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Shop 'til you drop: Eid Al-Adha brought out the Yemeni consumer. From sweets to new clothes, families spared little expense during the holiday. But now, Yemenis are forced to grapple with the debt incurred during the holy commemoration. *Read more on Page 14*
(Photo by Samar Qaed)

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Worries grow over possible Al-Qaeda resurgence in Abyan and Al-Beidha

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

ABYAN, Oct. 28 — Abyan and Al-Beidha governorates are facing security challenges due to what security officials say is a spread of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) affiliates in the areas. Currently, nocturnal clashes between armed men—possible AQAP affiliates—and government forces are ongoing, officials in the area say. Militants have long announced that they are attempting to take control of the two governorates in order to create an Islamic Emirate. Armed men in Al-Beidha reportedly injured three soldiers in a

bomb attack on Monday. A number of soldiers were also killed on Saturday and Sunday in clashes between militants and the military in Abyan and Al-Beidha, officials said. In a video clip published Sunday on an Al-Qaeda website, the group claimed responsibility for a number of recent attacks that targeted several government and military facilities. They also claimed responsibility for the assassination of security officers in multiple governorates. The statement, read by Jalal Bale-di Al-Marqashi, a leading AQAP figure in Abyan, said that recent attacks on government targets were

in response to Yemeni-American air strikes that have recently killed dozens of Al-Qaeda affiliates. "Jihadists targeted the military forces that intended to strike us under the pretext of combating terrorism. [They] also carried out multiple attacks that confused the military," the statement read. Referencing several attacks that happened in September and October, Al-Marqashi said the military's operational centers for Al-Mukalla and Abyan's Brigade 111 have been targeted by Al-Qaeda attacks. "Our war is mainly against the Western enemy, led by the U.S.," Al-Marqashi said in the video. "The operations we carry out against security and military forces are legitimate reactions and we aim to deter them from cooperating with the enemy."

Abdulrazaq Al-Jamal, a Sana'a-based analyst conducting research on AQAP, believes the terror group is hoping to flex their muscles by releasing the statement. "Al-Qaeda will continue to target military figures unless the military and U.S. drone strikes stop," Al-Jamal said.

In another statement published online on Saturday, AQAP announced their control of many parts of Al-Beidha governorate.

Continued on page 2

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1300 year-old Quran stolen from National Museum

Parliament to investigate Ministry of Culture authority

Story and photo by Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Oct. 28—The Yemeni Parliament's Culture, Media and Tourism Committee has called for an investigation of the General Authority of Tourism, Antiquities and Museums (GATAM)—part of the Ministry of Culture—after the theft of Qurans and antique swords from the National Museum in mid-October.

The theft of Yemeni antiquities is a theft of Yemeni identity and history, said GATAM head Abdu Al-Hudaifi.

The stolen Quran manuscripts are rare, with one dating back 1,300 years, Al-Hudaifi said. The final revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Mohammed was in 632 A.D.—according to Islamic belief, 1,381 years ago.

Parliament will call on GATAM authorities to testify before the body next week when officials resume sessions, Al-Hudaifi said.

"A Parliamentary committee will be formed to determine who is responsible for the theft," he said.

President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi has issued a decree, ordering a separate investigation into the theft.

The capital city's criminal investigation department is tasked with carrying out the investigation, which has already started, said Colonel Abdusalam Abu Al-Rijal, manager of the department.

"We are still gathering information and cannot make any accusations until we have hard evidence," Al-Rijal said.

Al-Hudaifi told the Yemen Times the preliminary investigation by Parliament suggests negligence on the part of the museum administration and GATAM.

The manager of the National Museum, Ibrahim Al-Hadi, said he is

ready to answer Parliament's questions.

"We will respond to questions posed to us and explain the budget crisis the museum is facing and its consequences for security," Al-Hadi said.

Mujahid Al-Yateem, the deputy head of the Ministry of Culture, said the criminal investigation department sent a committee to the museum to question all staff and guards. Once the investigation is completed, results will be delivered to the public at a press conference, Al-Yateem said.

Aqeel Al-Nabhi, the National Museum's security manager, said the lack of security resources contributed to the thefts.

"There are no surveillance cameras, no alarm systems, the generator has stopped operating—there isn't even proper lightning," Al-Nabhi said.

There are four buildings that constitute the National Museum, and four gates to enter. Eight soldiers



Parliament will be holding hearings to determine whether GATAM is at fault for the recent theft.

are assigned to guard the museum, and they are "only guarding the main gate," Al-Nabhi said. "There is no barbed wire there are houses on either side."

The museum has about 100 daily visitors, most of them locals who are

interested in learning about Yemeni antiquity, museum staff said. GATAM will hold a press conference Tuesday to explain to the public the vulnerability of Yemen's antiquities given the current situation, they said.



A fire broke out Sunday destroying eight shelters made of palm leaves in the Alkf Al-Ahmar village of Al-Tuhaita district in Hodeida governorate.

Bassam Al-Jinaei, a journalist in Hodeida governorate, said the fire displaced 47 people who lived there. There are no injuries reported.

He said the fire occurred when a dying piece of coal sparked leading to flames.

Taiz governorate ranked first in the spread of drug dealing and addiction among children, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Hodeida and Aden followed, according to the report.

Adel Dabwan, the manager of social defense department at the ministry, said the latest indicators suggest underage drug consumption and dealing is on the rise.

Dabwan indicated that domestic disintegration and low living standards have effectively contributed to the spread of this phenomenon. He said the ministry is in cooperation with a number of local and international organizations to run a survey next year in order to understand the extent of the phenomenon and how to tackle the issue.

Reporting by Samar Al-Ariqi

Continued from page 1

Worries grow over possible Al-Qaeda resurgence in Abyan and Al-Beidha

Reportedly, the group circulated leaflets around the governorate on Thursday, warning locals against collaborating with security forces and ordering them "to stay out of government facilities because they will be attacked soon."

The statement again emphasized that Al-Beidha'a governorate soon would be an Islamic Emirate.

"Al-Qaeda has been making large movements across the governorate, particularly in Ra'ada district, because it accommodates a huge number of its affiliates, including the Al-Dhabb family," said Col. Hamoud Al-Amari, the security manager of Ra'ada.

"Hour-long clashes happen every day between the army and those militants."

Al-Amari said militants being pursued by security forces are fleeing to Ra'ada, which he estimates is accommodating around 700 militants. Suspected AQAP affiliates are also present in other areas of Al-Beidha'a such as Al-Zahir, Almikras and Alhd, he said. Al-Amari said some of these areas are almost completely under AQAP control.

"We are fully prepared to fight. We have no choice but to fight them. Otherwise, we will

be killed," Al-Amari said, confirming that security forces in Al-Beidha'a have been on a week-long high alert.

"The interior ministry has provided us with six military vehicles and six police cars, but it's not enough. We need at least an extra brigade of 2,000 soldiers," he said. There are currently about 2,500 soldiers involved in the operation.

In a speech delivered last week in Al-Beidha, Brig. Gen. Ali Mohsen Muthana, the commander of the Seventh Military Region, warned of the consequences of an AQAP takeover.

Residents of Al-Beidha and Abyan say they live in daily fear from the region's insecurities, as well as newly-emerged formal and informal checkpoints by both militants and the military.

"We are worried because we see many Al-Qaeda vehicles moving at night with heavy arms. We also see military patrols," said Mohammed Ali Garoon, a resident of Rada'a.

In Abyan, officials say there is a similar scenario to Al-Beidha unfolding.

"Security forces can't fight the militants because the number of soldiers and available equipment isn't enough. For instance, there are only three brigades in Abyan, each one comprising of 1,000 to 1,500 soldiers with insufficient equipment," said Col. Mohammed

Hirak members slowly filter into NDC concluding talks as Houthis continue to boycott

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANA'A, Oct. 28- Despite the presence of an estimated two-thirds of Hirak at the concluding plenary discussions on Monday, several Southern Movement members—known as Hirak—and Ansar Allah, known as the Houthis, denied reports that they are ending their boycott of the National Dialogue Conference's (NDC) final phase. The presence of some Hirak member at the talks was described as low-profile by NDC representatives.

The final phase of the conference resumed its sessions Sunday to discuss the final reports of the NDC's

nine working groups.

"Reports of our return to participate in the plenary are untrue," said Ali Al-Bukhaiti, the spokesperson for the Houthis at the NDC.

Abdulla Naji Rashid, a leading Southern Movement leader, made a similar statement.

"We will not be back to participate in the concluding plenary until the dialogue presidium admits our right to self-determination," Rashid said.

Meanwhile the conference's presidium and Reconciliation Committee are working to reassure the remaining members of the boycotting groups that mechanisms are

in place to ensure the inclusion of all groups. The concluding plenary is currently in its first phase where working groups are presenting their final reports and receiving feedback.

"The concluding plenary working mechanism indicates the NDC's presidency and general secretary keenness to bring all components together," said Yasser Al-Ro'ini, the deputy general secretary of the NDC.

The second phase of the plenary when the working group's final reports are to be submitted—to be included in the NDC's final outcomes document—cannot move ahead

without the participation of members of the two boycotting groups.

The Southern Movement and Ansar Allah issued a joint statement on Oct. 7 announcing their suspension of participation in the NDC concluding plenary. They said they would not return until the Sa'ada and Southern Issues were resolved and an agreement on a mechanized roadmap for the post-NDC period was reached.

The boycott does not include Working Group sessions.

med Danboa, Abyan's Security Chief.

"We would not be able to defeat them with the current number of soldiers and equipment."

Abdulrab Saleh, who says he supports Al-Qaeda, said the presence of Al-Qaeda in Al-Beidha'a was preferable to the military's presence, "Because the army kills innocent citizens and supports American policy but Al-Qaeda doesn't."

"We battle the army because it supports Americans, provides them with intelligence, and then we get hit with drones," Saleh said.



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- The opening of envelopes shall be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday corresponding to 05/12/2013 at the purchasing & Contracts Opening Hall in the address indicated above, in the presence of tenderers or their duly authorized representatives.

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Mr. Elias Kassis, Representative of TOTAL Group in Yemen and Managing Director of TOTAL E&P Yemen, stated on this occasion, "TOTAL Scholarship Programme in Yemen is one of many education development programmes we are sponsoring to help the Yemeni human resources to become more competitive through the promotion of science and engineering in the country. Based on its long-standing partnership with Yemen, TOTAL is committed to investing in tomorrow's talent and preparing Yemeni students for long and successful careers in the energy sector through this year's special programme that we hope will give the winning Yemeni students the opportunity to realize their full potential and will, hence, represent a key contribution to the development of human resources in Yemen."

For more information on how to apply, please visit www.total-ep-yemen.com.

Haider Shaye awarded human rights prize

Early release conditions prohibit journalist from leaving the country. Award will be distributed in Switzerland.

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANAA, Oct. 28—The international human rights organization AlKarama announced on Friday its selection of Yemeni journalist Abdulelah Haider Shaye for its 2013 Human Rights Defenders award.

"Shaye was chosen because of his work which exposed civilian deaths caused by U.S. airstrikes in Yemen resulting in his imprisonment and trial," said the legal coordinator of AlKarama in Yemen, Mohamed Al-Ahmadi.

The defender's award is given every year on Human Rights Day to either an individual or organization in the Arab world that is recognized

for their commitment to the promotion of human rights. Lawyers, activists and politicians have all been past recipients.

This is the first time the award will be given to a Yemeni since the organization began the program six years ago, Al-Ahmadi said.

"Shaye is a symbol of the struggle against human rights violations committed by Yemeni and the U.S. authorities in their war on terror," said Rashid Moslai, chief of the legal department at AlKarama in a statement published on the organization's website.

Shaye was arrested in August 2010 and sentenced in January 2011 to five-year prison term for connections to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The trial was largely considered a sham by international human rights observers and journalists who monitored the case.

The journalist had reported widely on the organization, including

Photo archive by Richard Al-Helani



Shaye revealed that 41 civilians were killed in a U.S. airstrike in Al-Ma'ajala in December 2009. U.S. and Yemeni authorities had claimed it was a Yemeni airstrike.

exclusive interviews published in American news outlets with leading AQAP leaders including Nasser Al-Wahishi and well-known Yemeni-American cleric Anwar Al-Awlaki, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in September 2011.

Shaye is perhaps most well-known for exposing the death of 41 civilians in a U.S. airstrike that took place in the Al-Ma'ajala village in Abyan in December 2009.

It was later revealed through wikileaks cables that U.S. President Barack Obama had personally phoned former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and "expressed concern" over Shaye's pending presidential pardon.

In July of this year, Shaye was released from detainment after receiving a pardon from President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi. Per house arrest orders conditioned by Shaye's release, the journalist is technically not permitted to leave the country to receive the award in Geneva,

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Malfunctioning equipment shuts down dialysis center in Hodeida, patients moved to Zabid

Zabid facility is unsure how long it will be able to accommodate influx of patients

Rammah Al-Jubari

HODEIDA, Oct. 28—About 500 patients on dialysis were transported on Saturday from Hodeida city to Zabid, about 95 km. south of the city, after Hodeida's central dialysis center suffered technical problems on Friday, the head of the Health Office in Hodeida, Abdurrahman Jarallah said.

The Hodeida Dialysis Center is

the main treatment destination for kidney patients from Hodeida, Hajja and Mahwit. The average patient spends about eight hours a week receiving treatment, the center said.

According to Jarallah, the equipment at the center was not working properly, endangering patients' lives and prompting their transport to Zabid.

While the Health office has not indicated that patient lives are in immediate danger, hospital administrators in Zabid are unsure how long they will be able to support the influx of patients. The Dialysis Center in Zabid has nine fewer machines than the one in

Hodeida.

The manager of the Dialysis Center in Zabid, Dr. Ahmed Al-Sa'adi, told the Yemen Times the Zabid center already suffers from overcrowding and that machines at the center are now working around the clock to accommodate the new patients.

Doctors and other medical personnel from Hodeida have also been relocated to Zabid to care for their patients.

Jarallah says the center does not have an expected timeframe for reopening. The center has contacted the manufacturing company of the equipment they use for assistance, he said.

Switzerland in December.

Shaye's brother, who has spoken on his behalf to the press since his release, said it remains unclear if Shaye will be permitted to travel.

"We asked [AlKarama's] office in Yemen to contact the concerned bodies that would allow Shaye to travel," said Khaled Shaye. "They told us they would try."

"If the organization cannot override the no-travel sentence, one of his relatives can receive the award on his behalf," said Al-Ahmadi.

Alkarama granted Syrian activist, Haitham Al-Malih, their defender's award in December 2010 while he was still in imprisoned. He was released in March 2011. Last year it also awarded detained Emirati lawyer, Mohamed Al-Rukn, the honor. His family accepted the award on his behalf.

"The oppression of Abdulelah cannot be understated or forgotten, but this [award] is validation and proof of his credibility in defending human rights," said Khaled.

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Independent Socotra governorate: paving the way for a federal Yemen or a hint at separation?

Ali Abulohoom

Nearly two weeks after the Yemeni president declared Socotra archipelago an independent governorate, the potential implications of this decision are still under debate.

In a trip to the main island on the occasion of Al-Adha Eid, in mid-October, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi announced the administrative independence of the Socotra archipelago, which has been under the supervision of Hadramout governorate since 2004.

"The future of Socotra archipelago will be promising," President Hadi said.

He called on investors to capitalize on economic opportunities on the island for their own benefit and the benefit of the nation at large, promising that the central government will facilitate such investment projects.

Socotra's independent status, both financially and administratively, was one of the principle demands of Socotrans during the 2011 popular uprising. With roughly 55,000 inhabitants, and located around 380 km. off the coast of mainland Yemen, Socotra is the largest part of four islands that form the archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

Socotra is home to a unique variety of animals and plants, such as the dragon's blood trees, due to its extreme isolation. In addition to the geographical separation, being far away from the mainland's insecurities has turned Socotra into one of the most safest parts of Yemen.

Fahd Saleem, one of three representatives of the island at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), said it has been a long wait for Socotra to be declared as Yemen's 22nd governorate.

"About four months ago, I personally took on this issue and prepared a petition to be signed by NDC members," Saleem told the Yemen Times. "Finally, we got approval from 70 percent of representatives."

Subsequently, the petition was delivered to the president for final approval, but before that he tasked a committee composed of members from his consultancy council, the Parliament and the NDC to assess conditions on the ground.

Saleem, who was a member of the committee, has met with the president to explain the island's situation in detail. The



committee reported that Socotrans have limited or no access to basic services such as electricity, sanitation and piped water, along with an insufficient transportation network which covers fewer than two miles in Socotra's capital city, Hidaibu.

"Educational and health institutions are scarcely present [in] Socotra, and the people are fed up with this situation," Saleem added.

There is one bank on the Island, no universities and one hospital, built by the Emirates, with only basic services available. Anyone requiring an operation would have to travel to receive one, said Salam Dahaq, the district manager of Hidaibu.

Socotra was part of Aden governorate from unification until 2004, for 24 years. The central government annexed it to the Hadramout governorate because of its proximity, reducing expenses and hassle for residents who needed to access public services not available in Socotra.

Over the past few months, the NDC has hosted fierce debates about the future shape of the state. The number of regions in what will likely be a new federal system in Yemen is not decided yet.

Although it is not clear how the NDC's decision will be affected by President Hadi's Socotra announcement, Saleem said Socotra, as an independent governorate, will be part of the Southern region if Yemen is a federal state.

In Yemen's post-revolution climate, the newly announced Socotra governorate is another issue in which some figures from the old regime are clashing with the new administration.

For Ahmed Al-Sufi, the media secretary of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh, declaring Socotra an independent governorate is "dangerous," because it potentially provides legal motives for secession. Keeping Yemen unified has been a priority for the transitional government backed by international support. But, many in the South, which was a separate country prior to



President Hadi in Socotra two weeks ago, where he announced that Socotra Archipelago would be an independent governorate in a new federal state in Yemen.

1990, are still pushing for renewed independence.

Saleem rejected such allegations. He said loyalists to the old regime like Al-Sufi oppose this decision because it did not happen when former president was in power.

"They don't want to see national strides like this one achieved by President Hadi," Saleem said. "They wish it had happened before."

Fadhl Al-Rabaei, a political analyst and the director of Madar Center for Studies, said at this point, the decision to form an independent Socotra has been considered

a crucial step toward strengthening federalism in Yemen.

According to Fadhl, a new governorate of Socotra would be part of the Southern region, also consisting of Lahj, Abyan and Aden. Adding the independent governorate of Socotra to the Southern region will strengthen the region, Al-Rabaei said, thus balancing out the power between this region and the other federal regions.

Politics aside, Fatima Huraibi, executive director of the Yemen Tourism Promotion Board, says what is important for Socotrans is that their

lives will be positively affected.

"Socially, politically, financially—Socotrans will benefit from an independent governorate," Huraibi said. "It is a suitable time for this to happen because there are now many qualified and educated Socotrans who can manage and rule their own lands," she said.

Khalid Bahaj is a native Socotran who says he will no longer need to travel to Hadramout in order to deal with bureaucratic paperwork.

"Now that Socotra will be an independent governorate, all services will be available here," he said.



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Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), is looking to setup an office in Sana'a for its Yemen based activities. KUFPEC has been present in Yemen for nearly 30 years and has several non-operated interests in the Country. In addition, KUFPEC is expected to start the operatorship of an exploration block in the near future and is looking to fill the following positions for its Sana'a Office:

COUNTRY MANAGER: The candidate should possess a minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Petroleum Engineering or Geosciences, preference will be given to additional business training/education. Must have at least 15 years' experience in the E&P industry (IOC experience preferred). The employee must have experience of leading multicultural technical teams comprising of experienced geoscientists and engineers in addition to coordinating multidisciplinary teams (including Commercial, Legal, Admin). Must have a strong standing in the E&P industry with a proven track record of dealing with various Government agencies and JV partners. Must have very strong English language verbal and written communication skills. Must be a self-motivated and able to lead KUFPEC to become a major player in the Country. Only Yemeni citizens will be considered.

CHIEF GEOLOGIST: The candidate should possess a Bachelor's Degree in Geology with a minimum of fifteen (15) years of post-qualification experience, with a minimum 5 years with an international operator. The individual will also have experience dealing with JV partners and leading a technical team. Must have very strong English language verbal and written communication skills. Only Yemeni citizens will be considered.

SENIOR HR & ADMIN OFFICER: The candidate will have a Bachelor's degree preferably in Management. At least 8 years' experience in HR and Admin, preferably in the E&P sector. Must have very strong English language verbal and written communication skills. Only Yemeni citizens will be considered.

SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER: The candidate should be a Chartered Accountant or hold a degree equivalent to the same from a recognized institution. The candidate should possess a minimum of 8 years of post-qualification experience in the Oil & Gas Sector's Fiscal & Financial function and have strong experience of JV Accounting. The incumbent should have hands-on experience in accounting software's and knowledge of international accounting standards. Must have very strong English language verbal and written communication skills. Only Yemeni citizens will be considered.

IT ADMINISTRATOR: The candidate should possess a Bachelor's degree in Computer (Engineering/ Science), with a minimum of five (5) years of post-qualification experience preferably in a multinational oil and gas company with hands on experience in networking and MS Windows Environment. He / She should have the ability to diagnose problems in hardware & software and resolve technical application issues efficiently. Must have good English language verbal and written communication skills. Only Yemeni citizens will be considered.

KUFPEC provides competitive remuneration packages with a very congenial environment in its office. Interested candidates are required to send their applications supported by their CV and other requisite documents of experience to yemen-recruitment@kufpec.com by the 15th November 2013.

Water and sanitation series

Produced by the UN-Water Decade Program on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC), every two months this review brings you the latest publications produced by United Nations agencies and programs on issues related to water and sanitation. Publications are freely accessible from the web

Placing Water and Culture

Irene J. Klaver

Water has seeped into unexpected domains. Water-related advertisements abound, and not only in the bottled water industry or in describing waterfront property. There are fashionable lines of clothing and cosmetic products with "water," "aqua," or "H₂O" in their names.

In high-end shopping districts of the world's capitals, one can find skin-care stores called H₂O, built of sleek aquamarine-colored glass. Water keeps re-entering the cultural imagination in new shapes and forms, subliminally exerting its aesthetic appeal.

In sculpture, architecture, multimedia, and landscape art, contemporary artists such as Tadao Ando, William Pye, Roni Horn, Basia Irland, and Herbert Dreiseitl—to name just a few—all explore innovative ways of working with water, implicitly articulating a larger cultural interest in the element, while highlighting the fundamental fact: earth is the 'Blue Planet', the water planet.

Nearly three-quarters of earth's surface is covered by water, mostly



From left to right: Potsdamer Platz, Berlin, Germany; Water traces, Hannoversch Münden, Germany; Heiner-Metzger-Platz Neu-Ulm, Germany

by oceans. Water gives rhythm and pulse to life. It pervades everything. Moving through any living entity—our bodies, the land, the atmosphere, and our cultures—water connects, transports, and transforms. Earth has a biosphere because it has a hydrosphere. Earth has a culture sphere because it has a hydrosphere.

But, ubiquitous as water may be, fresh water is limited. Ninety-seven percent of the planet's water is saline. More than two-thirds of the 2.5 percent fresh water is locked in ice at the polar regions or in distant glaciers in mountainous areas. A little less than one third is groundwater, and only 0.3 percent of the fresh water is surface water, such as rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.

Rivers are the blue ribbons of the earth: relatively small in comparison to landmasses, they tie oceans and mountains together. Rivers mediate between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, providing habitat for land and water species alike. Over geological time rivers have shaped the lay of the land through erosion, flooding, and meandering. Carrying and depositing sediments, rivers form intricate landscapes with fertile floodplains at the mouth of their basins.

The amount of water on the planet remains fairly constant over time; however, the quality and quantity of water at any specific time and place are highly variable. Many factors account for this variability. Human culture has become one of the determining factors.

Water in Culture

Water has a presence in every aspect of our daily lives. We drink it, bathe in it, and cook with it. Our food consists largely of water: spinach equals milk in being approximately 90 percent water, tomatoes percent, and beef, seemingly so solid, is 61 percent water. We ourselves are largely composed of water (66 percent of our body weight), and we need about 3 liters a day to live. We can survive for a month without food, but only a week or less without water.

Given its vital role, water has always had cultural significance. Virtually all cultures developed around wa-

ter: tribes settled at the shores or on the banks of water bodies, cities originated at confluences of rivers.

The first complex societies were irrigation-based cultures with ingenious water management structures—societies as diverse as ancient Rome, China, India, Mesopotamia, pre-Columbian Mexico and Peru. Karl A. Wittfogel called these 'hydraulic civilizations' because they were characterized by a centralized governments and extensive division of labor centered around complex water management. Roman culture thrived with skilful engineering of numerous aqueducts for public water supply using various techniques of hydraulic architecture.

Through the ages, poetry, music, and religion have found a deep well of meaning in water: crosscurrents of meaning, reflections and emotions. Gazing at his reflection in a pond, Narcissus epitomized the rise of self-consciousness.

The cosmogonic power of water has been a major theme of many ancient accounts of human origin. These poetic sources are precursors to later scientific theories of evolution, which confirmed that all life forms emerged phylogenetically and onto-genetically out of water.

In the Enuma Elish, the Mesopotamian-Babylonian creation epic of the third millennium BC, the primordial waters are Apsu, meaning sweet water 'ocean,' 'deep abyss' or 'outermost limit,' and Tiamat, the one who 'is too deep to fathom,' the salt sea, whose name refers to 'primeval waters.' Apsu and Tiamat are brought under control by gods (their offspring) in order to create the topography of earth and sky.

We see a similar structure in Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament (written between 1400 and 400 BC).

Clearly influenced by the Enuma Elish, its opening lines read: "In the beginning...darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters." The Hebrew word Tehom, meaning 'deep [waters],' is etymologically related to "Tiamat."

The first Greek philosopher, Thales of Miletus (c. 624 BC–545 BC), considered water to be the beginning, an originating and guiding principle or archê. There were similarities between Thales's philosophy and the ancient legends and myths, specifically the ones about Oceanus and his consort Tethys, who was both sister and wife of Oceanus and whose name has etymological ties to Tiamat and Tehom.

However, Thales rejected the tra-

ditional beliefs that the gods organized, shaped, and controlled the cosmos. Thus he was, for Aristotle, no longer a theologian like the old poets, but the founder of natural philosophy—investigating the basic principles of matter and theoretically moving towards a scientific treatment of natural phenomena.

Nearly a century later another Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus (c.535 BC–475 BC), found in the movement of water a guiding principle: "panta rhei" (all things flow).

Heraclitus was a proto-phenomenologist, interested in the everyday experience of change: "Cold things warm up, the hot cools off, wet becomes dry, the dry becomes wet." With these simple examples he revealed how opposites are intrinsically

related to each other and continually change into one another. This transformational flux was not random but governed by Logos, the first proposed 'law of nature' in Western natural philosophy. The widely contrasting workings of water capture this co-constitutive dynamic between opposites. In ebb and flow and rain and drought, water comes and goes—powerful and vulnerable, calming and dangerous, quiet and violent. It leads Heraclitus to one of his famous sayings: 'one cannot step in the same river twice.'

Similarly, the ancient Chinese text Tao Te Ching of Lao Tzu (sixth century BC), invokes the paradoxical powers of water: "Nothing in the world is as soft and yielding as wa-

ter. Yet for dissolving the hard and the inflexible, nothing can surpass it." Water is most powerful, and at the same time unassuming. Therefore: "Water is the supreme good, which nourishes all things without trying to. It is content with the low places that people disdain. Thus it is like the Tao."

Lao Tzu suggests that water is a metaphor of exemplary leadership, because despite its power it accepts the lowest place: 'All streams flow to the sea because it is lower than they are. Humility gives it its power... If you want to govern the people, you must place yourself below them. If you want to lead the people, you must learn how to follow them.'

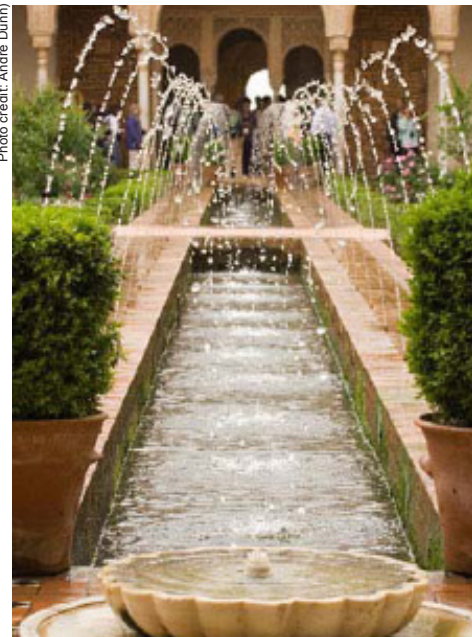
Humility is also an important value in the Hebrew and Christian Bible, thematically often combined with God's punishment of human hubris. Water has a crucial metaphorical place in this. The flood, for example, is the most famous biblical water story, the ultimate expression of God's wrath. In the deluge only Noah, his family, and the pairs of animals on his ark are saved. At that point the imagery moves from water as punishment to water as cleansing, and the water-formed rainbow appears, the symbol of God's covenant with his people, in which humans have the first right to the goods of his creation but in return have to take care of the earth.

Irene J. Klaver is an associate professor in philosophy at the University of North Texas in the United States. She is the founding director of the Philosophy of Water Project www.water.unt.edu. She is a member of UNESCO-IHP's expert advisory group on Water and Cultural Diversity and co-director of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy.

This article was published by UNESCO in 2012 in a larger study entitled: "Water, Cultural Diversity, and Global Environmental Change Emerging Trends, Sustainable Futures?"



Alhambra, Spain



Patio de la Acequia



The Pont du Gard is part of a 50 km. aqueduct in southern France constructed by the Romans in the first century A.D. It was added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites in 1985.

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات إلى للخريجة
أمينة توفيق السنحاني
بمناسبة التخرج من قسم الأعمام المصرفة والتطوير
من الجامعة اللبنانية
ألف ألف مبروك
المهنتون
عائلة العزاني
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

أسمى التهاني والتبريكات نرفها
للأخ/ حفظ الله الكميم
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Inching their way up

On the racetrack and in the stables, female horse riders are slowly gaining access to training and resources

Samar Qaed

Huda Al-Harbi gently pats her horse's face as she grabs the reins and steers the animal towards the starting line of the track at the Military Academy ring in Sana'a. Although Al-Harbi skillfully guides her horse over a set of obstacles to jump, there is nothing at stake—nothing yet to win.

This is not an official race. In fact women have never competed in official competitions held by the Yemeni Equestrian Federation (YEF), the group that has provided Al-Harbi with equestrian training. But it looks like things may be changing.

Al-Harbi, who says she has always loved horses, is one of the 30 women who were recruited in 2006 for a pilot training program for women offered by YEF.

"The announcement came after I finished secondary school. I was excited to register and I encouraged my three sisters to register as well," Al-Harbi said.

Out of the 30 women from the freshmen class, only five still train. Currently, YEF has a total of 12 women in the program. There are 200 men registered with the organization. While women like Al-Harbi are thankful for free access to horses, lessons and riding gear—such as helmets, boots and gloves—they are struggling to gain foot in the male-dominated equestrian sport in Yemen.

One source of contention for the girls is the lack of competitions that would allow them to showcase their skills. Every year, five equestrian tournaments are held. This month, an additional competition, the National Dialogue Equestrian Conference Tournament, also took place.

About 120 men competed in the tournament.

For Al-Harbi, the tournament was bittersweet.

"We were invited to the opening and concluding parades of the tournament. We were spectators, only there to sit and watch." Since she began riding, she has aspired to compete, she said, like her male counterparts.

Her dream may not be too far off. Four months ago, the federation announced that they would have women competing for the first time in the upcoming Unity Day Tournament in May 2014. To prepare, four months ago YEF took on a new class of 100 women for training. Out of this group and the current YEF members, 38 will be chosen to compete.

"Both the female trainers and horsewomen will participate in the championship," said Hana Al-Herdi, the Women Activities' Officer at YEF. She explained that—in response to feedback from the girls—the union has assigned, for the first time, four assistant female trainers to prepare the girls. Previously, all trainers and assistants were male.

Many said having female trainers would encourage more women to participate because they would better understand the difficulties and societal pressures women face when it comes to sports.

"It's important for the girls to find someone to teach them the basics in order to gain confidence. It is also important that the trainers gain the confidence and consent of the families as well," said Naseem Al-Ward, an assistant trainer.

Despite some changes, female equestrians say the sport is still an

uphill battle when it comes to competing with men.

"Horsemen receive more attention," said Heba Salam, an 18-year-old female rider. "Conservative values hurt us because society considers it shameful for a girl to wear a horsewoman's clothes and to ride a horse."

One of the women's biggest struggles is transportation. According to Jameel Bishr, the public relations officer at YEF, there are 300 horses in Sana'a that are used for training by the federation. They are distributed at the Police Academy, the Military Academy, the Capital Secretariat Club and at a private club. These locations, usually on the outskirts of Sana'a, are difficult to reach with public transportation. Because sports are not a priority for most families, especially female family members, it is hard for women to justify transportation costs, Al-Herdi said.

"I had to pay the round-trip transportation fees for three years [for several girls]. Many in the group withdrew, particularly school girls, because the training is tiring, and they don't have the means for transportation," Al-Herdi said.

She said the issue of female participation is a catch-22. Because there is a very low female retention rate—due to societal taboos, a lack of transportation, and other obstacles—the union isn't encouraged to pour more money into their female program. However, with fewer resources put into the program, fewer women will be able to participate, or for those already involved, to keep participating.

But the union is making concessions, they have made a pledge to cover transportation costs for the 38 women selected to participate in next year's competition.

For Fatima Junaid, a French-lan-



A long time participant in YEF's female program, Huda Al-Harbi says the federation provided her an opportunity to pursue her passion—riding.

guage graduate who lives in Sana'a, this was enough incentive to join the federation.

"I love horse-riding because I grew up in Zabid, which is known for Al-Hossinina festival, where [men] participate as horsemen. Now I found this opportunity," she said. "The union [has] encouraged me."

The federation is training the new class of women twice a week, year-round, in contrast to the two months a year that other riders, including Al-Harbi, were limited to.

A sign that the sport may be opening up for more females has been

an unconfirmed offer from Sana'a's Capital Secretariat to build stables at the state-subsidized Belquis Sports Club for Women, according to Junaid.

"We are waiting for this promise to be fulfilled," she said.

In the meantime, YEF and the hopeful tournament participants are looking forward to their first-ever female tournament.

"The opportunity is available for us to prove that we are committed and capable of competing," Al-Herdi said. "I'm sure we will come out on top."



YEF says a majority of its participants come from wealthy and university-educated families.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Post Title: Managing Director
Organisation: National Microfinance Foundation (NMF)
Location: Sana'a
Duration: Full time, including 3 months probationary period
No. of Post: 1
Date Announced: October 03rd, 2013
Closing Date: November 03rd, 2013

Background

The National Microfinance Foundation was established by the **Social Fund for Development** in 2004 as a non-governmental organization that aims at improving the economic and social conditions of the low and limited income Yemenis, by providing them with a variety of financial services they cannot obtain from the mainstream banking sector.

Currently, NMF is one of the largest microfinance institution in Yemen, and as of August 30th, 2013 NMF had more than 14,800 active clients served through 13 branches and 4 offices spread across the cities and governorates of Yemen.

The NMF seeks a Managing Director to provide leadership, supervise staff, manage everyday activities, identify problems, provide solutions, prepare and ensure effective implementation of the Foundation's five-year strategic plans.

Specific responsibilities:

The Managing Director will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Develop the institution's strategic plan and ensure its implementation so that it meets the institutional goals.
- Pursue and supervise NMF's overall operations as well as manage its growth and profitability.
- Manage the branch network through middle management and conduct regular field visits.
- Ensure qualified personals for the top management positions as well as secure the development of all staff
- Develop the NMF's capacity and infrastructure to prepare it for the transformation into a microfinance bank in the future.
- Undertake regular reviews of policies and procedures, and advise NMF's Board of Directors on actions to be taken.
- Monitor the performance, development and portfolio quality.
- Supervise 120 + employees in the headquarter and branches.
- Assist NMF in mobilizing additional resources for TA or funding from local and international donors/investors.
- Develop and maintain relations with shareholders, creditors and local authorities.
- Ensure effective communication and coordination with the Board of Directors, donors, and other competitors and stakeholders.
- Ensure compliance with the laws of Yemen, the requirements of authorities and norms defined in the Charter of NMF, including implementation of effective internal controls.
- Represent the institution locally and globally.

Qualifications and skills

The Managing Director must have the following qualifications and skills:

- A Bachelor Degree as a minimum (Masters Degree preferred) from a reputable university in business, finance, management, economics, accounting, or any other related field.
- At least 5 years' professional experience in a bank or financial institution, of which at least 3 years were in management positions
- Proven track record in dealing with international donors or investors, research agencies and government institutions, etc.
- Good knowledge on Microfinance and the main parties that support the Microfinance industry locally and globally.
- Strong communication, public relations, organizational, and leadership skills.
- Mature, energetic, creative, and dynamic personality.
- Possess the ability to produce accurate and precise strategies, working plans, and reports to NMF's Board of Directors, donors, and other parties concerned.
- Competent with the use of computers.
- High proficiency in written and spoken Arabic and English.
- Willing and able to travel across the country and abroad.

Salary, benefits and others:

- Attractive salary (including social security), according to working experience and qualifications.
- Training opportunities will be available.

Submission guideline:

The application should comprise of a **one page** cover letter explaining the applicants' interest and suitability for the position, indicating earliest joining date if selected, and a **CV** with at least two **significant** references.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to: smedhr@sfd-yemen.org no later than 03rd of November 2013. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Job Announcement for Drivers

Vacancy available for drivers with at least five years of experience to work with international organizations & oil companies.

All applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Basics of English language
- At least a Secondary School certificate
- Age between (25-40) years
- Valid driving license, (issue date older than two years)
- Driving experience in long distances and off-road driving

All those who are qualified are asked to send a copy of their CVs to the following email address:

driver.yemen@gmail.com

Closing date for applications is 30th November 2013

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Why Yemen must conquer corruption to save the poor

Peter Salisbury
Edition.cnn.com
First Published Oct. 15

In a YouTube video produced by activists from #SupportYemen, a Yemeni civil society organization, in March 2013, an interviewer asks people in Yemen's capital Sana'a what they think of their forthcoming national dialogue. They give a range of well thought-out answers, ranging from tempered optimism to near-total pessimism.

The video cuts to a woman at the side of a dirt road near Hodeida, one of Yemen's biggest industrial cities. "We are hungry and we need jobs," she tells the blogger and activist Atiaf Alwazir.

The National Dialogue Conference, a six-month series of talks that should lead to the creation of a new constitution for the Arab World's poorest country, is aimed at closing the gap between the country's small military and tribal elite and ordinary people.

The talks started on March 18 and are the most inclusive political process Yemen has ever seen, bringing together established political players with Southern separatists, Zaydi Shia Houthi rebels and youth activists.

The conference was due to come to an end on Sept. 18 but has been held up by wrangling between members of a working group look-

ing at ways to address the grievances of the country's marginalized South.

Yemen's poor people-around half the country's population-do not have much of a voice at the talks. Like the woman in the video, many do not even know what the dialogue is. Instead, they are scrambling to make enough money to eat.

If, as looks increasingly likely, the country's next government is made up of members of the elite who profited from the regime of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, their situation is unlikely to improve anytime soon.

Yemen's poverty problem is not new. Even before the political crisis of 2011, well over 40 percent of the country's population lived below the poverty line while more than a third of all people aged 18-25 were unemployed, according to the World Bank. The protests, elite violence and ensuing security vacuum in 2011 caused the already weak economy to implode.

By the end of the year, more than half the country's population lived below the poverty line, a study conducted by the Yemeni government and international agencies found.

The situation has stabilized since 2011, and hundreds of millions of dollars of humanitarian aid has flowed into the country, meaning that the hunger crisis will be kept at bay for at least another year or two-but not that living standards among

the country's poor are likely to improve substantially at any point in the near future.

With Yemen's population growing at 2.3 percent a year, (again according to the World Bank), and oil-the source of 70 percent of government revenues-running out, Yemen's economy needs a massive shake-up.

The government needs to become less reliant on oil and to help build a diversified economy which provides a wide range of jobs for Yemenis, who in turn must be better educated (more than two thirds of all adults are illiterate) and healthier.

Some of these issues were addressed during the dialogue conference: a working group at the talks tasked with producing recommendations on Yemenis' basic rights called in July for the state to provide at least a basic level of education and healthcare along with guaranteed welfare payments to the country's poor.

But the question is how future governments are going to pay for any expansion in government services and welfare payments. In 2013, the country's transitional government passed not just the biggest budget in Yemen's history, but also its biggest deficit, of about \$3.2 billion. Most of the \$12.9 billion total spending package went to wages and overheads, with fuel subsidies in particular due to cost the government \$3.5 billion, or 8.5 percent

of all economic output, in 2013 according to the IMF.

The kind of deficits the government has been running up are simply unsustainable in the long-run, especially if oil output continues to decline. Falling oil production hits not just government revenues, but the volume of foreign currency coming into Yemen, which in turn helps prop up the value of the Yemeni Riyal and pay the country's import bill (Yemen is hugely import-dependent: some 95 percent of wheat and 100 percent of rice, staples in the national diet, are imported, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization). A fall in the value of the (Yemeni) riyal would push up the cost of living, hurting living standards among the poor even more.

There are no quick fixes to these problems, but a good place to start would be the fuel subsidy. As the IMF notes in its most recent note on Yemen, the subsidies "are not targeted and create major economic distortions and opportunities for corruption". They benefit mainly the richest Yemenis, who consume the most fuel and electricity, encourage unnecessary consumption, and create huge opportunities for smuggling. The subsidy also encourages the use of diesel pumps to produce water, another huge problem for one of the most water insecure countries on the planet.

Plans have been in place to cut the

fuel subsidy and spend the savings on welfare and growth-boosting infrastructure projects since the mid-1990s. But each time someone actually tries to increase the cost of fuel and redirect spending towards the poor they meet huge resistance from established political, economic and tribal players. This is because Yemen's economic problems are equally political.

In our new Chatham House report, "Yemen: Corruption, Capital Flight and Global Drivers of Conflict," we argue that Yemen's former President Ali Abdullah Saleh used a huge system of patronage, involving everything from diesel allocations to access to military budgets and state contracts, to foster cooperation among members of the country's small tribal, economic, and military elite.

This system ultimately benefited a small number of people and helped Saleh mitigate the threat of major internal conflict, but at the same time meant that the country's elite were enriched at the cost of development that benefited the wider public. Reforms like subsidy cuts ran counter to elite interests and so were impossible to implement. The levels of corruption seen in Yemen wouldn't have hurt the country quite so badly if the proceeds were being spent at home. But increasingly, they are not. Yemen's elite has invested their money abroad in property and other ventures, or left

it nestled in secrecy jurisdictions far beyond the prying eyes of the Yemeni public.

In our report we argue that when elections are held in 2014 the same people who took part in the Saleh-era system of patronage and corruption are likely to be in charge once again and that they will continue to be incentivized by self-interest rather than any sense of the greater good. Despite the rhetoric around the transition, they still control the government, the army, the tribes and the bulk of the Yemen's economic resources. New faces may appear, but their ability to implement the kind of economic reforms Yemen needs will be limited, as has become clear over the course of the transition, with the country's 'unity' government achieving little in the way of reform.

As the transition period comes to an end over the coming months and new elections are held, there is likely to be a degree of self-congratulation among those who brokered the deal that led Saleh to step down in November 2011, avoiding the prospect of civil war.

But if the transition is to be a success, the needs of ordinary people will have to be taken into account. The activists who took to the street over the course of 2011 must be supported in their quest for more transparent and accountable governance. And the voice of Yemen's poor must be heard.

UN Day

Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed

United Nations Day is a chance to recognize how much the organization contributes to peace and common progress around the world. The United Nations is our organization, it belongs to all of us, member states and people.

This year again, we saw the United Nations come together on armed conflicts, human rights, the environment and many other issues. We continue to show what collective action can do. In a world that is more connected, we must be more united. This is also a time to reflect on what more we can do to realize our collective vision for a better world.

As mentioned in the message from the U.N. secretary general on this day, the Millennium Development Goals have globally cut poverty in half. Now we must maintain the momentum, craft an equally inspiring post-2015 development agenda and make sustainability a reality. The secretary general's message has been widely distributed and is also available online.

Over the last six months here in Yemen, the U.N. has worked closely with the government of Yemen, civil society and private sector to gather inputs from Yemen on what are pressing development priorities. More than 60,000 Yemenis have participated in the global "My

World" survey and voted on what they believe should be the development priorities for the future.

Globally millions of people depend on U.N. humanitarian personnel for life-saving assistance. In Yemen, U.N. and partners coordinate the humanitarian response, targeting and delivering assistance to 7.7 million of the most vulnerable people in Yemen.

Politically, Yemen can look back at a year with progress made through the National Dialogue. The National Dialogue has been a unique experience in the Arab Spring countries, bringing youth, women, minorities and political parties together around the same table. Challenges faced by the National Dialogue should not make us forget how far we have come. The U.N. and the international community stand by the efforts made to enable a prosperous future for all people living in Yemen.

We must never allow destructive forces to stand in the way of our common goal of peace and stability in Yemen and in the world. On United Nations Day, let us pledge to live up to our founding ideals and work together for peace, development and human rights.

On this day, we wish to introduce you to some of the beneficiaries of our work here in Yemen through



the film, "For the People." Cooperating closely with the government and other partners, our work is always about people, whether it is of humanitarian, developmental or political character. The documentary shows a small part of work we are engaged in with partners in Yemen. We hope this film can bring the viewer closer to the beneficiaries of our efforts, and also that it can bring the people closer to us as the U.N. The film is being released today on the U.N. Day and will be screened on a number of TV channels. It is also available on our YouTube channel called U.N. Yemen.

As some of you may be aware, our colleague James Massaquoi has been missing since Oct. 6. James is an engineer from Sierra Leone, who has been helping to provide vital clean water in communities across Yemen to improve the health of local children.

We are doing all we can for

James' safe return to his family. James and his family are in our thoughts.

This kidnapping incident represent a serious challenge for our operations at all levels. It also limits our mobility to be able to address the urgent humanitarian needs as well as our development programs.

Finally, I wish to extend a deep gratitude to our invaluable partners. It is indeed encouraging to experience the unified efforts to support the people living in Yemen towards a future in which all can live prosperous lives in a stable and peaceful environment.

This editorial was written for the United Nations Day which fell on Oct. 24.

Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed is the resident coordinator in Yemen for the United Nations.

US Food for Peace: a lifeline in Yemen

William Lambers
Examiner.com
First Published Oct. 22

The U.N. World Food Program's Yemen office today announced the arrival of wheat flour from the United States Food for Peace program. The shipment is part of a 42,000 metric ton donation to WFP's hunger relief mission in Yemen.

The food will be distributed to Yemenis displaced by conflict and to another 3.5 million people who suffer from severe hunger. The World Food Programme (WFP) relies on voluntary donations for all its operations.

WFP Country Director Bishow Parajuli says, "This latest shipment will enable us to ensure that the supply of staple foods to millions of Yemenis who are unable to meet their basic nutrition needs remains uninterrupted. WFP is grateful to the Government and people of the United States for their consistent support in helping us meet this crucial challenge."

The U.S. Food for Peace program is the single largest donor to WFP. The program has been helping countries fight hunger since the Eisenhower administration. In the upcoming Farm Bill, the U.S. Congress will be deciding how much funding to allocate toward Food for Peace.

Earlier this year WFP director Ertharin Cousin urged the world not to forget about Yemen. "WFP is providing life-saving food assistance to almost 5 million Yemenis to break the inter-generational cycle of hunger. We will continue this vital food assistance by improving food security and nutrition but at the same time helping build resilience of these communities," Cousin said.

Next year WFP, in partnership with Yemen's Ministry of Education, hopes to start a national school lunch program. Malnutrition, particularly among small children, continues at alarming rates in Yemen. Special foods like Plumpy'Nut and Plumpy'Sup are distributed by WFP and UNICEF to save children from this deadly condition.

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Hassn Al-Humran, Ansar Allah's external and diplomatic relationships officer

“There must be plenty of time to reach solutions to the pressing issues at the NDC. The Sa'ada Issue is not a simple one.”

The National Dialogue Conference (NDC) has resumed its concluding plenary sessions, which first began on Oct. 8. While many are praising the conference's progress, the Southern Issue, Sa'ada Issue and State Building Working Groups—the committees tasked with dealing with the most decisive issues being discussed at the conferences—have not yet submitted their final reports. The continued boycott of the concluding sessions by Southern Movement and Ansar Allah (Houthi) members has left many concerned.

The conference has now more than a month past its initial six-month deadline. Will the conference's 565 members be able to deliver on the promises made to the country? If agreements are made, will they be lasting? Hassn Al-Humran, Ansar Allah's external and diplomatic relations officer, speaks with the Yemen Times on how his group is affecting the conference in its expected final days.

Interview and photo by Mohammed Al-Hassani

What are the reasons behind the timing of the NDC's concluding plenary session?

Actually, the NDC should have concluded by now but there was an extension...announced at the start of the concluding plenary. Of course some groups haven't finalized their work or reports yet. The Sa'ada Issue Working Group, for instance, hasn't started discussing any assurances so far and is still discussing resolutions and remedies. So we requested that the conference's presidency provide more time for the group. It's a similar situation with the Southern Issue and the State Building working groups because we want positive outcomes.

The presidency [of the conference] said they have provided enough time. Although Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, NDC secretary general, told Yemen's official TV channel that the Southern and Sa'ada Issues Working Groups and the State Building Working Group will be granted more time.

But Yasser Al-Ro'ini, the

[NDC's] deputy secretary general, said only two groups have not submitted their reports.

Bin Mubarak's mentioned speech was in reply to Al-Ro'ini.

Do you think this happened due to a lack of coordination between NDC members?

Yes, because they both made their statements as we were discussing with the conference's presidency the possibility of participating in the concluding sessions in spite of the fact that three working groups had not yet submitted their reports. We had reached several agreements including our participation in the opening session of the concluding plenary, but the last straw was Al-Ro'ini's statement on the NDC official website where he said that seven out of the conference's nine groups had finalized their reports and that they will be discussed in the session.

Are you boycotting the concluding plenary session because the NDC's presidency



didn't agree with you on its timing?

No, this wasn't the reason at all. I think the reason is that the Sa'ada Issue Working Group presented two demands to [UN Envoy Jamal] Benomar when he visited the group about two months ago. The first demand was to issue a republican decree to ensure there was equal recognition of the people killed during the Sa'ada wars as those killed during the 1994 Civil War and during Southern Movement protests.

The second demand was providing a guarantee that the NDC's outcomes would be implemented in the post-NDC constituent phase. [We want to] avoid what happened when the government was unable to implement the 20 Points constructed by the [NDC's] Preparatory Committee. Now the Sa'ada Issue Working Group has put forth 60 Points to resolve the [Northern] issue, but how will the government be able to implement them? We have sent a letter to the NDC's presidency about these demands.

How much time do you need to complete the Sa'ada Issue final report?

I cannot say. But there must be plenty of time to reach solutions to the pressing issues at the NDC. The Sa'ada Issue is not a simple one. It is not important to end the dialogue. What is important is to reach a consensus on the issues we are discussing. On this basis, we created the dialogue. Otherwise, what's the point?

Regarding the [presidential decree to create a] Sa'ada Victims Fund, some say because [the Houthis] rebelled against the state, you are not entitled to receive the same treatment as the victims of peaceful protests in southern governorates?

This is absolutely not true because it was the state that launched a war against the Sa'ada locals, sending its troops to their areas and homes. Sa'ada locals are peaceful, and everyone knows that they loathe wars. When the war was launched, they had to defend themselves. [Self-defense] is a legal, religious and moral duty

You said the NDC general secretariat was too late in responding to the obstacles the Sa'ada Issue Working Group came across. Do you believe the general secretariat neglected the Sa'ada Issue?

No, the opposite is true. The general secretariat is represented by Dr. Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak who is fair, understanding and dedicated to his work. However, the matter is not in his hands.

Given you are a member of the

Sa'ada Issue sub-committee, tell us about what the group is up to so far?

We have achieved a lot. We have reached an agreement on over 60 decisions. In my opinion, this is an achievement because we entered the second plenary with only seven decisions.

What still needs to be done?

There still need to be guarantees to implement [proposed] solutions and implement a framework so that what happened in Sa'ada will not happen again.

Are you saying you are stuck in the middle of the road?

No, not stuck in the middle of the road. We only need a little bit of time. I assure you if all members have the will, we will finish the remaining issues in one session or two. Some groups are trying to continually discuss articles that were agreed upon, and this has hampered our work. We agreed that we would not return to discuss anything that was agreed upon and approved by the group.

Will you remove all the Houthi-affiliated checkpoints in Sa'ada and other areas [as negotiated with the government]?

Of course, as long as the Ansar Allah [the Houthis] are included as political factions and social components. Everyone knows that since 2011 about 200,000 soldiers associated with different political factions and social components have been conscripted excluding those from the Ansar Allah.

Is this a condition?

It is not a condition, but the transitional government should issue reassuring messages to Sa'ada residents and express good will to solve

the Sa'ada Issue.

The group has made another decision regarding Sa'ada's internally displaced persons and you conditioned that the issue should be free of any political or administrative agendas.

Frankly speaking, the situation of the displaced is very complicated. We added this condition because there are some issues concerning the displaced that need time to be addressed technically, administratively and so forth.

You have also called for an end to covert and overt agreements that allow American planes in Yemeni skies and over land? Do you think this is possible given the current circumstances?

Why not? What makes it not feasible? Our country has to be sovereign.

There is the international war on terror, and Yemen is famed for being a stronghold for Al-Qaeda militants.

There is no doubt that you know what we think of the so-called group "Al-Qaeda." We see it as a way the United States justifies its invasions of nations and their occupation. Al-Qaeda is not a fact. It is a game the Americans play, and they use the game when they want.

So you think the Yemeni government is now fighting against an illusory foe?

It is not illusory, but American intelligence has been leading and directing this foe. This is evident.

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

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أطراف في الحوار تحاول الإلتفاف على حلول وضمانات قضية صعدة



عقل عملنا لأننا متفقون على أن ما تم الإتفاق عليه وإقراره من قبل الفريق لا نعود لمناقشته.

من بين القرارات التي تم إقرارها في فريق صعدة نقطة تنص على قيامكم بسحب النقاط التابعة لكم في صعدة وإنهاء كل عمل من قبلكم هو في الأصل من عمل الدولة مقابل إستيعاب عناصركم في مؤسسات الدولة بالتزامن.. هل أنتم مستعدون للقيام بذلك؟ بالطبع نحن موافقون عليها.

إطلاقا.. وهذه الفقرة لا تخص النازحين كشخص وإنما تخص الإجراءات الفنية أو الإدارية التي نحن بصدد معالجتها الآن في الحوار.

في نقطة أخرى طالبتم بإلغاء كل الإتفاقات السرية والعينية التي أباحت وتبيح الأراضي والأجواء اليمنية من قبل الطائرات الأمريكية.. هل تعتقد أن هذا الأمر ممكن في الظروف الحالية؟

ولماذا لا يمكن.. ماهو المانع.. لابد أن تكون بلادنا بلاد ذات سيادة.

لاعتبرات الحرب الدولية على القاعدة والإرهاب واليمن جزء من المنظومة الدولية ليس كذلك؟ لاشك أنك تعرف نظرتنا لما يسمى بالقاعدة والمتمثلة في اننا نعتبر القاعدة أداة بيد الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية لغزو الشعوب واحتلالها، وهي ليست حقيقة وإنما هي لعبة بيد الأمريكان متى ما شاءوا يحركونها.

يعني انكم تقولون أن الحكومة اليمنية تحارب الآن عدوا وهميا؟ هو ليس وهميا هو حقيق في الواقع، لكن من يسيره ويوجهه هي الإستخبارات الأمريكية.. وهذا شيء واضح.

المحافظات الجنوبية؟ غير صحيح إطلاقا، لأن الدولة هي التي حاربت أبناء صعدة وأرسلت جيشها لقتالهم في مناطقهم وإلى منازلهم، ولم يكن الجندي إلى صعدة للصلاة وإنما كان يذهب ليقوم بمهام قتالية.. وأبناء صعدة كما يعرفهم الجميع مسالمون ولايستهوون الحروب وعندما شنت عليهم الحرب اضطروا للدفاع عن أنفسهم، وهذا واجب شرعي وديني وأخلاقي.

تحدثت عن تأخير الأمانة العامة للحوار في الرد على فريق قضية صعدة بشأن الإشكالات التي واجهها الفريق دون مبرر وكانكم تهتمون بالأمانة العامة بإهمال القضية؟

لا لا على العكس، بالنسبة للأمانة العامة والمتمثلة بالدكتور أحمد عوض بن مبارك والحق يقال شخص جيد ومتفهم ومتفاني في عمله ولكن الحقيقة أن الأمر ليس بيده.

طيب ما الذي أنجزتموه حتى اليوم في اللجنة الصغرى لفريق قضية صعدة باعتباركم عضوا فيها؟

أنجزنا الكثير.. توصلنا لاتفاق بشأن ٦٠ قرارا بشأن الحل، وهذا إنجاز من وجهة نظرنا لأنه إلى الجلسة العامة الثانية لم نخرج سوى بسبعة قرارات.

وماذا تبقى؟ تبقى الخروج بضمانات تنفيذ الحل والمعالجات، لنضمن عدم تكرار ما حدث في صعدة.

يعني إنكم مازلت في منتصف الطريق؟

لا ليس في منتصف الطريق، نحن بحاجة فقط إلى القليل من الوقت، وأنا وأؤكد لك أنه لو توفرت النية الصادقة من جميع أعضاء الفريق لأنهم ما تبقى في جلسة أو جلستين، لأن بعض الأطراف تحاول الإلتفاف عبر العودة إلى النقاش فيما تم إقراره من مواد، وهذا ما

السبب على ما اعتقد أنه كان هناك مطالبات منذ ما يقرب من شهرين عندما قام الأخ جمال بنعمر بزيارة لفريق قضية صعدة وقدم له مطالب من الفريق بشكل عام، حيث كان هناك مطلبين، الطلب الأول إصدار قرار جمهوري يتضمن مساواة شهداء حروب صعدة وحرب صيف ٩٤ واحتجاجات الحراك الجنوبي ومعاملتهم دون تمييز، لأنه كان هناك تمييز تمثل في القرار الذي صدر بإنشاء هيئة لرعاية أسر شهداء وجرى الثورة الشبابية الشعبية حيث كان إنتقائيا بحصره لشهداء ثورة فبراير ٢٠١١ والمفترض أن يكون شاملا، هذا كان احد المطالب، المطالب الآخر تمثل بضرورة أن تكون هناك ضمانات لتنفيذ مخرجات الحوار الوطني في المرحلة التأسيسية التي سنقدم عليها بعد إنتهاء مؤتمر الحوار أو ما سيتم الإتفاق عليه في اللجنة السياسية التي ستشكل بعد الحوار والأ نذهب بقضايانا كما ذهبنا عند تشكيل اللجنة الفنية أو التحضيرية لمؤتمر الحوار عندما خرجت بـ ٢٠ نقطة والحكومة لم تتمكن من تنفيذها حتى اليوم.. ٢٠ نقطة لم تنفذ فكيف بمخرجات الحوار، حيث وفريق صعدة قد توصل حتى الآن إلى ٦٠ نقطة لحلول القضية، فكيف ستتمكن من تنفيذها.. وطبعاً وجهنا بأكثر من رسالة لرئاسة المؤتمر بخصوص المطالب التي ذكرت لك.

كم الوقت الذي تحتاجونه لتجهيز التقرير النهائي لفريق قضية صعدة؟ لا أستطيع أن أعدد لك، لكن لابد أن يكون هناك متسع من الوقت للوصول للحلول للقضايا العالقة في المؤتمر وقضية صعدة ليست قضية عادية، وليس المهم أن ننهي الحوار ولكن المهم أن نتوصل لاتفاق لضيقه حول القضايا التي ناقشناها فيه، ونحن دخلنا للحوار على هذا الأساس وإلا ما القائدة منه.

بشأن قضية صندوق شهداء محافظة صعدة.. هناك أصوات تقول إنكم من ترمدتم على الدولة وبالتالي لايمكن معاملت ضحايا حروب صعدة كضحايا الاحتجاجات السلمية في

استأنف مؤتمر الحوار الوطني الأحد الماضي عقد جلساته العامة الختامية وسط مقاطعة مكثرة من الحراك الجنوبي وأنصار الله بسبب عدم تسليم تقارير ثلاث فرق تمثل أبرز القضايا المطروحة أمام المؤتمر وهي فرق القضية الجنوبية وقضية صعدة وبناء الدولة تقاريرها.. الجلسات التي تأتي رغم مضي أكثر من شهر على الموعد الرسمي لإنهاء زمن المؤتمر تشكل الفصل الأخير في مسلسل يروجوا ملايين اليمنيين حسن خاتمته والخروج بمخرجات تلبى متطلباتهم.. ما هي خلفيات تحديد موعد الجلسات الختامية للمؤتمر وماهي مبررات المكونات التي أعلنت المقاطعة، وكيف سيؤثر ذلك على المخرجات.. تساؤلات سنحاول الإجابة عليها في هذا الحوار الذي تستضيف فيه الصحفي مسؤول العلاقات الخارجية والدبلوماسية لجماعة أنصار الله حسن الحمران..

حوار/ محمد الحسن

وبحديث بن مبارك الذي ذكرته لك هو كان ردا على تصريح الرعييني.

هل تعتقد أن التضارب في التصريحات عائد لغياب التنسيق بين هيئة رئاسة المؤتمر؟

نعم.. المهم أن الإعلان عن بدء الجلسة الختامية جاء في وقت كنا مازلنا نتناقش فيه مع رئاسة المؤتمر مسألة مشاركتنا في الجلسات الختامية رغم أن ثلاث فرق لم تنهي تقاريرها، وكنا توصلنا لكثير من المقاربات منها أن نشارك في الجلسة الافتتاحية للجلسات الختامية، لكن، وكما يقول العرب القشة التي قصمت ظهر البعير هي تصريح الرعييني على الموقع الرسمي لمؤتمر الحوار الوطني الذي قال فيه إن سبع من فرق الحوار التسع قد أنهت تقاريرها وستناقش في الجلسة على الرغم من أن أول يوم في الجلسات الختامية هو افتتاح بروتوكولي لا يناقش فيه أي موضوع يخص أي فريق إطلاقا.

هل كان الدافع وراء عدم مشاركتكم في الجلسة الختامية هو أن هيئة رئاسة لم تتفق معكم بشأن تحديد موعدها؟ لا.. لا يكن هذا السبب الرئيسي إطلاقا..

بداية.. ماهي خلفيات تحديد موعد الجلسة الختامية لمؤتمر الحوار الوطني من وجهة نظركم؟

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**Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Public Electricity Corporation (PEC)**

**SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
TENDER NO : 23/2013**

(Hadhramout (150) MW Gas Power station with the associated Gas Treatment Unit)

CONSULTANTS SERVICES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Public Electricity Corporation has intend to finance under the Investment Program for 2013 the assignment of consultancy services for **Hadhramout (150) MW Gas Power station project, The services will include but not be limited to preparing feasibility study, tender documents and tender management implemented in six months.**

The Public Electricity Corporation now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services mentioned above for the following :-

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Gas Treatment Unit:

- convenient Gas Treatment Unit close to the gas power station.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services, these information should include (brochures, description of similar assignments experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.) Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications .

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the High tender Board's Manual for the procurement of consultants services.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from (09:00 to 13:00)

**Republic of Yemen
Public Electricity Corporation
Attn. Project Manager (Eng. Abobaker Alaidaros).
Telefax. 00967 5 427005
E-mail gawiz_312000@yahoo.co.uk**

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 18/11/2013 at 11:00 am.

**Public Electricity Corporation
Att.: PEC Managing Director
Eng. Abdulrahman Saif Aklan
Al-jiraf, Airport street.
P.O. Box No.178
Tel: + 967 1 328126
Fax: + 967 1 328150 or + 967 1 328150
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You must give to receive

Blood centers stay afloat by requiring donations from families

Story and photos by
Ryam Al-Qadi

In the waiting room of the National Blood Transfusion and Research Center (NBTRC) in the capital city, Sana'a, an exhausted street cleaner doses off. He has spent much of his day searching for a unit of blood for his three-month-old child.

The doctor soon told Ali Sultan, the child's father, that his son would need another operation to remove the child's renal tumor. The operation would require more blood. For every unit of blood given to his son, Sultan is expected to provide two units of his own in return.

Located near Al-Sabeen Hospital for Motherhood and Childhood, NBTRC was opened in 2007. The center has branches in seven governorates and runs off of blood

donations. For every unit of blood provided without charge, relatives must provide two to the center just like Sultan.

The NBTRC is the blood provider for Al-Sabeen Hospital, Al-Thawra Hospital, the Yemeni Association for Thalessemia, and the National Cancer Control Foundation. Given the large demand, the center is often vulnerable to blood shortages.

NBTRC manager Fawzi Barheem told the Yemen Times that the center's YR300 million budget, about \$1.4 million, is not sufficient for the center's expenses if it wants to accomplish all of its tasks and support its 40 employees.

Barheem said the center relies on campaigns that raise awareness and encourage citizens to donate blood. These campaigns, however, are costly.

"These campaigns can double the number of donors. The size of

our center hinders our efforts—we cannot accommodate all [the] donors," he said.

The center tests the blood to ensure that it is disease-free, Barheem said. Technology to help preserve blood longer has been provided by the Italian Global Fund to Fight AIDS and Tuberculosis. The center says their technology is sophisticated—but they could use more of it.

There is one other center in Sana'a, called The Blood Center. What distinguishes NBTRC from The Blood Center, said NBTRC technical manager Dr. Buthania Al-Qadasi, is that NBTRC separates the blood from the plasma.

"Separating blood from its main components largely helps the patients. Plasma can result in allergic reactions from the patient, even if the patient and the donor have identical blood groups," Al-Qadasi said.

He told the Yemen Times that NBTRC also provides blood to those with rare blood types. Campaigns encourage those with rare blood types to give, as well as relatives of those with rare blood types.

The center keeps a database of donors with rare blood types so that they can be contacted when needed and asked to donate.

"We save the names and contacts of [these] donors and invite them to donate every three months," Al-



Qadasi said.

People leading the center launch campaigns from time to time to attract more blood donors.

Al-Qadasi said the NBTRC has a strong relationship with medical students through its campaigns. Students, she said, are generous and open to donation requests.

The majority of patients requiring blood "are those who are exposed to severe bleeding as a result of an accident," Al-Qadasi said.

Al-Sabeen Hospital benefits significantly from the center. Much of the hospital's capacity is devoted to childbirth—its walls are crowded with women in labor, said Amat Al-Milk Al-Sarori, head of the Emergency Room at the hospital.

"Women are vulnerable to bleeding after labor. Most women suffer from anemia because of malnutrition. So, we rely on the center to provide us with blood," she said.

If the patient has a rare blood

type that the hospital has run out of, the hospital sends relatives to other hospitals to find suitable blood.

"Sometimes, patients' relatives spend an entire day looking for a particular blood type," Al-Sarori said.

Sultan says a lot of effort goes into finding each drop of blood his child needs.

"Following a long wait, blood was donated to my child and now he can undergo surgery," he said.



There are two centers in Sana'a that accept and disperse blood, which officials say is not proportionate to the population.

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Coffee Break

Sudoku

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

Easy

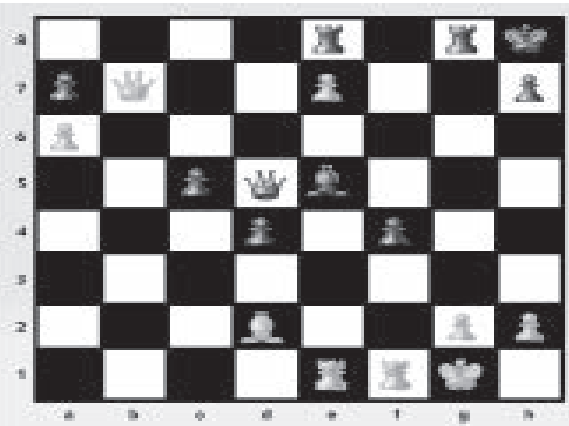
	7		9		2	1		
	9		6			7		
3				2			8	
		1	2				6	
	7				1	3		
5		7	4		8			
	1		6				2	
		5			4		7	
	8	6		7				9

Intermediate

Difficult

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

Chess



Black plays and wins in the 4th move

Solutions

Chess: Rxg2+

R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
R	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
L	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
L	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
L	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
N	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
N	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
P	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
P	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
C	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
C	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		



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 325110/1/2/3, Radio Station 282061, Tourism 254032, TV Station 332001/2, Red Crescent 203131/3, Tel-Yemen 7522202, Y.net 7522227

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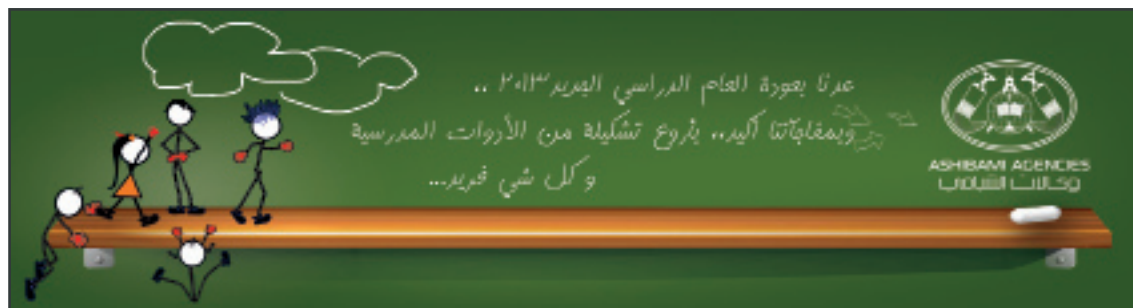
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Eid celebrations are over, but Yemenis are still paying for it

rating the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son, comes with pricey rituals and traditions.

According to religious doctrines, each family that is able to do so is required to sacrifice an animal for Allah. A third of the meat is kept for the family, a third of the meat is given to neighbors and a third of the meat is given to the poor. Aside from this religious requirement, there's also a sense of "keeping up with the Jamals." If the Jamal family down the street has purchased new dresses and shoes for their daughters, every other daughter on the block expects the same. Sweets, outings and feasts throughout the break will quickly eat up many families' savings.

Qasim Al-Sabri, 42, is a Sana'a transplant from Taiz and is one of millions of Yemenis who returned from break with even heavier economic burdens than before. An engineer at the Ministry of Electricity, he told the Yemen Times he and many others, he knows must resort to borrowing

money or selling off belongings to cover Eid expenses, on top of working for another month or more to pay off the entire Eid debt.

"I borrowed YR70,000 [about \$330] to help cover our one week Eid holiday expenses. That's equivalent to my monthly salary," he said.

"We don't have official statistics about Eid Al-Adha expenses [in

alone is estimated at YR3000 (about \$15) per person."

Majed Al-Sharabi, 28, spent YR170,000, about \$800, during Eid Al-Adha on sweets, nuts, transportation, qat, clothing, the animal sacrifice and on small gifts of money to female relatives. Al-Sharabi, who works at a private TV channel, said the cost of Eid, with inflation, rise every year, though incomes have remained stagnant.

Ali Al-Sharfi, a 42-year-old grocery store owner, said he spent about YR30,000 (about \$150) on qat and over YR120,000, about \$560 on other Eid expenses.

"I spent YR30,000 on entertainment and park and zoo outings, alone," he said.

Ministry of Justice employee Mustafa Al-Shameri, 32, quit his qat habit for Eid, to save during the holiday.

"I decided to stop chewing qat during Eid as it eats up most of the budget," he said. Qat prices are known to increase significantly during the holiday, easily costing double and triple the amount it typically would.

Asma Thabit, a 23-year-old employee at a design firm said she spends all the money she has saved the previous six months during Eid.

"The burden is heavy, and it doesn't help that Eid Al-Adha is only two months after Eid Al-Fitr," she said.



Asma Thabit



Ali Al-Sharfi

Yemen], but I estimate them to be at about YR72 billion (about \$336 million)," said economist Rasheed Al-Hadad. "Expenses include new clothes, sweets and meat. The meat

Story and photos by Mohammed Al-Hassani

For many Yemenis, the end to the Eid Al-Adha holiday meant returning to work and worrying about paying off holiday-related debts. Eid Al-Adha, the holy Islamic holiday commemo-



Qasim Al-Sabri



Majed Al-Sharabi



Mustafa Al-Shameri



Rasheed Al-Hadad

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Our vision to extend our business activities both, horizontal and vertical has been reflected by our continuous growth over the last decades and we take a strong approach to offer our partnership to local and foreign firms to complement our own skills.

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- Value delivery in every phase
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