

Health

**Center offers** treatment and hope for children suffering from cerebral palsy

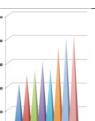
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**Bank deposits** growing in unhealthy national economy

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Local cinema knows how to draw the crowds

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Culture

A promising feature film in a cinema-less country Page 12





مبروك للفائز بالجائزة الكبرى سيارة سنتابية ءفهد عبدالله سلمان



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إذا لم يتم الاستلام والتسليم . ويتم الإعلان عن الفائزين حينها وتطبيق الأجراءات السابقة . إذا لم يتم استلام أو تسليم الجائزة لأي سبب من الأسباب تلفي الجائزة على الفائز الذي لم يستويِّة الشروط أو لم يحضر لاستلامها، ويعاد السحب عليها مرة أخرى في موعد تحدده الشركة.

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Thursday, 3 October, 2013 • Issue No. 1717 • Price 50 Yemeni Riyals

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**Say cheese!** The Inside Out Project, a global art initiative, has come to Yemen. The project has photographed thousands of individuals all over the world to allow them to change people's perceptions of their nation. Yemenis of all walks of life have agreed to have their portraits taken as part of the campaign's slogan, "We are not terrorists or hopeless, we are human beings with real human stories." **Read more on Page 6** 

(Photo by Samar Qaed)

# City to ban weapons carrying for motorcyclists

As assassinations increase, state says it's taking more security precautions

# Story and photo by

SANA'A, Oct. 2—New procedures to regulate weapons carrying in Yemen are coming soon, the government has promised. The regulations, which are a collaboration between the Supreme Military and Security Affairs Committee and the Interior Ministry, would prohibit the carrying of weapons on motorcycles by civilians and military forces, the Interior Ministry announced on Monday.

Motorcycles have been used as escape vehicles in almost half of assassinations of military and security officials this year, the Interior Ministry says. Five assassinations took place last week and over 100 have taken place from January to present. Four civilians have also been assassinated.

Authorities hope to have the procedures in place to monitor the weapons carrying by Eid al-Adha, in mid-October, Colonel Mohammed Hizam, the deputy head of public relations at the Interior Ministry said.

New security checkpoints will be set-up at governorate entrances and in city-centers, Hizam said. Motorcyclists can also expect surprise inspections at any point.

"Motorcycle curfews will be in place from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.," Hizam said

In addition to the ban on weapons carrying, new regulations will also require motorcycle salesmen to register and license imported mo-



If procedures are enforced, motorcyclists will have to abide by a strict curfew and be prohibited from carrying weapons on their bikes.

torcycles. Unlicensed motorcycles

This will be the second attempt to

enact such regulations. At the be-

ginning of the year, the Yemeni gov-

ernment ordered the licensing of all

motorcycles, and set a curfew for

cyclists, but Hizam says there was

poor enforcement on the part of

traffic police and security at check

Military officer Yahiya Al-Hasni

"I do not leave my house or the

military camp at night. Whenever I

see a motorcycle, I try to avoid be-

ing seen," Al-Hasni said. "As an of-

"These measures will reduce assassinations and help us feel more

Sadeq Amer, a soldier at a check-

ficer, I could be a target."

secure," he added.

told the Yemen Times that recent

assassinations have left him afraid.

will be confiscated, he said.

point in the Tahrir district of Sana'a said he is eager for the new procedures to go into effect.

"We are ready to capture any civilian or military motorcyclist carrying a weapon. We will do our best to catch lawbreakers. A friend of mine was killed last year by an assassin on a motorcycle."

However, motorcyclists have expressed their opposition of regulations like a curfew, saying it affects the livelihood of those who drive the bikes as taxis for income.

# lihood of those who drive the bikes as taxis for income. Three years ago, the Interior Ministry reported that Yemen had 60 million weapons and over 250,000 motorcycles. Only 11,000 motorcycles were registered with the state last year. Al-Jazeera Insurance & Reinsurance



# Gun battle ensues as military forces enter seized military compound in Al-Mukalla

# Two men have been reportedly shot dead in gunfire

### Nasser Al-Sakkaf

HADRAMOUT, Oct. 2—Military forces have secured entrance via gunfire to the Second Military Region headquarters in Al-Mukalla, Hadramout, which was seized by an estimated and unidentified 20 men on Monday. There are reportedly 4 hostages being kept with the armed men in the three-story compound.

Hamza Al-Samei, a military officer participating in the efforts to retake the base, said government forces have secured the first two stories of the building and are working on entering the third, where the gunmen are believed to be with the hostages. In the course of the gunfire exchange while entering the building, Al-Samei said two were shot dead.

Earlier on Wednesday, military officials said they were waiting to storm the building out of fear that the armed men inside might harm the hostages.

Forces said they acted late Wednesday evening because they believed the armed men may have reached a point of exhaustion.

Four planes filled with counterterrorism forces arrived in Al-Mukalla over the past two days., bringing roughly 1,000 men, Al-Samei said.

"We requested the support of counterterrorism forces as they are specialized in seizing and raiding places, unlike the soldiers here," he added.

Omar Hamoud, an officer with the Second Military Region, said soldiers are deployed around the compound in order to prevent escape.

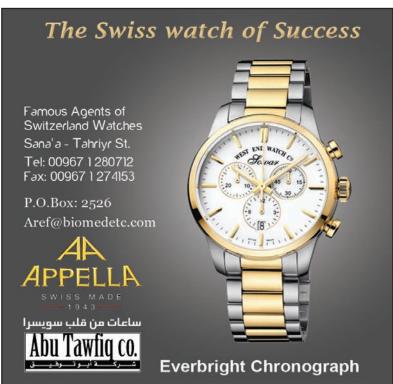
Government officials insist the armed men are Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) affiliates, while several media sources have reported that they are rebelling military units.

The armed men attacked the headquarters on Monday with heavy and medium weaponry after blowing up a military vehicle in the camp's entrance. The men wore military uniforms, but Al-Samei said it is unknown whether they are affiliated with the military or not.

Hamoud says five soldiers were killed and 12 others were wounded in Monday's attacks.









# Security forces leave captured soldiers' release to tribal mediation

Military not prepared to rescue soldiers from AQAP mountainous stronghold

### Nasser Al-Sakkaf

ABYAN, Oct. 2-Security forces in Shabwa governorate say they know the whereabouts of the 20 soldiers abducted by armed men ten days ago, but they cannot secure their release because they are in an Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) stronghold. Security officials say they are instead, relying on tribal mediation to release the captured soldiers.

The men were abducted during two attacks on soldiers in Shabwa on Sept. 20, which left 22 dead and 18 wounded.

Officer Shakir Al-Ghadeer of Brigade 111 said investigations have led them to believe the kidnapped soldiers are being held on the Al-Marakisha Mountain in Abyan.

Al-Ghadeer says the Al-Marakisha Mountain is known to be AQAP territory.

"A security presence is non-existent on Al-Marakisha Mountain because Al-Qaeda affiliates have heavy weapons ready for use," Al-Ghadeer said.

The officer says an attack on the mountain could be disastrous for the military.

"[They] are not familiar with the mountainous areas where the soldiers are being held." The only way for security forc-

es to reach the area, Al-Ghadeer claims, is through aerial raids. The military is not interested in this type of confrontation, he added. Further complicating the prob-

lem, Popular Committees set-up to fight Al-Qaeda affiliates since they seized parts of Southern Yemen in 2011 have been unwilling to confront the affiliates this time around, Al-Ghadeer added.

Shabwa assistant security manager Mubark Al-Zalm said security officials have contacted tribal sheikhs in Abyan to negotiate the release of the soldiers, saying efforts are ongoing.

"The sheikhs met with the soldiers, finding them in good condition," Al-Zalm said.

"Abyan governorate is incapable of fighting...because security forces have been exhausted. Currently, it's the tribal sheikhs who have influence, not security forces," he

There have been no demands for money yet, Al-Zalm said.

Second Marine Brigade Bahri Hassan Al-Shakila, who guards oil facilities in Shabwa, said he knows the risks he takes as a soldier, but he feels a sense of responsibility in his line of work.

"It is our national duty [to do our jobs], being targeted for attacks will not hold us back," he said. Although it does bring down morale if the government doesn't take action when a soldier is killed, injured or abducted, he added.

# **SCER** postpones voter registration process

### Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANA'A, Oct. 2-The Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER) will postpone the voter registration process until the country's National Dialogue Conference (NDC) is over and all political parties have reached a consensus on issues pertaining to elections.

National elections are slated for February 2014.

SCER was scheduled to begin registering voters in a new electoral system nationwide starting in September. The registration system was crafted as a four-phrase process, each phase lasting 27 days. It was slated to draw to a conclusion at the end of December.

SCER head Judge Mohammed Al-Hakimi told the Yemen Times that the committee's next step will be to finalize preparations for practice registrations and to select the company that will print election materials and raise awareness about voter registration requirements. The committee will also finalize materials that will be used to train 45,000 people, making up the technical, supervisory and

main election committees. Al-Hakimi said about 160,000 people have applied to work for the elections' technical committee. The committee will only select

He did not elaborate on any specific time for the registration process to begin, saying that it only 'will be held after the NDC.'

Dr. Mohammed Marm, head of the State-Building Working Group told the Yemen Times that electronic registration must begin after the Southern Issue is resolved.

"We must [also] wait until the structure of the state is agreed upon," he added.

Southern NDC members, like Marm, said they have refused to hold elections until the structure of the state is decided, making their demand in a meeting with President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Yemen Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the position below.

Title: Outreach and Communications Specialist

**Duration of Assignment:** Full-time Position **Duty Station:** Sana'a, Yemen with travel throughout Yemen

The Yemen Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP) is a multi year project that is designed to provide independent third party monitoring of donor-financed development projects and interventions in Yemen. It is implemented in Yemen by International Business and Consultants Inc. (IBTCI).

We are seeking an Outreach and Communications Specialist (OCS) to work with YMEP staff as well as with donors to develop and implement specific activities in this area as outlined below.

The OCS is responsible for supporting, strengthening and augmenting the outreach and communications of

- 1. Planning and development: In consultation with the client, the OC specialist will develop an Outreach and Communication Strategy and Action Plan, and an overall timetable.
- 2. Event Coordination: Duties related to event coordination will include, but not be limited to:
  - Organize and conduct workshops, conferences and seminars to disseminate activity and impact results and
  - Leverage other events such as speaking engagements, graduations, and activity launches.
- Work with implementing partners and the client staff to create and implement an events calendar.

# Communications:

- Draft features stories and narratives to tell "Transforming Lives Stories" both in English and in Arabic of people who have received assistance.
- Undertake site visits, conduct interviews with beneficiaries and implementers and attend public events and activities to collect stories, take photographs and videos of activities.
- Build and maintain relationships with the local media, and work to encourage local media to report on development assistance success stories, particularly from a human interest perspective.
- Prepare information packages including human interest stories and photographs to disseminate as part of a coordinated outreach campaign.
- **4. Translations:** will include but are not limited to:

**6. Interpretation:** serve as an interpreter as needed.

- Arabic approved written documents used for outreach and communications work.
- Key outreach materials, such as newsletters, brochures, fact sheets, and reports and support with production of these materials.
- Media monitoring and analysis: including digital and social media.

# **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Undergraduate degree in a related field such as journalism or communications.
- At least three years of professional writing experience or event coordination or a combination of both. Level IV fluency in both oral and written English and Arabic is desired, at least Level III in English.
- Former working experience with international development organizations is highly desirable. Knowledge and familiarity with Yemeni media and communication networks, including web based.
- Strong written and oral communication in English and Arabic. Use of Microsoft products including Word
- (required), Excel and PowerPoint (preferred). Skilled in accessing, using and understanding social media.
- A pleasant personality, tact and courtesy in dealing with Government of Yemen officials, partners and
- recipients is required. Good organizational skills are required.
- Open to Yemeni nationals and non-nationals residing in Yemen;
- Qualified women are strongly urged to apply.

Please send your cover letter, a detailed CV and 3 references by email to HRYMEP@YAHOO.COM Responses will only be made to shortlisted candidates. The deadline for receiving applications is October 24th, 2013 by 5 pm.

# Classes cancelled at Sana'a University as strike continues



Classes are postoned untill further notice, officials say.

### Story and photo by Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Oct. 2-The Sana'a University Council officially cancelled all classes on Monday after students besieged the office of the university president, preventing council members from leaving the building for more than four hours.

Dr. Sinan Al-Marhadhi, Deputy Head of Students Affairs at the university, said all council members decided to cancel classes until government forces can secure control at the university. He claimed several students, taking advantage of a security vacuum, were about to attack university professors.

University students have been staging protests since last week, calling for the resignation of university officials and a reversal of the president's decision to suspend 30 students for speaking out against university policies.

The Sana'a University Council is the supreme body inside the university that is composed of college deans and university administra-

Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Shami, dean of the Mass Communication College and a member of the council, said the students used offensive words during the protests, alleging that they, "blocked the building's entrances and threatened to attack the chancellor with resume right away

stones and shoes."

"Some members of the council tried to negotiate with the students and inquire about their demands, but they completely refused," Al-Shami said. "The chancellor contacted the Prime Minister as well as the Ministers of Interior and Higher Education."

Al-Shami said security forces and riot police arrived at the scene hours later, but the chancellor allegedly requested they not use force. Al-Shami says they were eventually able to convince students to withdraw and allow the council members to leave.

Council members first decided to announce a collective registration, Al-Shami said but changed their minds and decided to cancel classes instead.

There were no students, professors and other staff on campus on Tuesday.

Abdulnasser Taj Al-Deen, a student in the College of Law told the Yemen Times that the University Council doesn't care about students, "otherwise they would be able to find other solutions, instead of cancelling studies."

"I had nothing to do with that. I want to resume exams. I have been waiting since the beginning of the academic year," Al-Deen said.

The Students Union condemned the decision and demanded classes

goods smugglers wounded on Monday in an exchange of fire with security forces on the Ras Al-Arah Coast in the Al-Sht district of Lahj governorate, southeast of Sana'a.

Brigadier Abdulhakim Al-Maflahi, Lahj's security chief, said the three men were caught using a boat to smuggle cigarettes from Djibouti.

The men, all between 18 and 20years-old, were arrested and taken to the hospital for treatment.

Nineteen people appeared in court before the General Prosecution in the Sheikh Othman District of Aden governorate on Tuesday and Wednesday for allegedly cheating customers when selling them consumer goods.

Mahmoud Al-Naqeeb, the director of the Consumer Protection Authority, said the accused include bakers, gas cylinder vendors and butchers.

Al-Naqeeb said they are being tried under laws that protect consumers and prevent price manipu-

Seven people died and three others from the same family were wounded on Monday when a fire erupted at their house as a result of an oil spill while operating their generator in the Hatrafah village of Ibb gover-

Civil Defense authorities were able to put the fire out and rush the injured to the hospital, who are still in critical condition, said Rashad Mofarah, the director of Al-Odin

The Specialized Penal Court issued a verdict Wednesday, saying former Central Security Forces will have to stand trial for their associations with the Al-Sabeen Square suicide bombing in May 2012. The explosion killed close to 100 soldiers and wounded more than 300.

Among those who had charges brought against them were Brigadier Yahiya Mohammed Abdulla Saleh, the nephew of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, as well as the Central Security Forces Chief of Staff Abdulmalik Al-Tyb and Brigadier Abdu Rabu Mayad. Judge Adel Al-Hamadi, who handed down the verdict, said that because the three men were supposed to be at the square, protecting it at the time of the incident, they are charged with negligence. The men are expected to stand trial

The bombing took place on May 21, 2012, during a military parade rehearsal for the 22nd anniversary of unification between the North and South. A man identified as Haithm Mufreh was reportedly responsible for the suicide attack.

Reporting by Samar Al-Ariqi

# **AROUND TOWN**

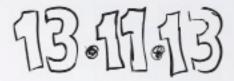


The Yemeni Music House held a ceremony in Sana'a on Wednesday to honor the cast of the Adeni television series, "The Last Chance." Azhar Ali, pictured above, was part of the crew that was recognized for the popular drama series that ran during Ramadan. At the ceremony, the General Secretary of the National Dialogue Conference, Dr. Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak, emphasized the importance of recognizing talents in the country, no matter the profession. (Photo and text by Sara Al-Zawqari)









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# One step at a time

# Local center offers treatment and hope for children suffering from cerebral palsy

Story and photo by Ali Abulohoom

her fourmonth-old son still wasn't moving his head or turning over, Um Abdulkareem knew something wasn't right. So she and her family moved from Hajja governorate to the capital, Sana'a, about one year ago to find out what was wrong.

Her son, Abdulkareem's was diagnosed with cerebral palsy likely caused by a lack of oxygen during his birth, doctors say.

Cerebral palsy generally causes impaired movement, rigidity of the limbs, involuntary movements, uneven or unsteady walking, atypical posture, or some combination of these symptoms, according to the Mayo Clinic in the United States.

The severity of the condition varies. Some cerebral palsy patients are high-functioning, while others have difficulties walking or can have severe learning disabilities. Abdulkareem, now almost twoyear-old cannot yet walk or even sit, his mother said.

She spent months moving from hospital to hospital to find treatment for her son before taking the advice of doctors packing up for Sana'a, where she could find a physiotherapy center.

"Doctors told me the [only] treatment for my [son's cerebral palsy] was physiotherapy," she said. Dr. Medhat Al-Shorbaji is an

Egyptian physiotherapist in the cerebral palsy center at the Al-Tahadi Corporation for Custody and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped in

"Like many other children, [Um Abdulkareem's] son can only be treated with physiotherapy because



A physiotherapist helps a child with stage two of her therapy, trying to build the girl's strength.

of oxygen during birth," Al-Shorbaji

An estimated 400,000 children in Yemen suffer from movement, sight and hearing disorders categorized under the umbrella condition, cerebral palsy, according to a report released by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in 2011.

Dr. Moneer Al-Mahdi, a doctor at the state-run Al-Jomhori Hospital in Sana'a told the Yemen Times that 80 percent of children with cerebral palsy developed the condition as a result of a lack of oxygen during birth.

Medications taken during pregnancy, exposure of embryos to radiation and childbirth in harmful delivery positions can also result in cerebral palsy.

Dr. Mahdi holds hospital admin-

the cause of his condition was a lack is trations accountable for many cerebral palsy cases because, he says, they fail to supply delivery rooms with proper equipment needed to supply newborns with oxygen during delivery, when needed.

The majority of cerebral palsy cases come from rural areas where there is little information about the risks of home deliveries without trained midwives, Mahdi said.

Um Abdulkareem gave birth at home in a rural village in Hajja. Most of the other parents who come to the center daily to seek treatment for their children also come from rural areas. Hajja, Amran, Dhamar and Mahweet governorates all lack physiotherapy centers.

"Because of the lack of information about the symptoms of cerebral palsy, families often wait until their children's health conditions worsen before seeking treatment,"

Mothers at the cerebral palsy center in Sana'a stand on the sidelines, watching their children undergo therapy and wondering if they will one day be able to walk.

Al-Shorbaji assures them all children are capable of improvement as long as they are committed to treatment every day.

How much a child can improve depends on a number of factors, including the severity of their condition and how early they are treat-

"The earlier [they] come to the center, the better their prospects for treatment," Al-Shorbaji said.

When a child first comes to the center, staff design a three-month plan, setting goals they hope to have achieved at the end of the period.

A goal may be making sure the child can sit down at the end of the three months.

Al-Shorbaji told the Yemen Times that there are generally five steps in

physiotherapy.
The first is manual exercises which last for one or two hours. The second is spider exercises, which involve fastening the baby with elastic cords that are suspended, allowing the child to move independently and to strengthen parts of the body. The third step involves a gym. Children are put on treadmills, exercise bikes and other machines. The fourth therapy step is called "the stand." The child is fastened to a wooden pole to encourage him or her to stand. The fifth step includes a walker, so the child can walk independently.

"If the child does not get worse through these steps, we repeat this program until we feel [there is] progress," Al-Shorbaji said.

Some kids leave the center with complete control of their motor skills after not being able to move their heads or arms when they first arrived, he said.

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The center's executive manager, Ali Al-Goshmori, said the center receives 105 children daily, testing the center's capacity. But a dedicated staff overcomes the hardships, despite being spread-thin, Al-Goshmori said.

At the end of each year, the center has a graduation ceremony for children whose symptoms have improved, he said.

Services at the center are free. They rely on the Ministry of Social

Affairs to provide salaries and an operating budget for the center.

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dge AS & A level in Years 12 & 13.

Two-and-a-half-year-old Bara'ah Al-Bahri also suffers from cerebral palsy. Her mother first brought her to the center when she was a few months old, also noticing that she did not turn over or move her head like other children.

"My neighbors advised me to visit this center because their services are free," Um Bara'ah said.

She now sees progress.

"My daughter is slowly getting better," Um Bara'ah said. "She can now move her head.'







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# INSIDE OUT / SANA'A لسنا الإرضاب واليأس

تعال لتلتقط صورتك وشارك في تشكيل الفن العالمي

Story and photos by Samar Qaed

or much of the world, Yemen is a land of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian warring tribesmen, Houthi reb- A two-year-old international, par-

els, Southern secessionists and endless conflict. It is easily forgotten that it is a land of people with worries and joys as varied as a straying girlfriend, passing a university entrance exam, or constant nagging from your mother to cut your hair.

ticipatory art installation called the Inside Out Project aims to challenge stereotypes and expose the world to people and their untold stories of life, determination, resistance and other human emotions and actions.

Some of these untold stories were captured recently at a local coffee shop in Sana'a. A line of young people giggled uncontrollably as each stepped in front of a photographer, flexing their facial muscles. Some smiled, and some made silly faces.

The Inside Out Project was created after TED Prize winner, French artist, JR, was given \$100,000 to use as "one wish to change the world." It is a way to include the public in an artistic project that focuses on personal identity, JR told media reporters and aims to challenge stereotypes associated with nations or minorities within countries.

Yemen's version of the Inside Out Project began three months

Yemeni-American activist Rooi Al-Wazeer is one of the organizers behind the project. She has participated in the Inside Out Project before, taking photos of Americans of different backgrounds to demonstrate that Americans are a diverse

Yemen's campaign is called "We are not terrorists or hopeless, we are human beings with real human stories."

Al-Wazeer says the campaign's theme captures a message she wants to send to the world.

"We have the ability to overcome the crisis the country is going through," she said.

The campaign includes Yemenis

one of the country's most marginalized groups, the Muhamasheen. Another focus of the project entitled, "I am a Yemeni, and I refuse to a target of drone strikes" is capturing images of children and adults who have lost relatives to drones strikes in Marib and Al-Jawf governorates.

"The final chosen photos from all governorates will be sent to JR [for printing] and [sent back] to Yemen to be [displayed] on [Yemeni] streets in November," Al-Wazeer said.

The campaign requires participants to fill out permission forms, authorizing the exhibition of their photos.

Notable undertakings of the project in other countries includes the replacing posters of Tunisian ruler Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali with Inside Out portraits. In Pakistan, project organizers displayed photos of the country's minorities in large cities. In Israel, photos of Pales tinians were hung publicly

Israelis. Yemeni campaign organizer Abdulaziz Murfk encouraged Yemenis on Facebook to participate in the campaign. He particularly wants to increase female participation.

and in Palestine, photos of

"Of the 150 people who have participated in Sana'a, the percentage of females in the project has not exceeded 15," Murfk said. "This is because [they] fear being [spoken ill

Aswordspreads, campaign organizers say they are generating more interest.

Eighteen-yearold Mai Nasiri

from all walks of life, including and her two sisters recently volunteered to take part after reading about it online and being encourage by friends to participate.

"I am a girl. I should show the world my photo [because] people believe that Yemeni girls are [always] hidden behind veils," Nasiri

Although Nasiri invited many female friends to participate, she says there was backlash.

"They were afraid people would curse their families," she said.

But Media Studies student Ahmed Al-Ghanimi had no fear. He gladly posed in front of the camera.

"I like the funny poses. The style of the campaign suits my personality," he said.

The photos should be expressive, he said, because there is a stereotype that Yemenis do not smile.

"We are [still] able to smile and live happily," he said.







YT vision statement "To make Yemen a good world citizen."

**Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,** (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times



# **OUR OPINION**

# It's federal, and that's a fact!

oing federal is going to be difficult, costly and complicated.

It is a very new idea for Yemenis, and even those working on making it happen are confused about what it really means.

Many relate federalism to division. Average Yemenis think that regions will mean citizens from each one will be "different" from each other. Questions about the ease of mobility from region to region are raised, even questions about identity. People are asking, will I still be a Yemeni? Will there even be something called Yemen?

A federal system is difficult because we are not used to it. Traditional political parties and mafias are worried this will take their powers and give it to the regions. It is difficult because it is not going to be a one man show any longer, and it will require a gigantic amount of coordination and monitoring for it to be successful. Those who have a lot to lose will strongly resist it, and they will stop at nothing to prevent it from happening or to ruin it once it is a reality.

With a federal system, each region (we expect to have five: three in the North and two in the South) will have its own Parliament, government and internal regulations. This is a very costly process considering the federal government at the national level will initially have to pay for those costs until the regions can stand on their own.

A federal system is complicated because there are a lot of issues that must be considered. The main issue is what powers are at the state or regional level? What powers are held at the national level? We know the army, foreign relations and currency are national issues but what about taxes? Education? Healthcare?

Equally important is the decentralization of wealth. What resources are controlled by the federal government and what is controlled by regions? For example, can the region where Shabwa is going to be sign a contract with Total oil company without going back to the federal government or does Total have to deal with two authorities instead of one? What percentage of the gas revenues coming from Bilhaf go to the region and how much is national revenue? What about ports and airports? Who decides on customs?

The list goes on... a federal system is very complicated.

All being said, federal is the only way to go, simply because it is what this stage of political and social history demands. The federal model proposed at the National Dialogue Conference promises a transfer of power and wealth that a non-federal model—no matter how decentralized—cannot do.

It is not about logic, cost or ease any more. It has become a state of mind and national demand. We are going federal, and that's a fact.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

# US drone strikes leave Yemenis frustrated, hopeless

Yet they

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the fall of

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Farea al-Muslimi Al-monitor.com First Published Sept. 30

ain still dictates the mood, state of mind and psychological feelings of the residents of Yemen's mountainous Wasab region, 200 kilometers [124 miles] south of Sanaa. This has always been the case ever since I was born there in the distant mountains — far from everything, the world and its interactions. There, it is not possible to lead a decent life without migrating.

During my latest visit, I heard the same complaints of deprivation that I had grown up hearing. Later, from the moment I was able to discern the world around me, I—like others—experienced this deprivation. I grew up lacking the most basic elements of development, whether electricity, hospitals or anything else related to the state's responsibilities toward society.

### Anthem of life

Here, rain is everything for farmers, who make up the overwhelming majority of the population (about 1 million people). The seasonal rainfall gives them hope and ensures their sustenance for the next month. People are preoccupied with their farms and cooperate with each other in agriculture. Yet they still smile, even if they are sick, waiting a long time for a paved road, and regardless of the number of women killed as they carry pots of water on their heads from distant wells back to the houses.

When it rains they sow, and during harvest they sing folk songs with rarely seen enthusiasm. For them, this is an anthem of life more than a seasonal art. Delayed rain breaks their spirits and their faces vividly express feelings of misery. Prob-

**Delayed** 

rain breaks

their spirits

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lems arise among them as they worry about their daily bread for next year, which leads to conflicts. Drought has intensified this year and the wells are almost dried up, following an unprecedented sharp decrease in water

People are accustomed to gathering on the towering mountain peaks (coming in from various

places to hear each other out). They collectively pray to God for it to rain down upon them, while crying and begging. When they climb up the mountains most of them carry umbrellas, since they are extremely hopeful that heaven will be generous and that they will not return to their homes until the rain pours down, despite being repeatedly disappointed. They mostly use these umbrellas as protection from the burning heat of the sun. Yet sometimes, they need their umbrellas to shield them from the rain pouring down from heaven, even if they love to feel the water drops on their heads.

# Something else falling from the

One night in mid-April 2013, during a drought, some of the residents climbed the various mountains to implore the heavens to send rain. However, they got something other than what they were

wishing for. U.S. drones shelled one of Wasab's areas. It was later discovered that the drones were targeting a man who is well-known by the majority of the residents of this region, Hamid al-Radmi. Two consecutive strikes rocked the second-highest mountain in Yemen, which rises 2,400 meters [7,874 feet] above sea level. Drones bombarded houses and horrified thousands of residents. Panicked, some of them rushed to the basements of

their homes (typically used for livestock), while others ran away from their houses not knowing where to go, what to do, or even why. Yet they were certain that the sound they heard was not the sound of lightning foretelling the fall of rain they had hoped for, especially with the second strike that occurred within minutes of the

Those who did not hear the sound of the strike in the distant mountains surely saw the great light produced by missiles falling on their targets. Although the clock had yet to strike 8 p.m. that evening, most of the residents were asleep, as usual. Wasab is an area yet to be provided with electricity, and only a few people can afford small generators to provide electricity a few hours each night.

Therefore, the few residents who own mobile phones leave their phones at the homes of neighbors who have generators to recharge their batteries.

Most people cope with the lack of electricity by sleeping early — as soon as the sun goes down — and by waking up in the morning at the break of dawn, just like their ancestors in bygone centuries. While they usually sleep deeply and peacefully, that night was different. They were disturbed by the sound of the deadly strike.

# The strike

Recently, the Yemeni government started paving the road to Wasab, after successive unfulfilled promises made over more than three decades. So when the drone attacked, one resident close to the site of the explosion thought that the construction companies were blowing up the mountains in the evening to cut their way through them. He came out of his house shouting, swearing and cursing these companies. Only a few seconds later, he noticed three different aircraft hovering over the region: one carried out the first strike from a particular side and the second was doing surveillance while the third carried out the second strike from the other side.

The location of the strike overlooks the headquarters of the local government, its security department and a prison (there is nothing else there related to the residents' interests). The headquarters may be reached on foot through rough lands in less than 20 minutes. Witnesses talked about the details of the strike, and how the security men in the nearby building were terrified.

One of the first to arrive to the scene following the strike talked about hearing the cries of one of the victims. The latter was trying to state his name, and pleading to be rescued and taken to a first aid unit; residents usually refrain from vis-

iting this unit given its poor service.

However, no one could come closer, since the whole area was bursting in flames and aircraft were still hovering, as if they wanted to make sure that the victims faced the fate they had drawn out for them just minutes before. Perhaps they wanted confirm the death, a more blatant one than a death inflicted by ordinary murderers who flee once they commit the crime.

Three others who were with Radmi—the target—died in the strike. None of them knew that they would be targeted and murdered from above. None of them had anything to do with the al-Qaeda links that the Yemeni government subsequently attributed to Radmi.

One of them was a young high school graduate. His relatives said he had always dreamed of joining a military college. The second was unemployed, and he used to go with Radmi to make money, just to buy food for the day. The third was planning to travel to Saudi Arabia to provide for himself, his wife, his children and the son that his wife was expecting; the wife suddenly turned into a widow with no breadwinner to help her.

### My grandfather and me

The strike targeted the road that I take every year to go to my village, on the opposite side of the Wasab mountains. My relatives and friends go there on an almost daily basis. Somewhere near the site of the strike, my grandfather had sowed the seeds of his memories and crops decades ago.

As soon as I say my full name there, the elderly welcome me and talk to me for hours about my grandfather, who I was named after. Others start whispering about how he was fascinated by women, and then affectionately ask me about "my studies in Lebanon."

I had a strange feeling when I neared the house of Radmi. I hadn't even heard of him until the day he was killed by the U.S. drone, since he had only returned to his house in the mountains a few years ago. He used to live abroad and was subsequently imprisoned in the governorate center, but most people in Wasab know him, and everyone referred to him as a social figure.

I had contradictory feelings as I talked to relatives of the victims. They all asked me if when I was in the U.S.—I gave testimony before the Senate about the use of drones in Yemen—I learned why this man and the inno-

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cent people who were with him were killed.

I felt a heavy burden on my shoulders. father of one of them placed his wounded hand on my shoulder and asked me if they would pay them financial compensation, after my speech before the U.S. Senate. He asked me about the "benefit" of what I say across

the world about these civilian casualties. In his hand he had a picture of his son on the day of his high school graduation.

I was not widely known in Wasab—except in the vicinity of my village—but I was surprised to learn that my testimony before the Senate in Washington (which was almost two weeks before the strike against Radmi) had turned me into the

talk of the town in Yemen in general, and in Wasab in particular. This would constitute a heavy burden I suffer every time I meet new people here.

I told the young victim's father that what I do is limited to rights issues, and that I work on showing those in the West who are involved in the issue the damage inflicted by drones. I told him that I do not know what my efforts will yield or what the Yemeni and American governments can do for civilian casualties.

He was disappointed and did not seem convinced.

But I didn't have anything else I could say to this old man. I could tell by the look in his eyes that he had a thousand questions to ask, questions that incited within me a state ... that befits the size of his disappointment and sadness.

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rounded me.

state ... that befits the size of his disappointment and sadness.

In the evening, I returned to my father's house situ-

I thought

about my

testimony

in the Sen-

ate and

mountain. My mother had prepared fresh milk from our cow, the fanciest thing she had to offer to me. She had also prepared some food using produce from our farm. Instead of enjoying this simple meal as I usually do, I spent all night thinking of this mess left by the person or people from thousands of kilometers away. It was as if he/they were playing Playstation. I had thousands of questions and ideas running through my head, questions as big as the mountains that sur-

At dawn, I heard the steps of my mother carrying milk to me-her worried guest. I was still rolling in bed, trying to find a glimpse of hope, trying to understand what happened and what resulted from the U.S. strike in my town. I thought about my testimony in the Senate and the echo it made in my country's media. I thought about how it did not manage to bring back any of the innocent victims of the drone strike. I thought about how lying down on the floor of my room used to give me a feeling of affection, and how it doesn't anymore. This time, I did not feel the same feelings I used to experience every time I returned from my studies in Sana'a or the United States.

Back then, the United States had not ravaged my beloved town. Yes, the United States did give me the opportunity to study, an opportunity that made me enter the world of the 21st century. But lying on this bed today, I feel like a man coming from the caves of the seventh century. However, I do not carry a sword. All I have is a little peace to give to this town, whose farmer's serenity gives me a sense of love for the world. This is a farmer who does not hate anyone and only holds a grudge against the sun whenever it impedes rain drops from falling on his nearby farm, failing to console him in a world suffering from a parallel drought at the level of a culture of peace and coexistence.

The above article was translated from Assafir al-Arabi, a special supplement of As-Safir newspaper whose content is provided through a joint venture of As-Safir and Al-Monitor.

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# LOCTITE TEROSON

# Seminars for maintenance solutions from Henkel

# in Industries by Thabet Son Corporation



■ habet Son Corporation in June 2013 organized seminars in the capital city of Yemen Sana'a over three days. The seminars were held for the professionals from the Oil and Gas, Power Generation and Cement Industry segments from Monday to Wednesday, to brief the industrial professionals in Yemen about the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) solutions on offer under the Henkel brand.

Thabet Son Corporation (Industrial Products Division) is a leading trading house headquartered in Sana'a with branches in all major Yemeni cities which represents Henkel in Yemen for Industrial Adhesives, Sealants, and Surface Treatment Solutions.

The applications that were discussed in these fields include:

Thread-locking Adhesives, Thread Sealants, Gasketing Products, Retaining Compounds, Structural Bonding - Acrylics, Structural Bonding - Polyurethanes, MS Polymers, Instant Bonding, Mould Release Agents, Hotmelt Adhesives, Protective Coatings and Compounds, Lubricants and Cleaning Products.

The Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul Solutions Seminars were conducted by Mr. Ziad Anis, GCC & Egypt Sales Manager at Henkel. Mr. Wahib Thabet, General Manager of Thabet Son Corporation (Industrial Division) welcomed the guests Repair solutions were discussed at length.

There were continuous discussions even after the end of the seminars.

Henkel operates worldwide with leading brands and technologies in three business areas: Laundry & Home Care, Beauty Care and Adhesive Technologies.

Founded in 1876, Henkel holds globally leading market positions both in the consumer and industrial businesses with well-known brands such as Persil, Schwarzkopf and Loctite. Henkel is the world market leader in adhesives, sealants and surface treatments for consumers, craftsmen and industrial applications.

The top brands of Henkel Adhesive Technologies are Loctite, Teroson and Technomelt. Thabet Son Corporation is the authorized agent in Yemen for these brands and they have a sales team with technical training and a showroom in Sana'a, Mujahid Street.













# Bank deposits growing in unhealthy national economy

### Mohamed Al-Hassani

t's been two years since Sana'ani real estate mogul Sami Sabeha has stopped investing in new projects and instead deposited all of his money in a bank.

Sabeha has enough money to be considered a leading Yemeni millionaire. However, he attributes his unenthusiastic approach towards investment opportunities to the current atmosphere of uncertainty and scarce availability of credit.

Sabeha thinks the situation could still linger.

"I do not think the situation will improve soon. So depositing is a safer way," he said.

Just like Sabeha, rather than investing or circulating the capital in the market currently in Yemen, the most wealthy are depositing their money in banks, according to official reports.

This is reflected in Yemen Central Bank's latest report, published in early July 2013. The Bank reported total deposits jumped 2.1 percent to just over YR2 trillion, a little over \$9 billion, as of the end of July, compared to YR1.9 trillion in April 2013.

Economic experts consider the growth of deposits to be an indicator of a deteriorating economy in

Nabeel Al-Montasir, the deputy head of Banks Monitoring Sector at the Central Bank, said though the availability of capital indicates the abundance of funds ready for investment projects, it does not necessarily mean an economic recovery is at hand.

"The growth of deposits does not mean that only depositors have accumulated more capital," Al-Montasir said. "It also means that the banks are at stake because they feel insecure to fund potential investors.'

Among other factors that have caused deposit numbers to jump in Yemen, Al-Montasir said, there are other discouraging elements for banks to refrain from funding

Some merchants and investors lend money, but they fail to pay off the loan or the interest, he said.

There are currently some investors and banks that resort to the judiciary for solving these problems,

Local and foreign customers in Yemen can easily deposit different major foreign currencies into their bank accounts and get the best interest rate for their money.

Marzook Al-Selwi, the executive manager of the Economic Development Studies Center, said the growth of deposits is evidence of a widespread escape of foreign investors from the country, as well as reflecting the traders' unwillingness to borrow money from banks.

"Disorder in basic civil services such as electricity makes investors lodge their cash in banks," he added.

Al-Selwi asserted that investors resort to depositing their capital and get the subsequent interest rate, though they can invest in the market and gain more benefits.

As a real estate investor, Sabeha distrusts the current environment due to the security and political instability in the country.

"Some of my fellow colleagues were shocked when they found out about the complicated procedure of construction and importing regulations," Sabeha said.

On the other hand, he said, some officials had blackmailed his friends and their projects are now

As the amount of deposits increased in Yemen-based banks, consequently, the capital deposited at the central bank grew.

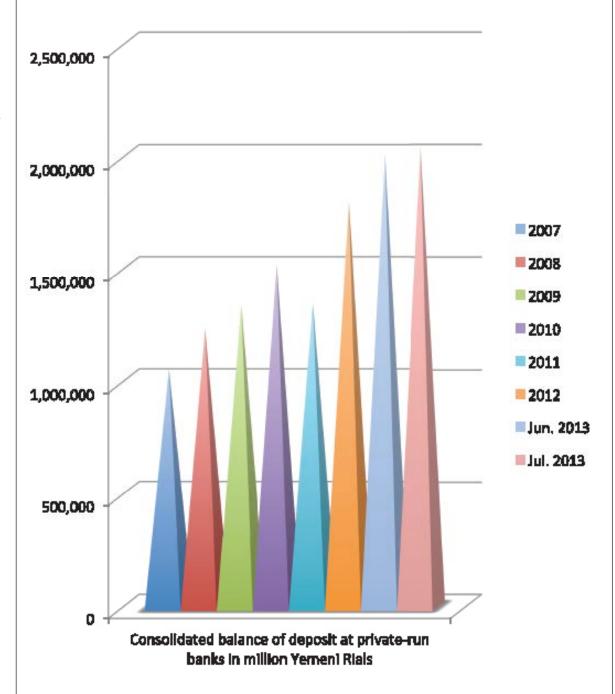
Yemen's central bank, which has to protect depositors' assets in case of bankruptcy, put a part of their clients' money as security to cover insurance.

Established in 2009, the staterun Bank Deposit Insurance Corp. is in charge of intermediating between depositors and banks and receives a certain amount of the deposited asset as warranty in bankruptcy case.

"Depositors, particularly those who have small deposits, can't easily withdraw their cash if a bank declared bankrupt," said Al-Selwi. "Therefore, the insurance amount deposited at the central bank will be used to compensate those clients."

Yemenis began to lose confidence in local and foreign banks after the central bank announced that the Watani Bank for Trade and Investment filed bankruptcy in 2005.

Several clients rushed to withdraw their asset at that time, but the majority of banks refused to endorse checks with large amounts to avoid bankruptcy.



Data Source: Yemen Central Bank



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# "راديو يمن تا

للاعلام دور كبير ومهم في الدعوة للتغير السلمي , ولكن الصراع اعتاد ان يترك اثرا وحقول الانسان وتدافع عن الحريات من خلال باقة برامجها المتنوعة والتي تخاطب سلبيا واضحا على طابع استقلال الاعلام مما اثر بشكل مباشر على معايير اساسية مثل الحيادية والموضوعية.

> وهنا يسعى "راديو يمن تايمز" لتعزز من دور مؤسستها الاعلامية المستقلة لتصل الي كل من لا تصل اليه صحيفة اليمن تايمز لتكون من الاذاعات الرائدة في اليمن على الرغم من عدم وجود قوانين ناظمة لعمل الاذاعات الخاصة في اليمن.

يعمل "راديو يمن تايمز" على طرح للجمهور اليمني وجهة نظر جديدة واعلاما جديدا يعايش قضايا المواطنين الذين يجيدون اللغة الأنجليزية والعربية والاميين بشكل مباشر والذين وللاسف يشكلون نسبة كبيرة من سكان اليمن.

ويسعى ايضا لايجاد فضاءات جديدة لحرية الراى والتعبير في اليمن ومجتمع مدينة صنعاء ليكون منير راديو يمنز تايمز صوت من لا صوت لهم وليعزز مفاهيم الديمقراطية وحرية الراى والتعبير من خلال دوراته برامجية متنوعة تعالج قضايا المراة والطفل

بروح شبابية وايجابية سكان صنعاء واليمن.

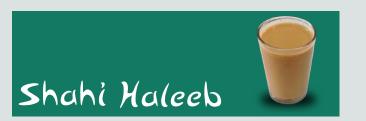
"راديو يمن تايمز" هو أول إذاعة مجتمعية في صنعاء، حيث بدأ العمل في هذا المشروع في بداية ٢٠١٢، والذي كان تأسيسه من اهم رؤى مؤسس يمن تايمز الراحل، بروفسور عبّد العزيز السقاف. ولذَّلك سعت نادية السقاف وهي رئيس تحرير صحيفة يمن تايمزالي تحقيق فكرة البرفسور الراحل،من خلال تأسيس راديو يمن تايمز بمشاركة الكثير من المتطوعين والداعمين ومن آمن بأهمية الاعلام المستقل ودور الاذاعات المجتمعية. وتعد جزءا من أصواتنا، وهذا الأخير هو برنامج دولي يدعم تأسيس الإذاعات المجتمعية في دول الربيع العربي.

حيث يتمحور هذا البرنامج حول العرب الذين سعوا لانه تكون أصواتهم المستقلة مسموعة، بعيداً عن الاحتكارات الحكومية، أو التجارية، بحيث تكون نقطة انطلاق جديدة لكل من يريد الخوض في تجربة الاذاعات المجتمعية المستقلة.

# من برامجنا



صباحكم رضا: برنامج صباحي يناقش قضايا منوعة تهم المجتمع ومحاولة حلها مع الجهات المعنية ويقدم فيه خدمات للمستمعين كأخبار الصحف وأحوال الطقس وحركة الطيران وأسعار العملات، بالإضافة إلى عرض فقرات متنوعة تهم المجتمع كالفقرة الشبابية والصحية والرياضية والتربوية, اضافة إلى فقرات أخرى بالتعاون مع مونت كارلو الدولية. يبث البرنامج كل يوم (ما عدا الجمعة) من الساعة السابعة والنصف صباحاً حتى العاشرة صباحا.



شاهى حليب: برنامج تثقيفي ترفيهي نستعرض فيه مجموعه من الاخبار ألمنوعه والخفيفه من اليمن وحول العالم ، ونستضيف فيه مجموعه من المواهب اليمنيه ، وكما نعلق فيه على ظواهر بصروة ساخره وانتقاديه من خلال بعض المشاهدات الحيه التي نراها. البرنامج يبث يوميا ما عدا الجمعه الساعه الثانية مساء ويعاد في العاشره



حقوقٌ الإنسان والقضايا الإنسانية بشكل جرّيء، ويطرح مشاكل وقضايا المهمشِين والمعاقين والأيتام والعمال وغيرها من الفئات التي لا تجد صوتاً البرنامج يبث كل سبت الساعة الحادية عشرة صباحا ويعاد الاحد التاسعة



**ذُوى الإرادة:** برنامج يختص بذوي الاعاقه احلامهم ، آمالهم والآمهم، يسلط الضوء على قضيه تهم ذوي الاعاقه في اليمن ونستضيف فيها مختصين في هذا المحال ، ونلتقي في كل حلقه بشخص من ذوي الاراده ليطلعونا على قصص نجاحهم للاستفادة منها وعكسها على منهم من فئتهم ، ويستعرض البرنامج آخر الاخبار التي تتعلق بذوي الاعاقه . يبث البرنامج الساعه الحادية عشرة صباحا كُل احد ويعاد الاثنين الساعة

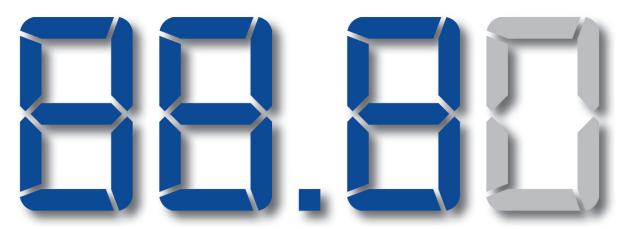


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# راديو يمن تايمز





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# From movie theater to a football mecca

# Local cinema knows how to draw the crowds

Story and photos by Anthony Biswell

utside the walls of Sana'a's Old City, on Shaboob Street, sounds of muffled cheering interrupt an otherwise quiet night. The noise echoes from a large, square building, with an outside appearance that doesn't set it apart from the other structures on this nondescript street. But inside, past a black curtain that opens to the street, sit close to 1,000 men perched on the edge of their weathered stadium seating, eyes glued to the large screen in front of them. Its game on at Cinema Al-Ahlia, as one of its famed football nights takes center

BUSINESS

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"I've grown up with this cinema," says Amer Mohammed Amer, a devoted Al-Ahlia loyalist who lives nearby. The 30-year-old says it's impossible to count the number of football matches he's watched at the casual establishment, where for YR200, less than \$1, he can



On nights high-profile teams play, Waleed Yahia, says elbow room is hard to come by.

grab himself a front row seat for a game taking place thousands of miles away. Like many other impassioned football fans living in the surrounding area, he has come to depend on the National Cinema for his latest fix of European football.

The three-tiered theater's surround-sound system is typically no match for the outbreaks of thunderous applause and bursts of whistling that accompany matches. Fans arrive armed with a selection of refreshments under one arm and plentiful supplies of qat under the other. Qat is Yemen's most ubiquitous narcotic, a green leaf that is chewed for its mild stimulant properties. Fans say it keeps them going for long-haul Saturdays and Sundays when back-to-back premier British, Spanish and Italian matches are shown.

Open almost every night of the week since 1968, this neighbour-hood favorite hasn't always been a magnet for football fans. It originally earned its reputation as a theater showing the latest American and Indian

movies.

"At the beginning, the cinema modest, without a roof. If it rained, the viewer's got wet. There were no modern chairs," Waleed says Yahia, the son of the cinema's owner. The 24year-old has the witnessed transformation of his father's business from



Cinema Al-Ahlia still shows American and Indian films, but football games now take priority at the 45 year-old establishment.

a bathroom-less structure to one today that includes a small section for female viewers. Despite its presence, Yahia says the section is always empty, which is representative of broader social customs—women and men typically socialize separately.

"Ten years ago, the films used to have great popularity," says Yahia. But, gradually there was a sharp decline in attendance rates, which Yahia attributes to the spread of technology—such as computers, TVs and cellphones—and the availability of cheap pirated DVDs. Both factors, Yahia argues, have encouraged viewers to watch films at home.

Despite a declining demand, Al-Ahlia now stands alone as one of the sole defenders of Yemen's crumbling cinema industry, with far less frequent but still regular showings of films.

But, in order to keep the crowds coming, Yahia says the cinema tapped into a growing affinity for European football that as a result of the advent of satellite television, had spread all over the globe. Today, the broadcast of high-profile football matches is the cinema's bread and butter.

"For some matches, we cannot find seats. People come hours before," says Abdullah Al-Shatebi, an 18-year-old who lives opposite Al-Ahlia.

In many ways, the cinema is a microcosm of football culture in Yemen, which like other places in the world, revolves around Barcelona or Real Madrid alliances. According to Yahia, over 2,000 people can be expected to crowd into the cinema on nights the two Spanish powerhouses play.

"It is very noisy if there is a match between these two teams," says Yahia. With emotions running high, the jovial banter between both sets of supporters can become heated, Yahia adds.

While these games pack the house, fans are less enthusiastic about Yemen's own national team.

"No one cares about these matches," says Yahia, when asked why the cinema doesn't show local games.

Part of this could have to do with the recent prohibition of the team from competitions abroad. In July, Yemen's Football General Union (YFGU) enacted a self-imposed suspension on foreign matches as protest to what they call a lack of support from the central government. With a \$4 million debt hanging over their head, officials at the YFGU are using the suspension, which is expected to last through the end of the year, to pressure the Ministry of Youth and Sports to pay off the money the national team owes.

"The government supports the team for some time and then abandons it," says 30-year-old Hussein Ali Al-Ghaithi, who clings to the hope that the national "team will achieve some success in spite of their problems."

While economic disparity inside the walls of the theater seems to dissipate, as one patron explains, the cinema "gathers people together." Outside are reminders of a nation coping with high unemployment and alarming levels of poverty. According to 2012 World Bank estimates over 50 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

Near the cinema, Anwar Ameen Qasim Dabwan, a self-proclaimed football fan, says there is no room for such entertainment in his daily life. The 25-year-old spends almost 12 hours every day in the street selling boiled egg and potato sandwiches

"I have no free time," he said, adding that every night he doesn't spend vending, is a loss of income, something he cannot afford to give

Yet, for those able to frequent the cinema, the venue is a way to escape the daily grind and be amongst friends.

"It is an excellent chance to break the routine and watch enthusiastic games," said long-time Al-Ahlia patron, Al-Abdullah Al-Shatebi.



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# Dramedy of life in Yemen:

# A promising feature film in a cinema-less country

Story and photo by Ali Abulohoom

rom a distance, everything looks quiet on set. But, there's a lot to be done and people know how to get it done.

The actors are practicing their lines from the script, in a murmur, for the next scene. The gaffers and grips work in coordination with the cameraman to ensure the lighting is correct. The director confirms everything is in place before filming starts.

After weeks of readings, rehearsals and practicing, the words of the screenplay still do not flow off the tongues of some actors in this outdoor sequence. The director yells at one of the actors playing a soldier to correct his action. The set goes into a deep silence for a few seconds.

This is the location of "Dhai'anah" (We Lost It), a new movie by director Sameer Al-Afeef, which is currently being shot on Al-Zera'a Street in Sana'a.

This dramedy about living in Yemen is scheduled to be completed in the upcoming weeks. It has already been hailed by local media for its entire Yemeni crew paired with the use of cutting-edge filming equipment and techniques.

"This film is considered the third attempt at filmmaking in Yemen," Al-Afeef said, "But it's also the most unique because we are filming according to new styles of shooting."

The feature film follows the story of a man who has recently returned to Yemen in order to invest his money but faces problems with illegal weapons. The title of the film refers to the complex situation of living in

Yemen, flavored with sarcasm.

Al-Afeef said what attracted him to this project was the script written by a satirical Yemeni journalist Fekri Qasim.

Qasim's stories are distinguished from others as they sarcastically refer to solutions for sociopolitical issues, said Mansour Al-Oadasi, the film's production manager.

"It is the first of its kind to speak to the audience's public sentiment in a sarcastic way," Al-Qadasi said.

By making this film, Al-Afeef said he technically followed in the footsteps of Western filmmakers.

"Those who have watched the [two] previous films produced in Yemen know that movies look like TV series," said Al-Afeef.

"It was due to the lack of technical knowledge and equipment such as digital cameras and modern styles of filmmaking."

The two other Yemeni films Al-Afeef is referring to have been screened on the national TV chan-

"Al-Ores" (The Wedding), directed by Al-Afeef was the first film made in Yemen in mid-1990s, narrating the story of a woman from Sana'a who married a man from Aden. The film focuses on their hardships as they try to reach South Yemen before unification in 1990.

The second movie, "Lost Bid," directed by Fadl Al-Olfi, was screened in early 2010 on the national TV.

According to the production manager, Qasim has taken the risk of producing the new movie in order to pave the way for future projects in Yemen.

The producer so far has spent around YR10 million (\$46,500), and 80 percent of the shooting has



The director Sameer Al-Afeef, top right, watches as one of the film's scenes unfolds.

been completed in different loca-

Al-Qadasi said there are other potential sponsors outside Yemen who are waiting to see the complete version of the movie before financially supporting the project.

One obstacle Al-Qadasi foresees when his film is finally completed is a lack of places to screen it. There are causal theaters scattered throughout the city, but the most well-known is run by the government, Al-Qadasi said, which is used by local groups to stage plays for free.

There were two others on Hadda Street years ago, but they have since closed.

In the absence of a venue, the production team has planned to screen the movie in private halls

such as wedding salons so they will be able to market it and promote cultural activities.

Amer Al-Bosi, the film's star, who has several times appeared in local TV series, is hopeful about his debut.

Before he was selected for the film, he earned his name for a role he played in a local TV series "Hami Hamak," (My Concern is Yours) in

Al-Bosi holds a degree in nursing and works at a private hospital in Taiz governorate, 200 kilometers south of Sana'a, but acting is his

"I am proud of acting in this film especially under the supervision of a well-known director and an accomplished scenarist," Al-Bosi



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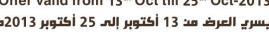
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• للبيع: مرسيدس 500 موديل 2006 زرقاء كاملة المواصفات، ھاىدرولىك. 777245778، 737665552

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فنادق

كلمات متقاطعة



• مبنى دورين على شارع 16 الذي يتوسط الخط الدائري الغربي وشارع هائل ، 4 لبن، أرض حره. الدور الأول حجر كله ومسلح، الدور الثاني الواجهة فقط حجر للاتصال: 777384017

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الكلمة المفقودة

معهد يالي معهد التي

۳۱۲۳۱ - ۱/۰۳۱۲۲۱ M&M Logistics & Aviation Services ۱/۲٦۰۷٤٦ - ۱/۲٦۷۹۲۹ العالمية للشحن - صنعاء المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر معهد اكسيد . 1/7 2797 V-77 معهد مالي . 1/7 > 2 7 7 7 7 7 1

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شركات طيران

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فرع عدن: ٢/٢٥٢٤٥٦.

فرع الحديدة : ٣/٢٠١٤٧٤

المتحدة للتأمين .1/000000 . 1/TVT9TE الوطنية للتأمين الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين ١/٦٠٨٢٧٢ ١/٢١٤٠٩٣ وإعادة التأمين شركة أمان ُ .1/2711.9 الجزيرة للتأمين وإعادة التأمين ٤٤٨٣٤٠/١/٢ فاكس: الشركة اليمنية القطرية للتأمين 881889

معاهد

شركات التأمين

# مدارس روضة واحة الأطفال

تلفاكس: ۱/٤٤،۸٤٠ موبایل: ۷۳۳٤٥٥٦٤٥ 1/2/2/27 مدرسة رينبو .1/47.191/4 مدارس صنعاء الدولية ف. ۱/۳۷۰۱۹۳: ۵ ۱/۶٤۸۲۰۸/۹ مدرسة التركيه الدوليه مدرسة منارات .1/474.91

# بير فريات

۱۱/ ۵۳۰،۸۰ ۱۲/ ۲۲۱۲۷۰ ۱۲/ ۲۲۱۲۷۰ ۱۲: ۱۱۸ ۱۲: ۱۲۵۰ عطلات الصقر مركز أعمال الصقر .1-221101/09/7. العالميه للسفريات والسياحه

مطاعم مطعم ومخبازة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني) تلفون : ۱۰۰۹۲۳۸۲ - ۱۰۰۹۲۲۸۰ فاکس : ۹۱۲۷۲۲

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# عحائب وغرائب

وزارة الشئون القانونية

تمكن الخبير البريطاني دايفد برايبن المتخصص في الالعاب الالكترونية من تصنيع حاسوب آلى متناهي الصغر, حيث يقارب حجم الجهاز حجم الناقل المعروف ÜSB فيتيح له ايصال لوحة مفاتيح وشاشة, ويمكنه الاتصال بالانترنت واستعمال تطبيقات أوفيس بسهولة ويشتمل على فيديو بدقة 1080ىكسل.

# حكمت العدد

العاقل من عقل لسانه والجاهل من جهل قدره

# نكتت العدد

جاء ضيف الى بخيل في وقت الغداء, فسأله البخيل: هل تغديت؟ قال: لا, لم اتغدى. فقال له البخيل: خسارة لو كنت تغديت كنت صبيت لك كأس من الشاي.

### لغز العدد صاف كالماء لكنه مولود في النار وإذا عاد إليها مات فما هو؟

هل تعلم

همجناا

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الزجاج

اغزالعدد:

قعهقفلا مولكاا

أشد النجوم برودة هي تلك التي لونها أحمر كالنجم المعروف بقلب العقرب.

# الحلول بالمقلوب

أن النجوم التي لونها أزرق أو أزرق مبيض هي أشد النجوم حرارة, بينما

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# Elizabeth Blunt First Published Sept. 26

he world takes disaster risk reduction (DRR) seriously these days; it has been nearly 10 years since the Hyogo Framework for Action put the issue

# Disaster risk reduction: Following the money

on the map. The World Bank, which whose own geographical position used to have only 20 people working has given it direct experience of on DRR, now has more than a hundred. But even now, money spent on DRR is just a small fraction of aid funding. For every \$9 dollars spent responding to disasters, only \$1 is spent on preventing and preparing for them. And, says a new report, for every \$100 spent on development aid, just 40 cents is invested in protecting that aid from the impact of disasters.

The report, Financing Disaster Risk Reduction, is the outcome of some serious number-crunching by the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), which tracked DRR financing over the past 20 years—where the money came from and where it went. The money came from relatively few donors, they found, and went overwhelmingly to just a small group of countries, and often unexpected ones.

The World Bank itself is the source of much of the money, along with the Asian Development Bank and just one national donor, Japan,

earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. (Japan also hosted the Hyogo meeting in 2005).

The main aid recipients, the report found, are middle-income countries. China and Indonesia are far ahead, and Bangladesh is the only poorer country in the top ten.

Protecting assets, not people There is some correlation between mortality risk levels and volumes of financing, but only at the high-risk level," the report says.

The mortality risk index (MRI), developed by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, gauges countries' vulnerability to a variety of hazards, including tropical storms, floods, earthquakes and landslides. Bangladesh, China and Indonesia rank high on the MRI, and they receive a great deal of DRR assistance. But much lowerrisk countries like Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Turkey have received a lot of DRR assistance, as well, while the much more risk-prone Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Sierra Leone have

received hardly any.

Jan Kellett of ODI, one of the lead authors of the report, points out that effort has mostly gone into protecting economic assets rather than people.

"Low economy at risk and high population at risk: very little money," he says. "Nepal, Malawi, Niger, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan all get less than two dollars per capita. So high population at risk does not seem to drive financing for DRR."

### Labels problematic

The authors admit this has been a hard report to compile, especially because it is difficult to pin down exactly what qualifies as DRR spending and how it is often recorded.

Dom Hunt, Concern's disaster risk reduction advisor, has looked at this issue in Pakistan, and he told IRIN: "After the floods there, for example, we were reconstructing houses, so the budget line might have been on 'shelter and reconstruction'. But actually, a lot of the shelter was being built on raised platforms; the bottom third of the building was waterproofed, and it was designed to withstand low- and mediumintensity floods in the future. The same with water and sanitation. If you are raising up a latrine, that just goes down as the cost of the latrine, so how do you know how much money has been spent on DRR? The answer is: you don't."

There were many large flood-prevention projects in the early part of the 20-year period under review, which may have skewed the figures. In the last five years, the amount of aid for DRR has risen slowly, but the spending has evened out, with more relatively small projects, more DRR measures incorporated into reconstruction and development projects, and a wider geographical

The advent of climate adaptation funding has helped; a great deal of this financing goes to small island developing states. Francois Ghesquiere, the head of the World Bank's GFDRR Secretariat, says the challenge now is to integrate climate change adaptation programs with

"One area where I think we certainly can make progress to align much better the finance going to climate adaptation with that going

**Thabet Son Corporation Graphic Arts Division** Showroom Telefax: 269924 - Mujaheed St. -Sana'a - Yemen Solomon Islands, the government is really not big, but you have one department that deals with climate

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adaptation and one department that deals with disaster risk management. And because they get funding from two different sources and they certainly don't want to start pooling these resources, they don't talk to each other and have developed completely different

language to talk about the same

The other change over the past 20 years has been in how much countries are allocating their own money to disaster planning and risk reduction. Ghesquiere says he has seen a real change of attitude among finance ministers. The work that finance companies and the insurance industry have done on assessing risk has been influential, and ministers are now beginning

to realize what it means for their economies if, for instance, their country sits on a seismic fault, Ghesquiere said. Middle-income countries are now funding most of their own DRR work.

issues.

Poorest and most vulnerable But many of the poorest and most vulnerable countries are still doing

little to prepare for disaster. Hafvenstein, previously Tear Fund's program director for Afghanistan, says he can attest work in Afghanistan, and the difficulty of getting donor funding for work there. But he says there is public willingness to take on these projects.

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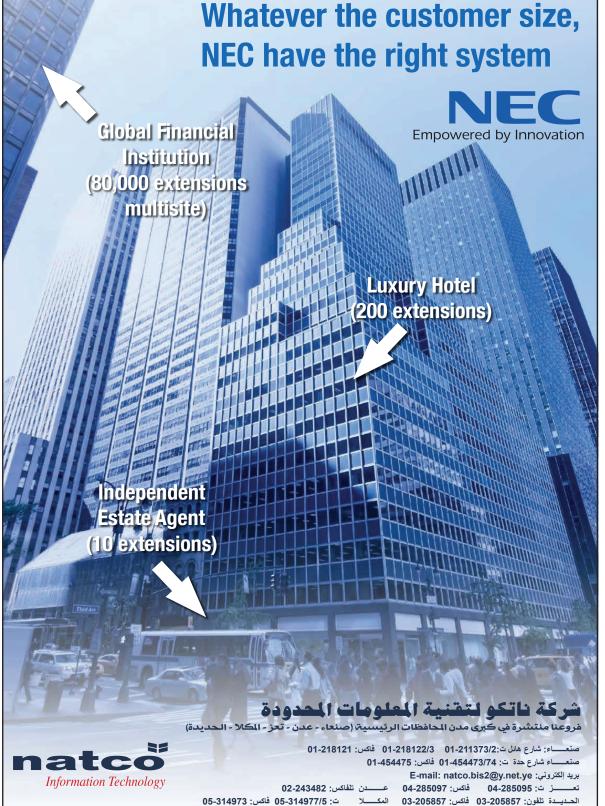
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> "At [a] community level, it's possible to do some powerful risk reduction work, even in environments like Afghanistan. We've seen communities mobilizing to talk about the reasons why disasters affect them the way that they do. It's getting past the idea that this is just an act of God or an act of nature that they can't do anything about. They come up with things like, 'If we did come together and build this protection wall here, it would actually protect the most important bits of our land - so why don't we do it?" Hafvenstein explained.

> "Community level is where you are most likely to see gains, even in areas of poor governance. It is higher risk to experiment with building local government and national government policies in places where the governance is very fragmented, but I think we have got to invest in some of those higherrisk things, because there are local governments in Afghanistan who mean well, and their main obstacle is lack of knowledge and lack of

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Printing & Publication لبعت في مسطابع مسؤسسسة

by Yemen Times Est. for Press,

Printed

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