door down in front of other components. [This happened] though we suggested earlier that the representation should be based on thoughts, not individuals.

Did the disagreement flare up since the first step?

Al-Shami: Yes, this happened.

Also, some southern independent representatives stood for the southern movement, but later it was found that they are representatives of political parties. Of course, our brothers in the south called for fifty-fifty representation between the south and north. When the Islah Party raised an objection, the effective southern youth withdrew.

Then what happened?

Al-Shami: The process to form the committee went ahead, and then another dispute broke out. The dispute had to do with the determination of leadership positions. I called for a rotation so that every member of the Preparatory Committee would assume a leadership position. But our brothers in the Islah Party wanted to hold onto the leadership of the committee.

Were there any other disputes?

Al-Shami: Yes, there was a dispute concerning the financials of the committee. We wanted to create a website to publish the financials for the committee, but it was never created.

Let us shift the questions to Al-Asli, what do you say about what Al-Shami's has said since you are not affiliated with any party?

Al-Asli: Yes, I do not belong to any party. This makes me free. In regard to rotation of the committee's leadership, it was a wonderful idea, yet not possible. Any decision made by the committee had to be agreed upon by all its members.

You joined the committee later. What was the first disagreement you experienced?

Al-Asli: Houthis, Islah and some other parties disagreed about establishing committees in other governorates. Islah representatives suggested we visit other governorates to establish committees, and Houthis' representatives said we should select representatives from these governorates from individuals already in Sana'a. This disagreement was resolved by Hooria Mashhour, the Human Rights Minister and chairperson of the government supervisory committee assigned to form these committees. We agreed to establish the committees in the governorates and select youth from each governorate.

What happened after that?

Al-Asli: Mashhour called for a meeting and the involved parties agreed to provide the funds already allocated to establish the committees in governorates. Committees

from the Supreme Preparatory Committee's members in Sana'a visited governorates to select youth members for each governorate's Preparatory Committee. These committees were divided and a supervisor for each group [was appointed]. Later, Houthis' representatives and some other parties withdrew from the Preparatory Committee.

Why did you decided to dissolve the committee?

Al-Shami: There were several reasons some of which I mentioned earlier and mainly because the Islah Party overpowered the committee.

But some say your decision to dissolve the committee was one-sided as two thirds of the group didn't withdraw?

Al-Shami: It wasn't one-sided.

But names of Southern members in the committee were mentioned?

Al-Shami: That is absolutely untrue. Even the youth brought to the conference to represent Southern governorates weren't Southerners. So, the conference was chaotic...

Al-Asli: The confusion you mentioned conversely indicates the presence of youth representatives of all components. Otherwise, nothing would have happened if they all are associated with one political party...

Al-Shami: Even those Southerners didn't accept that and withdrew.

Were you entitled to dissolve the committee?

Al-Shami: Yes, as most of the political factions withdrew except representatives of the Islah and Nasserite Parties.

How many components remained?

Al-Shami: The committee is composed of six political factions as well as independent members. Only the Islah and Nasserite components remained...

Al-Asli: When Al-Shami withdrew from the Preparatory Committee as a representative of the Justice and Building Party, the party was contacted and another representative was sent instead. Representatives of the Nasserite and Socialist parties were present too, even after Talal Aqlan, a representative of the Socialist party, withdrew.

Some say the controversy that took place at the beginning of the conference indicates that many viewpoints and interests were represented. What do you think?

Al-Shami: On the contrary, had there not a dominant political party in the committee and confusion of [who would now be representatives], the situation wouldn't have been chaotic on the first day.

What is your opinion about that?

Al-Asli: Actually it's not true and impossible to say that all Yemeni youth were present at the conference or that it was held without any mistakes. However, it's also unfair and not logical to undermine all efforts of the youth within the committee and attribute all efforts put forth to the Islah Party. The withdrawal of many youth actually served the party that is said to have dominated the committee.

What do you say about that Dr. Al-Shami?

Al-Shami: I want Al-Asli to talk about any of the committee's successes including [what happened at the conference]. It's inappropriate for a youth committee to depend on the National Dialogue Conference's outcomes [that is why we needed the conference to form our own vision]. It indicates that they are guided by a particular political party. Inadequate representation of independent youth was the last straw.

What do you think?

Al-Asli: Fifty percent of representation in the committee was allocated to independent youth.

Is that true?

Al-Shami: I know nothing about these figures and who the 50 percent are. The committee's leadership was composed of 24 young representatives.

Can you explain the representation percent you mentioned about the independent youth?

Al-Asli: The 50 percent of independent representatives were selected from other governorates.

But 12 representatives were supposed to be among the committee's leaders?

Al-Asli: That's true. Ghassan, Shaif and me represented the independent youth in the committee's leadership but our decisions included the Islah and other components. I want to say to Al-Shami all other youth who withdrew from the committee that they were supposed to correct the wrong practices instead of withdrawal. Moreover, the youth who withdrew called to boycott the committee because it's associated with the Islah but this isn't true and is a big mistake.

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أخلاق العسلي نائبة رئيس اللجنة التحضيرية لمؤتمر الشباب والدكتور عبد الله الشامي القيادي المستقل من اللجنة في حوار مع "يمن تايمز" ..

العسلي: القول إن كل شباب اليمن كانوا موجودين داخل المؤتمر غير صحيح الشامي: ممثلو "الإصلاح" كانوا حريصين على الإمساك برئاسة اللجنة وتسويق مشاريع لا علاقة لها بها

تحت شعار "نور رؤية، وطنية، موحدة" .. انعقد المؤتمر العام الوطني للشباب مؤخرًا وسط دعوات أطلقتها مكونات شبابية بمقاطعته، باعتباره يمثل طرفًا سياسيًا واحدًا، وهم الشباب المنضون تحت حزب الإصلاح. المؤتمر الذي أقرته المبادرة الخليجية للخروج برؤى شبابية حول مختلف القضايا المطروحة على الساحة الوطنية استمر ليومين وناقش ١١ قضية منها القضايا التسعة الرئيسية التي يناقشها مؤتمر الحوار، اتهمت لجنته التحضيرية بإقصاء عدد من المكونات الشبابية الثورية، وكانت عقدت قيادات فيها مؤتمراً صحفياً في مارس الماضي أعلنت فيه حل اللجنة بسبب ما قبل إنه فشل أعضائها وإقصاء مورس ضد بعضهم، لكن اللجنة بقيت.. "خلفيات دعوات مقاطعة المؤتمر العام الوطني للشباب وإنعقادها" .. موضوع هذا الحوار التي تستضيف فيه الصحيفة كلا من السيدة أخلاق العسلي نائبة رئيس اللجنة التحضيرية للمؤتمر، وهي ممثلة للشباب المستقل، والدكتور عبد الله الشامي القيادي المستقل من اللجنة، وهو ممثل عن حزب العدالة والبناء... فإلى الحوار..

حوار وتصوير/ محمد الحسني



أخلاق تقاطع.. عندما انسحب الدكتور عبد الله الشامي من اللجنة التحضيرية على أساس أنه يتبع مكون حزب العدالة والبناء تم التوصل مع مكونه وبعثوا بممثل بديل عنه، كما كان ممثل الناصري متواجداً والاشتراكي كذلك، حتى عندما انسحب ممثل الاشتراكي طلال علقان كان باقي ممثليه موجودون في اللجنة.

دكتور شامي.. حدث صحب وحالات من الفوضى خلال افتتاح أعمال المؤتمر دليل على ضمه لخلف الأطياف.. كيف ترد على من يقول هذا الكلام؟

على العكس.. لولا هيمنة طرف سياسي واحد على اللجنة والفوضى في المكونات داخل اللجنة لما حدثت تلك الفوضى يوم افتتاح المؤتمر.

سيدة أخلاق.. ما رأيك فيما ذكره الشامي؟ الحقيقة.. أن نقول كل شباب اليمن موجودون كانوا داخل المؤتمر هذا غير صحيح ولا يمكن أن يصير أصلاً، وأن تشكل اللجنة ويعقد المؤتمر دون أخطاء هذا أيضاً مستحيل.. لكن أن ينسف جهد جميع الشباب في اللجنة لا يصح، أيضاً أن ينسب كل الجهود المبذول في اللجنة للإصلاح غير منطقي، ونسب نجاح اللجنة للإصلاح غير منصف أيضاً، كما أن ما قام به الشباب المنسحبون خدم الطرف الذي يقولون إنه استحوذ على اللجنة.

سيد شامي كيف ترد على ما ذكرته السيدة أخلاق؟ أنا أريد من الأخت أخلاق أن تحدثني عن نجاح واحد للجنة، حتى على مستوى المخزجات.. هل هناك لجنة حوار لشباب توكل بعض القضايا أو تفوضها لمخرجات الحوار الوطني..! هل هذه رؤية شباب.. هذا دليل على أنها مسيرة من طرف سياسي معين.. الضربة التي قصمت ظهر اللجنة في اعتقادي كانت في عدم تمثيل الشباب المستقل التمثيل الكافي.

الحديث لك سيدة أخلاق؟ الشباب المستقل كان ممثل بنسبة ٥٠٪ في اللجنة.

ما رأيك سيد شامي؟ أنا لا أعرف من أين أتت بهذا الرقم.. من هم الذين يمثلون ال ٥٠٪ .. قيادات اللجنة جميعها كانت مكونة من ٢٤ شاباً.

سيدة أخلاق هل من الممكن أن تشرحي ما ذكرته حول نسبة تمثيل الشباب المستقل؟ ال ٥٠٪ كانوا في المحافظات.

لكن المفترض أن يكونوا ١٢ منهم في قيادة اللجنة؟

صحيح كنا أنا وغسان شائف في قيادة اللجنة كممثلين للمستقلين، لكن قرارنا يوازي قرار ممثلي الإصلاح وغيره من المكونات.. أنا أيضاً أوجه سؤالاً للشامي ولكل الشباب اللذين انسحبوا.. إذا كان هناك سلوكيات خاطئة فهم معنيون بتعديلها وليس بالانسحاب، لأن ذلك يعد هروباً، كما أن اللجنة أصلاً ليست تابعة للإصلاح حتى يقول المنسحبون للشباب قاطعهم ولا تتعاملوا معهم.. هذا خطأ كبير.

تشكيل اللجان في المحافظات.. كان في خلاف حولها بين ممثلين لأنصار الله وممثلين عن الإصلاح وأحزاب أخرى، حيث كان ممثلو الإصلاح يرون أن التشكيل يتم عن طريق النزول إلى المحافظات بينما ممثلو أنصار الله كان يقولون نختار ممثلين عن المحافظات من هنا من صنعنا، ومن ثم حل هذا الخلاف بعد حضور وزيرة حقوق الإنسان حورية مشهور باعتبارها رئيس اللجنة الإشرافية المشكلة من الحكومة لتشكيل اللجنة وتم الاتفاق على أن يتم تشكيل لجان في المحافظات ويتم اختيار الشباب من كل محافظة، وعلى أن يكون للشباب المستقل النسبة الأكبر من التمثيل.

وماذا تم بعد ذلك؟ دعيت الوزيرة مشهور لاجتماع وتم التوافق على صرف المخصصات المالية لتشكيل اللجان في المحافظات وتنزل لجان من اللجنة التحضيرية العليا هنا في صنعاء إلى المحافظات لاختيار الشباب الذين سيشكلون اللجان التحضيرية في المحافظات وقسموا إلى مجموعات، كل مجموعة تتكون من ثلاثة أعضاء ومشرف عليهم، وهكذا تم تشكيل اللجان في المحافظات.. وبعد هذه الخطوة كان إنسحاب ممثلي أنصار الله من اللجنة التحضيرية وممثلي بعض الأحزاب الأخرى.

طيب.. دكتور عبد الله لا قررتم حل اللجنة؟ السبب تراكمات سابقة ذكرت لك بعضها، وقبل ذلك كله قيام حزب الإصلاح بالاستحواذ على اللجنة.

لكن هناك من يقول إن قراركم بالحل كان فردياً حيث لم تنسحب ثلثي المكونات كما ذكرتم حين إعلان حلكم للجنة؟

لا.. ليس فردياً بل كان هناك ممثلين لأكثر من ٧٠٪ من قوام اللجنة، حيث انسحب ممثل الشباب المستقل، وشباب الجنوب لم يكونوا موجودين أصلاً في اللجنة.

لكن هناك أسماء ذكرت لممثلين جنوبيين في اللجنة؟ غير صحيح إطلاقاً.. حتى من تم استقدامهم على أنهم يمثلون شباب المحافظات الجنوبية في المؤتمر لم يكونوا كذلك، ولذلك شهد افتتاح المؤتمر العام للشباب حالة من الفوضى.

أخلاق تقاطع.. على العكس ما تقول إنها فوضى حدثت داخل المؤتمر دليل أنه كان هناك ممثلين للشباب من كل الأطياف، لأنه إن لم يكن كذلك وكانوا جميعهم يمثلون طرفاً سياسياً واحداً لما حدثت ضجة.

الشامي يرد.. حتى أولئك الجنوبيين لم يستطيعوا الصبر على المهزلة التي حدثت وأعلنوا انسحابهم من المؤتمر.

طيب.. السؤال لك عبد الله الشامي هل كنتم تمتلكون حق حل اللجنة؟ لأنه معظم المكونات انسحبت، لم يتبقى سوى ممثلي الحزب الناصري وحزب الإصلاح.

كم نسبة المكونات التي انسحبت من المكونات التي بقيت؟ اللجنة تتكون من ستة مكونات بالإضافة إلى المستقلين، لم يبق غير مكثري الإصلاح والناصري.

مثل ماذا هذه المشاريع؟ بدأت بدخول ياسر الرعيني اللجنة الفنية لمؤتمر الحوار وإصدار بيانات تأييد لرئيس الجمهورية، وكان ذلك أول ما قسم ظهر اللجنة، منها إصدار بيان تأييد لرئيس الجمهورية لإصداره قراراً بتنفيذ المرحلة الأولى من هيكلة القوات المسلحة، بالرغم من أنها بالنسبة لنا كانت غامضة، لأن قادة الأئمة اللذين تم تعيينهم في القرار تم اختيارهم من قوى تتبع النظام السابق، وعلى كل كانت البيانات التي تصدرها اللجنة محل خلاف من قبل أعضائها، ومع ذلك كانت تصدر.. بعد ذلك قام الإخوة من حزب الإصلاح بمنح الدروع لقيادات تعتقد أنها كانت مشاركة في قتل شباب الثورة، وهو ما أدى إلى انسحاب قيادات الشباب المستقل من اللجنة.

هل كانت هناك خلافات أخرى؟ نعم.. كان هناك خلاف في الجانب المالي للجنة، حيث طالبنا بعمل موقع الكتروني يتم فيه نشر جميع العمليات المالية التي تقوم بها اللجنة، لكن لم يتم ذلك.

طيب.. اسمح لي أن انتقل إلى السيدة أخلاق.. ماتعقيبك على ما ذكره الشامي باعتبارك مستقلة ولاتنتمين لأي حزب؟ نعم.. أنا لا أنتهي لأي حزب ولا بشرفتي ذلك، ليس لشيء، ولكن من أجل أن أكون حرة.. في موضوع تدوير القيادة في اللجنة، هي فكرة رائعة لكنها غير ممكنة، لأن أساس العمل في اللجنة التوافق، سواء كنت رئيساً للجنة أو نائبها أو المسؤول المالي لا بد أن يتوافق الجميع على أي قرار يتخذ داخل اللجنة، وهذا كان يمثل من ناحية إيجابية ومن أخرى سلبية، لأنه كان يؤخر خروج القرارات.

هل تريد أن تعقب دكتور شامي؟ نعم.. الأخ ياسر الرعيني كان يحمل الختم في جيبه مثل صاحب الدكان يعمل مراسلات ومخاطبات لا نعلم عنها نحن قيادات اللجنة شيئاً، ولم نكن نكتشفها إلا بعد فترة طويلة.. تصور كشف لنا أمين عام الدكتور أحمد عوض بن مبارك بأنه تم ترشيح أربعين شاباً وشابة لمؤتمر الحوار باسم اللجنة ولم نكتشف ذلك إلا فيما بعد، حيث قدمت قيادات محسوبة على حزب الإصلاح قائمة بهم لرئيس الجمهورية ومارسوا الضغط عليه، بعد ذلك أحال الرئيس الموضوع لأمين الحوار للنظر في الأسماء المرشحة واكتشف أن ٩٠٪ منها هم من حزب الإصلاح، لكن تم إهمال الموضوع بقيامنا بإحلال اللجنة، ولولا أننا قمنا بذلك لكان دخل الأربيعون المرشحون في الحوار باسم اللجنة دون علمنا.

وانتم ببقية قيادات اللجنة أين كنتم؟ ألم تكونوا تحضرون الاجتماعات؟ نعم.. لكن الختم كان بجيب الرعيني، حتى مقر اللجنة اختير ليكون بالقرب من مقر حزب الإصلاح ومقر الفرقة الأولى مدرع سابقاً.. يعني كل شيء كان مدروساً.. وبصراحة نحن تأخرنا كثيراً في حل اللجنة، كنا أشبه بشهود زور في هذه اللجنة، وهذه قناعتنا وقناعة الأخوة اللذين انسحبوا منها.

دعني انتقل للسيدة أخلاق.. انضمت للجنة متأخرة بديلة، لقيادية عن الشباب المستقل.. ما هو أول خلاف شهدته منذ التحاقك باللجنة؟

يطلبون بتمثيل بالمنافسة بين الشمال والجنوب، وعندما وجدوا معارضة من الإصلاح انسحبوا، وأقصد هنا أن القوى الشبابية الجنوبية الفاعلة انسحبت.

وماذا حدث بعد ذلك؟ تم المضي في تشكيل اللجنة، ومن ثم برز خلاف آخر، وهو ثبات المناصب فيها.. وأنا كنت من المنادين بتدويرها، لكي يشعر كل عضو لجنة تحضيرية بأنه قائد لها، لكن كان هناك حرص لدى الإخوة من حزب الإصلاح على الإمساك برئاسة اللجنة وتسويق مشاريع لا علاقة لها باللجنة.

قد تمت.. في البداية كان اعتراضنا كبير على فكرة المحاصصة من حيث العبداء.. بمعنى أن يأخذ الإصلاح ٧ مقاعد، الاشتراكي ٦ مقاعد، الناصري ٤ مقاعد، أنصار الله ٤ مقاعد.. لأنه أغلق الباب أمام المكونات الأخرى.. وكنا طرحنا قبل ذلك أن يكون التمثيل عبر أفكار وليس أشخاصاً..

يعني أن الخلاف بينكم كان منذ الخطوة الأولى؟ نعم، كان كذلك، أيضاً تم تصعيد بعض المستقلين من الجنوب على أساس إنهم ممثلون للحراك وفي الأخير اتضح إنهم ممثلين لأحزاب، طبعاً الأخوة في الحراك كان

أبدأ معك دكتور عبد الله.. كيف تشكلت أولاً اللجنة التحضيرية؟ تشكيل اللجنة جاء عقب فشل الشباب في الساحات على الالتقاء حول مشروع شبابي موحد نتيجة الانقسامات التي حدثت واختطاف الأحزاب لثورة الشباب، فكانت فكرة تشكيل اللجنة فرصة للالتقاء حول مشروع معين يجسد هموم وتطلعات الشباب ووجهة نظرهم إزاء القضايا الوطنية المختلفة.. في البداية تشكلت لجنة إعداد مكونة من أحزاب الإصلاح والناصري والاشتراكي.. وتم إعداد المشروع وتوقيعه مع الحكومة.. نحن كممثلين لحزب العدالة والبناء وأنصار الله والمستقلين جنباً للاحقاً وقد كانت المحاصصة

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More Yemeni couples embrace in vitro fertilization

Doctors battle common misconceptions associated with the technology



Samar Qaed

None of the ultrasound rooms in the C-PLAS Hospital in Sana'a, Um Abdulmalik sits, listening carefully to her doctor's advice. She put her hand on her belly, touching it gently. With a tender look on her face, she explained that this pregnancy—this baby—is what she has most longed for over two decades.

Infertility, once a devastating diagnosis for a couple trying to conceive, is no longer a blanket diagnosis that carries no options. The use of in vitro fertilization (IVF) technology first began to emerge in Yemen in 2000 and has been blessing for families like Um Abdulmalik's ever since.

Once delegated to the realm of science fiction, IVF is now reality for the estimated 5 million people who have been born worldwide since the '70s as a result of the technology, according to the International Committee for Monitoring Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ICMART). The very first "test-tube baby," Louise Brown, was born in the United Kingdom in July 1978.

Yemen's first IVF baby was born in Sana'a in 2000, according to C-PLAS. The relatively new technology involves fertilizing a female's egg with sperm outside of the body and then transferring the embryo into a uterus.

After 19 years of marriage, Um Abdulmalik has a month left before becoming a mother. She is expecting a baby boy and has already named him Abdulmalik. She's adopted the Yemeni tradition of calling herself "mother of" or "um" Abdulmalik, though her child is not yet born.

At C-PLAS, 40 new patients come to clinic daily, indicating the increasing acceptability of the

procedure, though misconceptions about the process still abound, the hospital says.

They range from rumors of mass deformities and retardation to severely reduced life spans for babies conceived in a non-traditional way.

Naseem Abdulla, a senior at commerce department of Sana'a University, is not convinced of the technology, he worries that parents have no guarantee that the embryo implanted into the mother is the product of the two parents.

"How can the couple know this baby is theirs?" he asked.

Like Abdulla, Nabeel Ahmed and Saleh Al-Shalali are also skeptical.

Ahmed believes the likelihood of deformities increase with IVF, contrary to what Yemeni IVF experts told the Yemen Times.

Al-Shalali, despite scientific evidence discrediting his claim, says if "[a] test-tube baby is born, it will not live long."

Despite these views, a poor economy and a deeply religious population, IVF is booming.

Dr. Mohammed Atif is an Egyptian doctor and a professor of medicine at Al-Azhar University in Egypt. He travels to Yemen to work at C-PLAS one month out of the year. He has been in the IVF field for 12 years now. He says he has to spend a lot of his time in Yemen clearing-up misconceptions about IVF and convincing patients that the procedure is not un-Islamic.

"One thing we must emphasize to those who think the procedure is religiously forbidden is that it is only the fertilization of the embryo that occurs outside the body. In other ways, it is completely natural," Atif said.

Of the 2,000 IVF procedures performed since 2007, 800 have

resulted in successful pregnancies, a success rate of 40 percent.

Yemen's Ministry of Public Health and Population has no statistics about IVF pregnancies or children resulting from IVF, they say.

Atif told the Yemen Times that infertility, especially amongst men, is high in Yemen.

"This has to do with chewing qat," Dr. Atif believes but has never conducted a scientific study on his hypothesis.

The literature on the topic is sparse, but a study published in 2010 by Noman Al-Aswadi, a Yemeni researcher at Sana'a University, says that qat reduces the number of sperm and increases 'disfigured' or 'distorted' semen.

"Medical tests have shown that sperm of [frequent qat chewers] are disfigured, reducing the odds of pregnancy," Atif said.

IVF isn't appropriate for all infertile couples, Atif added. Unless the couple is having a surrogate carry the child, which is unheard of in Yemen, the woman must be able to carry-out a pregnancy. Cases where IVF is appropriate include pregnancies made difficult because of a lack of [healthy] sperm or issues related to a woman's fallopian tube.

Polycystic ovary syndrome is a leading cause of infertility amongst women in Yemen, Atif said. It is an endocrine disorder present in 10 to 20 percent of women of reproductive age.

Um Abdulmalik's infertility stemmed from issues she had relating to her ovaries. Given the cost of IVF—several thousand dollars—many Yemeni men simply marry additional wives, a cheaper and religiously permitted option. Men are allowed four wives in Islam and under Yemeni law. Women who do not get pregnant within a year

of marriage often feel the pressure from family, neighbors and friends to quickly conceive.

For Um Abdulmalik, her journey of infertility has lasted 19 years, the length of her marriage. Unlike many other men, her husband has refused to marry another wife, instead insisting that God will give them a child.

A resident of Ibb, she has traveled throughout Yemen seeking medical care and advice, eager to expand her family. Her efforts were futile, however, until she heard about IVF.

"I've been dreaming about this moment for years," she said as she sobbed at the clinic.

Three weeks after her IVF treatment, Um Abdulmalik learned she was pregnant. The support she and her husband received from relatives and friends was overwhelmingly supportive and congratulatory.

"I cried tears of joy," she said. "The phone kept ringing, everyone called to congratulate my husband and me."

It was their support that literally made the procedure possible.

"The cost is astronomical, we have spent YR1.5 million (about \$7,000). My husband's family helped us financially," the expectant mother said.

With an international success rate of about 35 percent, C-PLAS' rate of 40 percent success is competitive, despite no programs in Yemen to train staff in IVF. All staff are trained abroad.

Hesitant to take any risks, Atif said that many families choose to have caesarean operations, hoping to minimize any complications resulting from labor.

Women can undergo IVF and have successful second and third

pregnancies if they are healthy, he said.

"My first months [of pregnancy] were tiring, but when I saw these test-tube babies on TV, I forgot all my physical pains and worries. I want to have a baby," Um Abdulmalik said.

In a little home in Ibb, a baby's

room is decorated and teeming with presents, ready for the long-awaited arrival of Abdulmalik.

"I feel as though I'm finally happy," she told the Yemen Times. "I've been waiting 19 years for this moment."

Photos courtesy of C-Plas

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Shahi Haleeb

Time for some traffic laws?



Sara Al-Zawqari

There is a scene that repeatedly makes me furious, which I see over and over again on our streets. It's called: the kids in the trunk. What kind of a father puts his kids in the trunk? The oldest girl looked about 7-years-old, she was holding her brothers with one hand, trying to keep them in, and holding the top of the trunk with the other hand. Her two little brothers weren't helping—their heads and limbs were sticking out. The father wasn't helping either, he was driving ridiculously fast, switching lane, left and right. We tried to follow him, to put some sense into his head, but we couldn't catch-up. Had he forgotten that there were little ones in the back? What if the girl gets tired and the trunk shuts on one of their heads or limbs? What if he suddenly breaks or gets into an accident and his kids fly out, what will he do then?

With roads like ours, and drivers like ours, the probability of something bad happening is high. I don't know how these people think, it's as though they are invincible! And the worst thing was that he passed through a checkpoint and drove right through. It's like the soldier did not see anything wrong. He did not stop the father, but stopped the next car because he had tinted windows. The soldier made him remove the tint while we waited behind. That was just ridiculous—he lets that man go but stops another car for having tinted windows.

Everything in our society runs slowly: procedures, transactions, development...etc. Everything that should run fast takes its sweet time. We are slow at everything except driving, our streets are like battlefields, and speeding is the number one killer on our roads.

A driver sits in traffic for a long time, but as soon as he gets an opportunity to get out, his foot goes straight for the gas—full power—phewwwwwww! Why do you speed when you know that the roads are stitched

with magical bumps and pits that come out of nowhere and surprise you? It's easy to lose control of your car and get into an accident with roads like ours and with insane drivers who speed.

If one sees the financial and human loss which has been caused by accidents, one would think that we have entered a war and have been defeated—badly! Traffic police recorded more than 180,000 traffic violations during the first quarter of the year.

The number of people killed in traffic accident for the month of August reached 261 people, more than 1,300 were injured. The leading cause of accidents, according to the authorities, is speeding. Yet they choose to do nothing when they have opportunities to enforce those laws. They keep citing fate and destiny, instead of neglect and failure to perform their duties.

At times where we most need speed, like when an ambulance needs to pass through, you will notice that no one moves to the side to allow these ambulances to pass. No matter how loud the ambulance runs its siren, ask a Yemeni and he'll tell you that "they're lying, there's no emergency, they just want to get out of traffic."

They always say drive slow when it's raining, but this is never the case here. All you see are splashing cars! Never walk when it's raining, never put the windows down, because these huge waves will get the best of your hair and clothes. Ironically, you usually get splashed, if you had business meeting, a party, or somewhere important to go

to. There should be traffic cameras with radar sensors, capable of detecting speed and recording your license number, especially on long roads which connect different provinces. We will not follow the rules unless we really start getting fined. Some say traffic cameras are way out of our reach, they say stop dreaming. To be honest, the reality is that we don't even try to find solutions with the excuse of "it's impossible to make that

Why is it hard for people to largely stick to one lane? I decided to count how much time would it take a car to switch lanes. Not one car in front of me took remained in a lane longer than 15 seconds, most remained in one lane far less.

Speeding will only get you to your destination a few minutes earlier. It's really not worth risking your life for 3 minutes. Anyone who has been in an accident can tell you how time passes, how slowly the seconds pass. At that moment, the world is running on slow motion. I used to love to speed, and few years back, I was in an accident and the car I was in flipped upside-down. And although I wasn't driving, I did not tell my friend to slow down, and whatever happened, it was the longest 30 seconds of my life. They now call me "turtle," but I don't care. I truly believe that this was a clear sign for me to stop speeding.

May God bless you for yourself and for your family. Please do not speed. In the moment, you might be tempted because you are late or because you like the rush, but you might live to regret this moment, or not live and cause unimaginable pain to your loved ones.

For weddings, the boys go crazy on the roads, as though they deliberately want to turn the wedding into a funeral! Speeding, drifting, switching lanes, why? Where are you going? Are you so eager to go to the grave or meet God? If you want to meet God, at least meet him while you're doing something good, not while you're speeding,

while putting your life and others in danger.

How do we give them driver's licenses without a test? How can licenses be issued for people while they sit on their couch and watch TV? I just want confirmation that at least one person has failed a driving test, it's not possible that with all this insane driving on our streets that no one has failed. I hope to see officers stopping cars and asking for licenses, people drive without licenses or with expired ones, because no one asks.

Unfortunately the government has not put its foot down. All we've seen was few small efforts, ads here and there, which they called a campaign to raise awareness. What I suggest to the government is a complete, integrated media campaign, on television, radio, billboards, etc. It should find new innovative ways for this campaign to be visible in universities, schools, and on the streets.

An official from a police department once claimed on one of our radio shows that people know about traffic violations and fines. I'm sorry, but if you ask the people on the street, they won't be able to tell you that information, it's like they live in a bubble. You know there are traffic rules, and the people you work with know it, but on the other hand we still don't know how much we would have to pay if we pass a red light, or don't fasten our seat belts! Let the people know what the consequences are for each violation, advertise with different mediums. Let the campaign run for six months, let policemen issue warnings at their discretion those first few months, and set a date to start implementing these fines. Strong awareness will give people a chance to digest the change and change their behavior before getting fined.

Hear more of Shahi Haleeb weekdays on Radio Yemen Times, aired 2:00-3:00 p.m. and 10:00-11:00 p.m., Saturday through Thursday. Tune your dial to 88.8 and thanks for listening!



happen here." Humans have landed on the moon, let's think big.

Trucks are on another planet. Bigger than the little sedan's littering the highway, they overtake other vehicles as though they own the streets, they flyyyyy. Each truck considers itself a Porsche GT, and everyone else is invisible to them, when in actuality they're speeding by, with large stones or big containers that are not even tied down. Should these objects fall, they would squash whatever was in its path, just as a moving vehicle can doom an insect.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ * الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ *

البقاء لله



بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره
نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة القلبية إلى

محمد أحمد مثنى
وأ نور محمد مثنى
وكافة آل مثنى

بوفاة المغفور له، بإذن الله تعالى،

إبراهيم محمد مثنى

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدهم الفقيه بوسع رحمته وأن يسكنها فسيح جناته ويلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

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المدير العام التنفيذي

نادية عبد العزيز السقايف
رئيس التحرير

المعزون

وجميع موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز



OUT OF THE YEMENI KITCHEN



Dates with Eggs

Wigdan Al Guneid

Dates with eggs is not the typical Yemeni dish one might run into in a Shaibani or a Hadramout restaurant, but it's a favorite of those who have tried it. Very few families make it regularly as it is usually served as a specialty breakfast for mothers who have recently given birth.

Dates and eggs is a rich dish believed to provide breast-feeding mothers with nutrients they can pass on to their developing babies.

So what is the history behind one of Yemen's rarest but most delicious mixtures?

Eggs and dates is a common meal in Iraq and Iran as both countries are famous worldwide for the quality of their domestically-grown dates. There is speculation that this simple meal found its way to Yemen during the rule of the Rasulid dynasty, a group with Kurdish roots in modern-day Iraq. During the dynasty's rule from 1229 to 1454 A.D., Yemen was greatly influenced by Kurdish foods and customs.

However, the dish was adapted using Yemen's unique flavors. Today it is typically made with

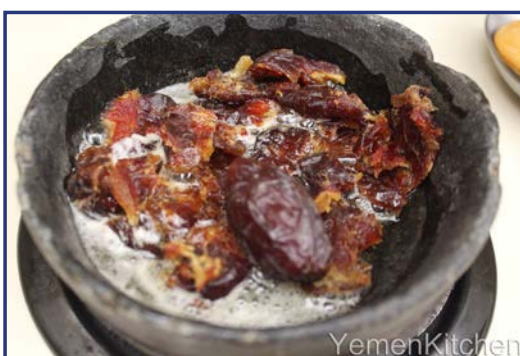
nutmeg and cardamom—two spices that find their way into many Yemeni dishes. Large Yemeni traditional stone bowls add extra flavor to the dishes because during cooking, they slowly transfer heat to the dates, which creates a sweet and crispy layer at the base of the bowl. This is great to dig into at the end of a meal.

The following recipe is simple and it's easy to adjust the ratio of dates to eggs depending on whether you are in the mood for something a bit more sweet or a bit more savory. It is also delicious served with warm bread.



Ingredients: 3 Eggs, 2-3 spoons of butter or clarified ghee, 1 cup seedless dates

Seasoning: Salt and pepper, cardamom and nutmeg (if desired)



1

First heat the stone dish on the stove top over medium to high heat. Add the butter and allow it to melt completely. Add the dates and start smashing them with a wooden spoon until they make a soft purée



2

Make a hole in the center of the puree and add the eggs. You can either whisk the eggs in a separate dish then pour it into the center or break the eggs directly into the dish.



3

Leave the dish on the heat until the eggs are cooked to your liking.



4

Season with salt, pepper, cardamom and nutmeg to your liking. Enjoy.

Wigdan Al Guneid blogs about Yemeni food for the website YemenKitchen. Find more recipes at yemenkitchen.wordpress.com

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Radio Yemen Times is pleased to announce its newest monthly initiative for its community service series, Hand in Hand.

This month in coordination with My Book Is Yours project-Yemen, a group of community activists, Yemen Times will be collecting children's books and other items to furnish small libraries to be established throughout the city.

Radio Yemen Times is collecting both new and used items like shelves, chairs and notebooks. We invite you to join us and ensure the success of this initiative.

Over the past four years, My Book Is Yours project has set up 10 small libraries and book cabinets in the city, including one in Al-Thwara Public Hospital and one in Al-Miqdad School in the Shumaila neighborhood.

For more information, tune into our radio show, Sabahukm Ridha, at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday.



يمن تايمز بالتعاون مع "مبادرة كتابي كتابك - اليمن"، تنفذ مشروعها الجديد

يهدف مشروع كتابي كتابك لجمع كتب الأطفال القديمة والجديدة إضافة إلى المستلزمات الخاصة بالمكتبات (أرفف كتب، كراسي، ألوان، دفاتر رسم وغيرها من المستلزمات...), ليتم بعد عملية الجمع إنشاء عدد من المكتبات الصغيرة، أو زوايا قراءة في بعض الأحياء التي تتضمن أماكن تهتم بالأطفال وبخاصة لإنشاء مكتبات خاصة بهم.

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خلال الأربع السنوات الماضية أنشأت مبادرة كتابي كتابك - اليمن أكثر من 10 مكتبات وزوايا قراءة ضمن مؤسسات أو جمعيات أو مدارس في العاصمة صنعاء منها: زاوية القراءة بمركز الزبير التابع لهيئة مستشفى الثورة العام، مدرسة المقداد في حي شميلة، اهداء قصص وكتب لدار الأيتام وغيرها من الأماكن.

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Sudoku Easy Intermediate Difficult

8	3	9		6		5		9	8	7		8		6		7		
1	6		4	8	5	2		4		6	7		9	1		2		
	5		8		9	4		5			2		5					
3	9			1			3	2	4		8		3				4	
5	8	1	3	7	4		4		7		3			1	8		5	
7		6		8		7			3	9		7					6	
6		8		4		3			8		5						3	
	5	7	6		9	8	6	1			5	3		4		2		9
8			7	9	6			7		2		9	2		7			6

Chess

Solutions

Sudoku

Black plays and wins in the 4th move

IMPORTANT Numbers

Electricity problems 177, Emergency Police 199, Fire Brigade 191, Water Problems 171, Telephone enquires 118, Accident (Traffic) 194, Foreign Affairs, 2025447, Interior Affairs 2527017, Immigration 2507613, Inter-City Bus Co. 262111/3, Ministry of Communication 325110/12/3, Radio Station 282061, Tourism 254032, TV Station 332001/2, Red Crescent 203131/3, Tel-Yemen 7522202, Y.net 7522227

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Qatar Air ways Fax: 506038, Tel:506030/5
Royal Jordanian 01 446064/5/8

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Shamil Bank of Yemen & Bahrain Tel: 264775, 264702. Fax: 264703, 503350
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CAC Bank 01 563813
Al-Amal Bank 01-449731
Qatar International Bank 01-517544
Yemeni Bank for Reconstruction and Development 01-271601
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Modern German Hospital 600000/602008 E-mail:felipe@hotmail.com Fax: 601889
Al-Jumhury Hospital 01 274286/87
Hadda Hospital 01 412981
Al-Thawra Hospital 01 246967/66
Al-Junaid Hospital 01-424765
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Science and Technology Hospital 01-500000
Al-Kuwait Hospital 01-283283
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HOTELS

L'AZURDE suites hotel 01-432020/30/40
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Sheraton Hotel 01 237500

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Gulf Tourist Hotel and Suits 01-630494
Mercure Hotel 01-212544
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Universal Hotels 01-440305/7-14
Shahrani Hotel 01-417320

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Marib Insurance Sana'a: 206129/8/13 Aden: 255668 Taiz:240927/34 Hodeidah: 219545/8
Yemen Islamic Insurance Co. Sana'a 284193, 5 lines, Taiz: 258881, Aden: 244280
Yemen Insurance company Sana'a: 272806/272962/43, Aden: 247617 Taiz: 250345, Mukalla: 304292, Hodeidah: 261839/17
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International Turkish Schools 01-419330-1, 737999199 Taiz 205593
Al-Majd Yemen School Tel: 206159
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MINISTRIES

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Prime Minister 01-490 800
Ministry of Public Works and Highways 01-545132
Ministry of Awfaq and Guidance 01-274439
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research 01-535031
Ministry of Fisheries 01-268583
Ministry of Culture 01-274640
Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance 01-294579
Ministry of Defence 01-276404
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation 01-282963
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour 01-262809
Ministry of Legal Affairs 01-402213
Ministry of Public Health and Population 01-252211
Ministry of Youth and Sports 01-472913
Ministry of Industry and Trade 01-235462
Ministry of Justice 01-236512
Ministry of Tourism 01-220050
Ministry of Expatriates 01-402254
Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals 01-202309
Ministry of Internal Affairs 01-289577
Ministry of Transport 01-260900
Ministry of Human Rights 01-444831
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology 01-331460
Ministry of Local Administration 01-227242
Ministry of Information 01-274008
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In loving memory of Ibrahim Mothana

Ibrahim was known for his intelligence, kind spirit and contagious sense of humor. He was the co-founder of the Watan Party and was the youngest member of the Arab Thought Foundation.

an eloquent speaker. He presented at last year's first TedX event in Sana'a and at the Global Leadership and New Digital Landscape seminar in Sweden in 2011.

Ibrahim was also very active in the field of social work and volunteered with many national and international organizations including Human Rights Watch, UNESCO and the World Bank.

Yemen Times journalist Sara Al-Zawqari recalls fond memories with the young man who will be remembered as one of Yemen's most promising and devoted young leaders.

"I remember the first time I saw Ibrahim and sat with him, I heard



him debating with two other people. I just sat silent and listened. The way he spoke, the way he expressed his opinion, the way he presented evidence, he was unbe-

lievably captivating. I was so impressed with his intelligence and wit, I was fired up with hope. The more I saw him and talked to him, the more I recognized his leadership skills. I thought he might be the next foreign minister or even the president.

Ibrahim, you left a huge hole in the lives of everyone who had the privilege of meeting you. I am proud to have known you.

Thank you for everything you did for Yemen, thank you for being the person you were. We miss you, but you will always be a part of our lives."

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اخوك / خالد حيدر

Yemen Times Staff

Yemen Times offers its sincerest condolences to family, friends and community members who are mourning the loss of Ibrahim Mothana, a young writer and activist who died on Sept. 5 at the age of 24.

Ibrahim was known for his intelligence, kind spirit and contagious sense of humor. He was the co-founder of the Watan Party and was the youngest member of the Arab Thought Foundation. His articles and commentary have been featured in the New York Times, CNN and Al-Jazeera. In addition to his writing, Ibrahim was well-known as

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