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Drought and floods in Yemen affect food security

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, Aug 26 — Extreme weather conditions and environmental changes are confusing farmers and threatening livelihoods, further aggravating Yemen's already fragile food security.

These new threats come as aid runs dangerously low and authorities ponder solutions.

The Middle East in general is suffering from drought and the effects of climate change. Iraq, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Cyprus, Iran, Yemen and other areas have each been dealing with decreased rainfall, reduced water storage, and in some cases, declared drought, leaving many countries dangerously dependant on food aid.

Philip Ward, the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe, was in Yemen for the first time earlier this month to meet with senior government officials, donors, and partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

During his stay he visited a number of agricultural centers in Dhamar and Hodeida and spoke to farmers about the impact of this year's drought on agriculture. He also discussed the way ahead towards ensuring the country's food security.

"Globally the issue of food security is more important than ever. It's being discussed at the highest levels," Ward said.

Currently, Yemen imports 90 percent of its food.

Farmers grow weary

Due to lack of research, there are no numbers that accurately describe how drought is affecting Yemenis. However, one thing is clear; Yemeni farmers' attitudes towards planting have changed.

"The Ministry of Agriculture has a project together with the FAO to provide subsidized crop seeds such as sorghum and barley to farmers. A good indicator of drought is that farmers aren't even coming to buy the seeds," Ward said.

"The farmers weren't coming to buy the seeds because they didn't feel that it's worth the investment," he noted, explaining that sorghum and barley are the types of crops looked at to provide food security.

"The huge concern is that the rain this year is too little too late," Ward continued. "Farmers are worried that rains at this point will not sustain their crops."

In Hodeida, Ward met with farmers at the Tihama Development Authority. "The farmers that we are worried about the most are those that are completely dependent on rain fed agriculture," he said.

"One such farmer that we met lived with his brother, but the total extended family was 22 people. He is entirely dependent on rain and he said he didn't anticipate any problem this year. Now he has to sell off livestock to feed his family," related Ward.

"That worries us because when farmers start doing that, the very things that should protect and help them next year

are now lost. These are the people we are trying to support the most."

Some families in various governorates including Dhamar, Al-Mahwit, Hajja, Taiz, Lahj and Dhal'e have already left their homes in search of greener pastures and wetter lands.

"It's a concern when people start moving off the land to urban centers or where water is available," Ward said. "We are concerned about the social tension and fragmentation that could happen as a result."

Following a year with no rainfall in 2008, thousands of residents in Mahwit governorate, some 113 km northwest of the capital Sana'a, have been displaced after they were forced to abandon their mountainous villages and move to cities.

Deadly clashes over water sources have also been reported this year.

Food running out

In July, a shortage of funds forced the WFP to halve its rations to 95,000 war-affected people in Yemen, many of whom depend entirely on food assistance.

The WFP's resources are running dangerously low. Overall, the program is facing a shortfall of US 20 million or 36 percent of its total needs for 2009.

In June 2009, the WFP had to suspend food assistance programs linked to health and education which had benefited 815,000 of the most vulnerable Yemenis.

"Our programs are designed to support a developmental process rather than a dependency on food aid," Ward



Around 90 percent of available water is consumed for agriculture, 40 percent of it for the cultivation of qat, a crop that does not help ensure Yemen's food security.

said.

He related a success story of the Food for Education program. "Our deputy country director in Yemen went to a health clinic. The nurse that treated him had been a recipient of the food for education program. A few years ago, she might not have had that opportunity that she did."

Unfortunately, in June the WFP was forced to temporarily halt its Food for Education programs due to a lack of funds.

During his visit to Dhamar and

Hodeida, Ward went with representatives from the FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture. The Yemeni Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation arranged this mission that was led by Dr. Mansoor Al-Hoshabi, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, as well as Mr. Ibrahim Thabet, an assistant representative of the FAO.

Beneficial allocation of resources

Yemen is getting hotter by the year. According to the National Council for Climate, there has been an increase in

average temperatures in the capital Sana'a over the last 20 years, though they do not have an exact percentage due to a lack of research.

Yemen is under "serious water stress" according to a report by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). Former Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani has warned that the country could face famine as soon as next year, calling upon the international community to support Yemen.

Continued on page 2

Military operations continue in Sa'ada

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

Sana'a, Aug 26 — A relative calmness between the government army and the Houthis prevailed in Sa'ada city last Tuesday during the daytime, according to tribal sources in Sa'ada.

The army did, however, resume shelling and using rockets against Houthi strongholds after sunset. In addition, fighter planes and bombardiers targeting Houthi sites were

heard over a number of districts. The confrontations resumed in all points of contact in the districts that are at war.

A source in the local authority in Sa'ada announced last Tuesday that security authorities arrested a cell of Houthis in Sa'ada city.

The state-run Saba News Agency reported that the source said, "The cell

was fortified inside a cell in the old city of Sa'ada, after confrontations with security men which resulted in a soldier killed and another one wounded."

Media reports said this week that confrontations between the two sides took place in Sa'ada city after groups of Houthis infiltrated and launched an abrupt attack against public buildings. They targeted the Al-Jawazat area, Al-Muwasalat and Bab Najran, Al-Mehwar and Al-Salam neighborhoods and the governor's office.

The Houthis said that they repelled a sudden attack launched by the army in Al-Malahidh area last Tuesday evening, when the army attempted to recover the area that the Houthis had announced they controlled two around weeks ago.

Local sources said that the army focused on Al-Malahidh-Haradh front for tactical reasons and that it is cur-

rently mobilizing the 12th Military Division with all its equipment in an area between Abs and Haradh.

The Houthis focus on the front of Harf Sufian and Al-Safra districts because they are a key to controlling the road to Sana'a used to carry government military supplies to Sa'ada.

The source said that the Houthis attempted last Sunday evening to open a new front in the eastern side of Sa'ada city in Aal Salem area where clashes between the two sides took place. The source said people from both sides were killed and injured.

"The Houthis had opened a first front from Al-Anad-Al-Mahather road that leads to Sana'a and a second front in the entry to Sa'ada-Al-Talh-Dhahyan near the city," said the source. "The Houthis used mortars last Tuesday evening and many shells fell on empty areas near Political Security Office and

Al-Salam hospital in Sa'ada city."

Abdul Malek Al-Houthi announced in a statement that his supporters have taken a number of military sites since the beginning of the sixth war including Tuwaileq, Al-Hasama, Muthallath, Al-Dhaya and Habish, which are all located in Shada and Al-Malahidh districts, Ghama strategic site in Sehar district, Tanfan, Jabal Esa sites in Al-Safra district and Al-Juh, Al-Qafil and Al-Qafif sites in the Saqain district.

Al-Houthi further pointed out that other military sites, including Al-Farsh, Al-Arous, Al-Mefrakh, Mahdida, Jabal Ghanem Fella site, Khan'ar Al-Hareba Ahma Al-Talh school and Al-Khaza'en withdrew due to the siege and extensive attacks launched by his supporters.

The official spokesman for the government, Hassan Al-Laawzi, said that the local authority and military and security forces in Sa'ada currently give

priority in their operations to securing roads and clearing of the Houthis. He pointed out that the Houthis block roads and set up ambushes to hinder the delivery of supplies to the districts and villages of Sa'ada, camps of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other areas.

He denied that military forces found over a hundred dead bodies of Houthis after clearing Harf Sufian. "We don't know about this news," he said. "The military and security forces cleared Harf Sufian and the nearby areas but they didn't find any dead bodies of the Houthi elements in the area."

He confirmed that Doha agreement signed between the government and the Houthis last year has been cancelled, stressing that military operations against the Houthis will continue until they surrender.

Continued on page 2

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Care Country Office Sana'a	Care Project Office Hajja
CARE International In Yemen Behind Mujahid Street, Arwa School Street, Tel: 243379, 504377	CARE International In Yemen East of Al-Dahram, Civil Affairs Area Hajja Tel: 7221464

Bids, one copy each (English and Arabic) with following documents must be submitted by hand in sealed envelopes to Care Country Office in Sana'a address mentioned above.

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- The Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after bid opening
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Deadline for the submission of bids is 3rd of October 2009, 10:00am at Care International Sana'a office. Bids received after deadline and time will be returned unopened.

Bids will be opened on same day (3rd October, 2009) at 11.00 am at Country Office Sana'a in presence of Bidders or their authorized representatives.

CARE International in Yemen reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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Yemenia

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Grisly crime shakes Taiz



Nusaiba Nader, the murdered child

By Imad Al-Saqaf
Yemen Times

Nusaiba Nader Al-Sharabi was a 5-year-old girl who had been subjected to five crimes at once: kidnapping, rape, robbery, murder and mutilation. The crime was committed on Friday, Aug. 7, 2009 and received

total condemnation by the locals who flocked to the murdered girl's house. None Government Organizations concerned with children's affairs announced that they would follow the case on behalf of her grieving family. Yemen Times visited the family house and met Nusaiba's father, Mr. Nader Ahmed Al-Sharabi, who told us the circumstances of his daughter's kidnapping and then finding her

corpse three hours later in a horrible state.

He said that Nusaiba was playing in their yard as usual with her friend Aya, 7, who turned out to be the murderer's little sister. Nusiaba kept coming and going out of the house all the time. The family did not realize that there were eyes observing her movements – eyes belonging to someone that would kidnap her and commit unspeakable crimes against her.

No one in the family suspected anything when she disappeared after 5 p.m. because they were used to her going to her friend's house from time to time. However, when it was just past sunset, the family started to worry. Mr. Al-Sharabi went out looking for his little girl. "I saw her friend Aya," he told us, "and even when she ran away, I didn't suspect anything."

After an hour of futile search, he had no choice but to go to the police station to file a missing child statement. While he was there, he received a call telling him his child was found, that she was badly injured and she was rushed to the nearby hospital.

Nusaiba was found at 8 p.m. in lying in an adjacent alley. She was bleeding badly and her body was covered with many wounds and bruises. She was taken to the hospital by neighbors who gathered in front of the hospital located opposite the Criminal Investigation Office in Taiz.

Col. Muneer Al-Janadi, director of the investigation office, told Yemen Times that he had been curious to see people gather like that. "I went into the ICU to see the girl who, up to that time, people thought had just fallen. No one believed she had been prey to a gross crime," he said.

When wiping the blood off her head and neck, the doctor realized that she had been attacked because there were scratches and injuries that did not indicate a normal fall. Al-Janadi called his men and they moved to the place where the girl's body was discovered. There they found indications that she had been thrown from the house next to her parents'. When reaching the roof of the house, they found traces of blood and signs that showed the girl had been sadistically molested then attacked using sharp stones, apparently with the intent to murder her. The tenants of the building were called and questioned, and the evidence collected led to the arrest of the culprit in record time.

As soon as Akram Al-Samawi, a young man, was confronted with evidence he had been trying to cover up, he collapsed and confessed to committing the crime. He persuaded the girl to go up with him to the roof where he raped and killed her before throwing her off the four-storey building into the adjoining alley.



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Al-Janadi said that all evidence was collected and the investigations concluded. The case was referred to the public prosecution to finalize necessary legal procedures in order to bring it before the court.

In addition to being raped, tortured and brutally murdered, the killer also stole her gold earrings, which he pulled out along with part of her earlobes. The earrings were found hidden in the criminal's room.

This unspeakable offense ignited sympathy with the victim's family at the official and public levels. According to Nusaiba's father, President Ali Abdullah Saleh called concerned authorities and directed them to refer the case to the court and eradicate any difficulties that might get in the way of justice.

In response to the crime, SEYAJ, an NGO for child protection, condemned this crime vehemently and announced its legal support for the victim's family by assigning lawyer Mohammed Ali Seddiq to assume all legal procedures. The organization requested the judiciary to deal exceptionally with the case in view of the offense grossness and the hazards it poses towards society's security and safety. It also warned of the increase in crimes against children and ascribed this to the ineffective ways and mechanisms used to disclose and prove such crimes.

The National Foundation for Fighting Human Trafficking denounced the crime against Nusaiba, saying the crime is a deviation from human values and an abandonment of all ethics and feelings. It announced its complete support for the agonized family and its readiness to do anything to help.

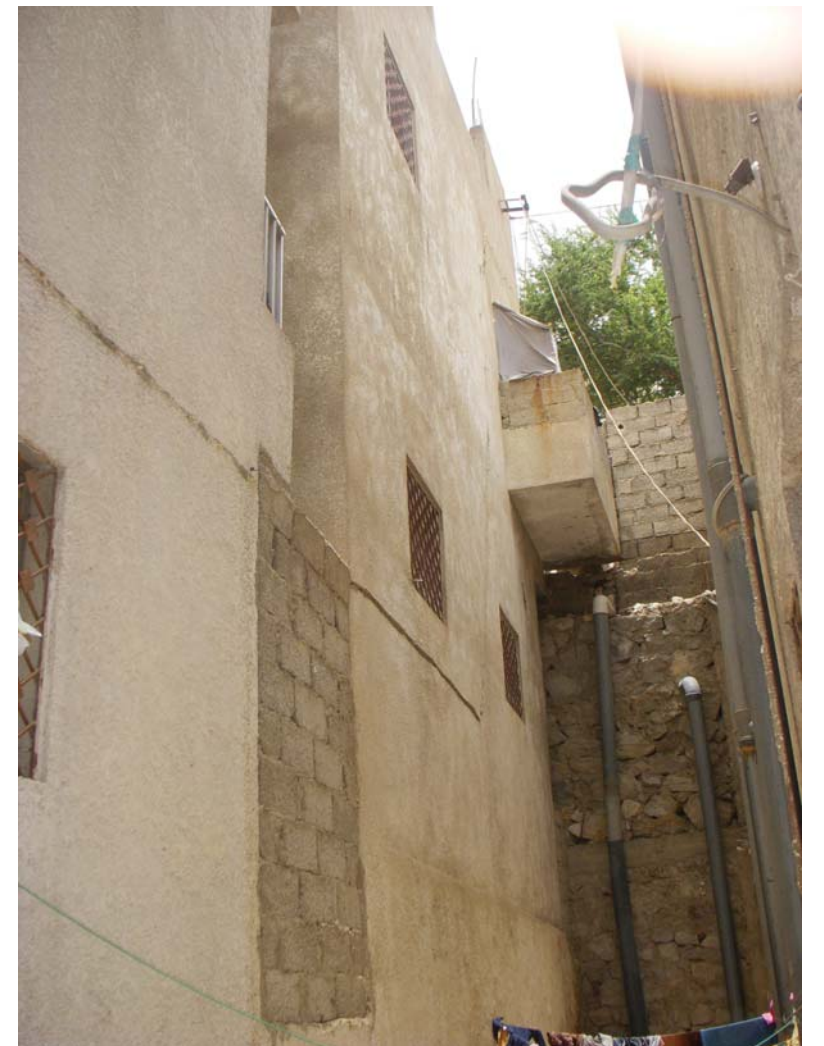
Mr. Al-Sharabi's coworkers and his employer, Al-Shaibani Group, stood by him and offered to provide him with anything that he might need to follow up the case.

Nusaiba's father expressed his gratitude to all those who have showed sympathy with his family and to the investigation officers who worked hard to disclose the crime and arrest the murderer.

He also thanked Yemen Times for its interest in the case. The newspaper has visited the crime scene and the victim's family house. The family seems in need for both financial and

moral support since they live in a modest house in downtown Taiz.

Al-Janadi said that this hideous felony is a precedent in Taiz and that such crimes against children should be dealt with strictly. He urged the media to ascertain facts before running any crime stories. He also called for raising people's awareness behind the reasons that led to committing such criminal acts.



Al-Janadi called and his men found indications that Nusaiba had been thrown from the house next to her parents.

Police patrol to stop street harassment

By Ola Al-Shami and Mariam Al-Yemeni

"The efforts of the patrol police to reduce street harassment will be meaningless if not supported by members of society," said Abdulaghani Al-Wajeesh, the director of police patrols in Sana'a.

He noted that harassment cases have increased according to police statistics in Sana'a, saying that in one month they recorded 45 cases of harassment despite the fact that that most Yemeni girls prefer not to report harassment incidents.

To clarify the police patrol's job, Al-Wajeesh said that it is the responsibility of the patrol to punish those who harass people on the streets. The police take the offender to prison where he spends five months or more incarcerated as punishment.

Yemen Times conducted a survey on teasing and sexual harassment in January 2009, in which 90 percent of a sample of 70 interviewees said they had been harassed in Sana'a one way

or another. About 14 percent said they are continuously harassed and around 37 percent said they are harassed physically by men outdoors.

The survey also revealed that 37 percent of the female interviewees were subjected to sexual harassment in the form of degrading insults, telephone calls and text messages. Seventy-two percent of the women interviewed said that they had been called sexually charged names while walking in the street and about 20 percent of the group said that they were subjected to such demeaning remarks on a regular basis.

Most women overcome their fear and go about their day using public transportation and walking in public places. However, some expressed their genuine concern about being harassed on the street.

The police patrol was established in 2001 mainly to make sure that there are no problems in the streets. However, this body can not control the harassment via telephones Al-Wajeesh admitted, adding that it is not possible to control the telecommunication companies.

A police patrol member is supposed

to keep his eyes open, especially in large crowds where it is easily possible to be mugged or harassed. "Up to today we have the same number of policemen employed, even though we have been active over a long period and we are available only in Sana'a," said Al-Wajeesh.

The police's main places of patrol are the old city of Sana'a, Tahrir Square, Jamal Street, Hael, Al-Zubairy and Al-Hasabah districts. In addition, there are observation points near the Movenpick Hotel, Ayah Round and Al-Saleh mosques where the police patrol work around the clock. They can also be found at universities, schools and in large stores.

Most of the police patrol members wear uniforms similar to traffic police with a blue shirt and black pants. The police patrol, however, are distinguished by having a black line on their shirt arms.

"Sometimes the police patrol members don't wear uniforms to be able to integrate with the public and observe closely," Al-Wajeesh said.

Sheikhs encourage aggressive attitude against women

Human right activists accused some mosque preachers of provoking aggressive attitudes against women, which contributes to the harassment of women.

"Unfortunately, some preachers go against women aggressively which creates an innate feeling in men of hatred towards women, even though women are their sisters, mothers and wives," said Elham Al-Kibssi, the Activities Manager at the Democratic School.

Al-Kibssi insisted on the importance of raising awareness among youth and directed these preachers to give less extreme speeches to prevent any misunderstanding.

"When my brother comes back from the mosque, he always asks me to wear a veil and prevents me from going out in the street. In fact, he believes the preacher's speeches which mostly tackle woman's modesty and how to protect women and such stuff," said Um Kalthum, a young girl.

According to a study conducted by Penn State University to investigate reasons behind the low incidence of reporting in general, the research

indicates that there are three main reasons why women do not report sexual harassment.

1- Women often believe that no one will do anything about the problem. If women are harassed in an organization and the leadership of the organization does not speak out against that harassment, does not institute procedures for reporting harassment or does not act quickly on reports of harassment, most victims will be discouraged from acting.

2- Women are afraid they will be blamed. Women are told they 'invited' rape or harassment by their dress or demeanor. Because women see this happening to others, they have good reason to believe it will happen to them as well.

3- Women often do not want to hurt the harasser. This reason derives partly from the traditional saying 'boys will be boys,' which is used as an excuse for inappropriate behavior by males. Girls are taught to keep silent and to overlook bad behavior by boys.

Not just women

However the harassment is not limited to women alone, said Al-Wajeesh. "We

found out that women have recently started to harass men, even though harassment is a crime in the Yemeni law.

The law specified two sections from the Yemeni Punishment Law about harassment, so it is a crime to be punished" said Al-Wajeesh.

He added that campaigns against harassment should therefore be directed towards both men and women.

Al-Wajeesh further warned that harassment has become a common phenomenon among young people.

There are many factors that led to this phenomenon, like unemployment, family disintegration, a lack of religious awareness, TV shows, spare time, the misuse of technology such as cell phones and the internet and the lack of a sturdy law to punish the harasser, according to Al-Wajeesh.

"Schools should provide awareness among the students," said Al-Wajeesh. He added that awareness seminars among society's members must be held in a recurrent manner by both concerned NGOs and police officials, and encourage the victims to report harassers.



Sa'ada Thoughts is a series of reflections on life and people in Sa'ada from an independent perspective, written by a nurse from the Philippines who has been working in Sa'ada for two years. He could be reached at levy9ph2000@yahoo.com.

Writing from the heart

By: Marion Patrick Lavilla"

Sa'ada used to be an abundant and plentiful province. Its diverse culture and landscape is home to Yemeni Jews and Zaidi's. Its history rich with the Imamate and the tribal feuds have shaped Sa'ada and earned the impression of being warlike, crude and cruel. Beneath all of these is the dissolution of the past and Sa'ada is in the brink of becoming the next Iraq or Afghanistan. Before I came to Yemen in October 2007, I knew there used to be a civil war in Sa'ada. When I arrived, I was lucky the 4th war has just finished and the mobile phone signal was back. I also knew their internet access was also limited. While I was on my way to my future workplace, a few minutes away from it, I saw what's left of an exploded truck. I never bothered to ask the driver. I some what knew from the start what kind of life I am going to get into. I can no longer turn back and I was four hours away from Sana'a.

My first week of work was a disaster. I didn't know the ratio of nurses to patients was 1:50 or more and my training in the Philippines didn't prepare me for this. For 3 months I suffered sleepless nights, waking up at 3 am during the prayer or talking in my sleep. I didn't tell my parents because I would look weak; I signed the contract and I have to finish two years of work. During my first year, I lost a lot of kg. A year after, I learned to cope and I finally realized complaining won't do well. I got through 9 to ten months after my vacation and I only have two months to go before I travel back to Philippines. Imagine, I spent my vacation in Sana'a and I haven't seen my family for two years straight. For two years, I have witnessed two wars and both have different degrees of destruction. The 5th war have left Al Saffyan in ruins, consumed the fuel reserves of the whole governorate to the point the generators weren't able to produce or meet the demand, food supplies were scarce and refrigerated stocks got spoiled. The 6th war is on going beside the fact Ramadan started. Nobody declared it as such but the powerful blasts from miles to kilometers away is shaking the infrastructures in the city. Although there were no suicide bombings, this year the cannons and missile launchers were poised to destroy the "enemy of the state". There was a joke coming from a friend, since it is a violation to fight during fasting, the war will be held during the night. I thought about it for a moment but I didn't laugh. It is no joke to fight while the whole governorate is enveloped in total darkness and the women and children are in deep slumber. One might wake up from waves of explosions while their houses get hit; the last thing you might not want to imagine is the ceiling collapsing on you and your family.

I want to write about my life in Sa'ada. I want to write about Sa'ada and its people. Sa'ada thoughts is the voice of the unheard and the unrepresented. Before, nobody wants to talk about the concerns of these people because they are afraid or because only a few people new about the situation in this governorate. Now, read and reflect. Sa'ada is part of Yemen and other than Yemeni's; there are hardworking foreigners who continue to serve this province. We all have different reasons why we are staying here: Some driven by the desire to help their families, some wanted thrill and a life out of the ordinary, and some to become an inspiration and motivation for change. Whether it is selfish or self driven, all of these is part of the human nature. But I won't tackle its complexities because it is something to argue about. This column is not a weapon or a bullet proof vest. It is not meant to brag or look intelligent. The writer is not well-known or a connoisseur of wine. And the beacon of light thing is for the messianic – those who think they can save the world. My entries are going to be about the people of Sa'ada and their everyday life: the areas of their lives that need improvement and attention, Ramadan, my fellow foreigners, my work, cacti, crows and birds, the sun and the moon, the dew drops in the morning, Qat sessions, gossips, politics and the war.

The last two subjects are the least of my concern and I am not in authority to discuss it unless it directly affects me and the people around the city. Just think of the implications of cannons being fired with regards to keeping your tiles in the bathroom intact. It has been a disease plaguing the compound since the start of the war. I knew two or three cases of tiles falling out and they have to be repaired unless you want cockroaches and rats to visit your room. I also saw the walls and padlocks in my friend's room shudder from the loud explosions as if they have come into life and wanted to run and escape. I thought if you observe things closely, even inanimate objects tell stories. You won't read interviews with mops or brooms. You will know their story in a different and fresh perspective.

Yemen Economic Corporation: Ambition and achievement

By: Abdul Ghani Al-Ibbarah

The Yemen Economic Corporation (YEC) plays a pivotal role in national development and in achieving development stability throughout the country. This pioneering role is not restricted to the corporate sector alone; it is engaged in manufacturing, production and the distribution of goods through a broad network of branches as well.

The YEC helps to market agricultural products in order to provide consumers' needs for reasonable prices. Success is judged according to market philosophy and law. The YEC makes note of distinguished and exceptional needs that must be commended and protected.

There are many economic challenges that Yemen and other developing countries face in the free market system. As such, the YEC has assumed a strategic mission to enhance market openness here in Yemen. This kind of market openness is not immediately attainable, which makes people worry about this national corporation and its activities after the accusations and insinuations made against it.

Strangely enough, it seems that the people who have something against the YEC are at the same time dedicating themselves to putting others in the poverty house, depriving them of the basic needs of life.

We were surprised to hear some people defame one of the most important productive facilities for the public, as if they wish to get rid of it. While it's true that the YEC has a limited monopoly by providing commodities in all governorates, it provides these commodities for reasonable prices, including wheat and flour, despite the fact that prices have recently escalated.

Some people whose interests were jeopardized by the YEC's approach launched a campaign to defame the role of the corporation. However, this was in vain in view of the accomplishments that are recognized by all, including inaugurating the central bakery to provide people with bread of high quality for low prices in Sana'a municipality. There is currently a plan to extend the service to other areas.

The YEC took a daring step by buying wheat from farmers at prices higher than those of the market and reselling it at prices dictated by the government. The corporation played a major role during natural disasters that have stricken

the country, and it provided the means used by the government when it came to distributing relief among distressed locals. It was also the means used to distribute the wheat aid offered by our brothers in the UAE and it successfully and smoothly bore all costs of this work.

The YEC also offers goods payable by installment to both military and civilian sectors, especially on religious occasions when families need new clothes, meat and basic food stuffs that are required for such events.

The YEC contributes to preserving other national companies that have financial difficulties and are failing. One example of this is the Yemeni Drug Company (YEDCO), a drug manufacturing company with national expertise. YEDCO was about to be liquidated, but when YEC took over management, the drug company developed its production line and rebuilt the company's factories according to international standards, increased production and added new types of medicines. The declining company was turned into a model of success.

Another example is Mareb Poultry Company which was also about to be liquidated until the YEC saved it and turned it into another successful business. There were other struggling companies that received support from the YEC and then managed to stand on their feet again.

The YEC has its own research center managed by national experts who carry out planning, documenting, evaluating and calculating data through scientific methods. The YEC also has laboratories that examine its products and control their quality in accordance with international standards to ensure consumers' health. These measures are also taken to compete both nationally and internationally, which won the YEC the ISO reward for its food and drug products.

The YEC participated in the Conference of Investment Opportunities with over 25 investment offers that ranged from factories to resorts to stores. It invited foreign investors to open partnerships in all fields above.

These successes have been accomplished by the YEC under the management of Brig. General Ali Mohammed Al-Kuhlani with contributions from its entire staff.

All of this shows that the YEC will remain the safety valve for our national economy and our food security. It is a gateway for economic advancement in terms of manufacturing, production and marketing.



By: Khaled Fattah

Yemen's twin Dilemmas: Security and development

Yemen has turned into a very problematic and confusing Middle Eastern entity with multiple open political, socio-ecological, economic and security battlefields. On the political front, the expected peaceful spring between the opposition and the government, following their agreement to postpone the parliamentary elections to the year 2011 has quickly turned into a boiling summer. On the socio-ecological and economic fronts, Yemen's national economy is taking a deep dive, unemployment is swelling, natural resources are depleting, infrastructure is falling apart, and there is a growing collective perception in the streets of Sana'a that time is pregnant with the expectation of a major disaster.

On the security front, on the other hand, the cards have become completely mixed. Yemen faces security issues concerning Al-Qaeda, the Huthis, the Southern uprising, inter-tribal conflicts, trafficking of people, smuggling, and piracy in the Gulf of Aden. One of the recent concrete examples that illustrates the current confusing mixture is the announcement that the influential tribal leader, Sheikh Tareq Al-Fadhli, who fought with Osama Bin Laden and Hekmatyar in Afghanistan, and supported President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government in the 1994 war against the former Southern regime, is allying himself with the Southern movement against Sana'a's central government.

In the light of this dangerous confusion, the pressure on Yemen's central government and regional and international stakeholders to act is increasing on daily basis. But it would be reckless for stakeholders to engage deeply with Yemen's complex problems without first considering the possible pitfalls that past experiences might reveal. In other words, there is an urgent need for sorting out Yemen's problems, not summing them up, under the guidance of one main question: What went wrong in post-unification Yemen?

Observers of Yemen who use a telescopic analytical view would agree with me that the root causes of what went wrong in the recent political history of Yemen are to be found in the long neglect of Yemen's political elites, regional powers, and international cooperation community to the security-development nexus. Through the prism of such a nexus, no security can be achieved without development, and no development can be achieved without security. Disharmonizing and harmonizing the relationship between security and development, however, cannot be achieved by hermetically sealed individual countries.

As in the case of Yemen, regional and international stakeholders had a major role to play in the deliberate bifurcation of development and security policies. For instance, United States' policy towards Yemen has been driven, for decades, purely by security concerns like the Cold War, the security of oil supply from the Gulf region, and lately by the 'war on terror.'

The dimension of economic and human development in Yemen has been little recognized also by regional powers. Concrete examples here are the refusal of Yemen's bid to join the GCC, and the expulsion, in the aftermath of Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis working in oil rich neighboring countries. In short, the current multifaceted violence in Yemen not only harms development efforts for Yemen, but also it is the consequence of the failure of economic and human development in the south-western corner of Arabia.

Clearly, there is an urgent need to strive for greater coherence between security and development policies in Yemen. Both policies must be mutually supportive.

Linking security and development should be, therefore, a policy mantra. In the light of the current escalating violence, the acute socio-political instability and dark future scenarios in Yemen, it is mindless delusion from regional and international powers to expect that Yemen's central government will be able, alone, to come out of the tunnel, and to invest more in its social and economic future.

It is true that foreign aid cannot make up for incompetently run national economy, and it cannot compensate for misallocated national resources or distortions created by corruption and cronyism. However, in dealing with the explosive Yemeni context, which contains a very harmful spill over effect, the goal of the international community should be supporting Yemen's central government in order to shorten the long waiting time for the benefits of sustainable development strategies. Time is running out for Yemen.

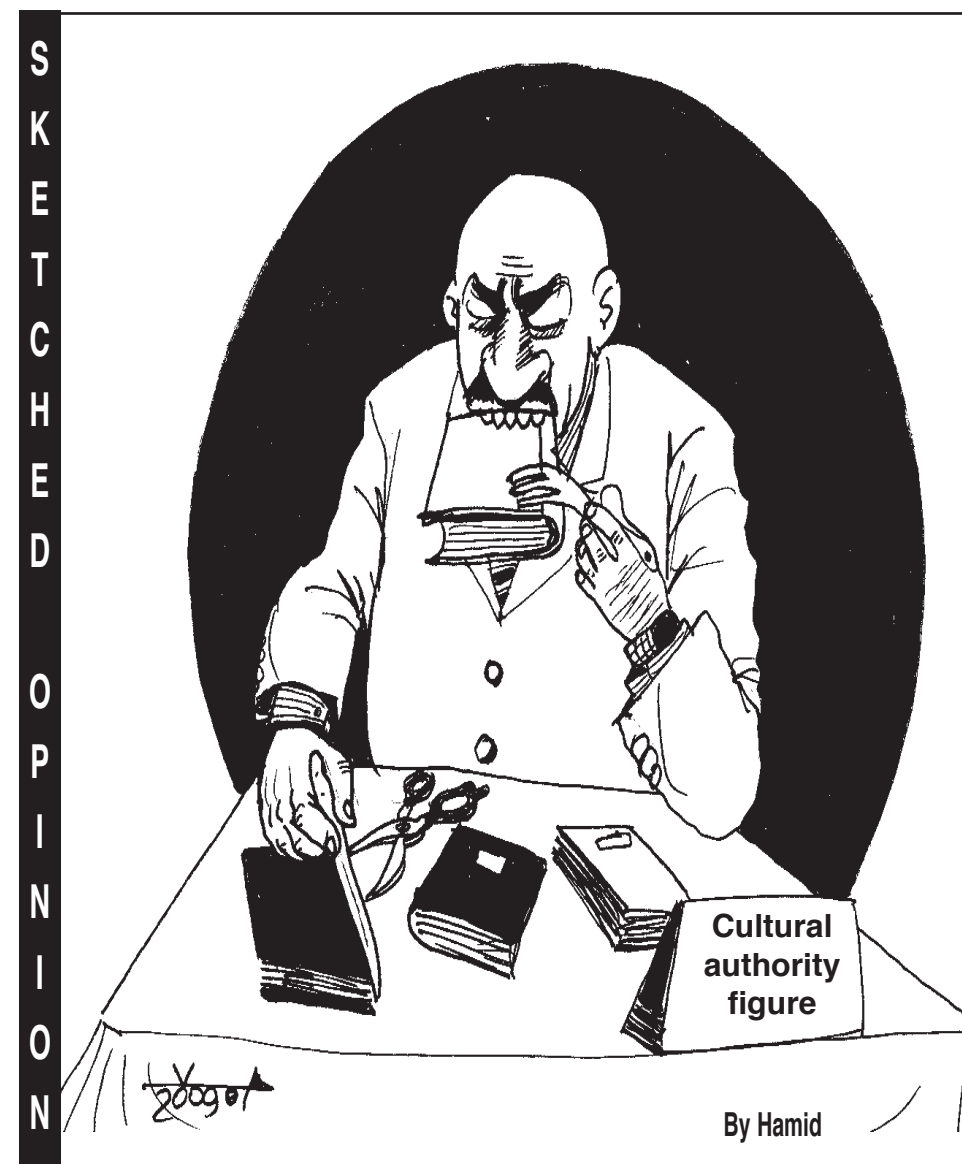
On the basis of the inescapable logic that dealing with the consequences of state failure is far more expensive for regional and international actors than striking a balance between security and development, the following measure should be taken by national, regional and international stakeholders: The reordering of Yemen's social and economic priorities- with a focus on establishing tighter controls on corruption, and on effective reforming of taxation system. This measure is essential to generate a stream of financial resources for human and economic development.

Secondly, serious joint economic projects in the fields of tourism, agriculture, fishery, mining and manufacturing, must be launched. Financial resources for these projects will need to come from governments and private investors in the GCC countries. Benefits of these projects, however, should be directed towards local development, and not be allowed to flow in a disproportional manner to a small group of businessmen.

Third, a coordinated joint effort in international development assistance to Yemen must be implemented. In this respect, I suggest the establishment of a UN-EU sponsored fund for the prevention of state failure in Yemen.

Fourth, the GCC and the Arab League should join hands in diffusing Yemen's domestic conflicts with the Huthi rebels and the southern movement. Such diffusion, along with economic relief, will provide Yemen's central government with more resources to focus on dealing with militant fundamentalism. The latter made realpolitik dominate the development scene.

Khaled Fattah is an academic researcher and political analyst. He can be reached at KF62@st-andrews.ac.uk



By Hamid

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IT Management: A new path in industry

By Amel Al-Ariqi

Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025, recently laid out by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, looks forward to linking higher education to the needs of society. It seeks to produce graduates that are not job seekers, but generators of job opportunities.

It emphasizes the importance of stimulating economically related scientific and technological development and establishing research and development institutions enhance the national capacity to absorb the appropriate technologies."

But a question remains. With the current economic situation, can Yemen achieve this vision?

The first step has already been taken by local private and public enterprises, supported by experts from Delft University of Technology (TUDelft) in the Netherlands. They are launching a project to help Taiz University develop a master's program "to address the requirement the requisite training needs of mid-career engineering and IT professionals in Yemen," said Vicente Pijano, a consultant at TUDelft.

Before setting this project in motion in October 2008, a comprehensive report has been prepared that examines the needs Yemeni industry sector.

The outline found out that engineers graduating from the Yemeni universities are technicians that lack the competency

to design and manage business processes, improve productivity, or achieve improvements in terms of other performance indicators, such as the quality of products and services.

"The program is designed to develop two commercial and multi-disciplinary master degree programs in the fields of engineering and management and in information technology and management for mid-career engineers at Taiz University," said Pijano.

"We have two partners, Hayel Saeed Anam Group and the General Training Institute (GTI) of the Yemeni Ministry of Telecommunications. By doing so, the project will contribute to strengthening Yemen's industrial entrepreneurial sector, as well as public sector," he added.

TUDelft has been providing technical assistance to the Yemeni government since 2004, when it assisted Yemen's authorities in formulating the now approved ICT Policy and Master Plan for the country's Higher Education sector.

Since then, TUDelft has been involved in the implementation of "Institutional Strengthening of Post-secondary Education and Training Capacity" projects and other related projects with the Ministry of Higher Education.

Hard economic state

In 2006, the World Bank (WB) said that the first economic priority for Yemen "is to diversify its economy from a declining oil sector... to generate employment

and for generating new fiscal revenues."

According to studies, Yemen's economy is characterized by a weak production sector, sensitivity to sudden fluctuations especially in agriculture, a high dependence on the external sector and a growing dependence on imports of strategic goods such as wheat. Oil revenues make up almost 63 percent of the central state budget.

According to statistics from the second Five Year Plan, 65 percent of the population was employed in the informal sector and 53 percent worked in agriculture in 2000.

"Industrial development should be a strategic option and determinant of economic development in Yemen over the next period, in order to achieve the desired goals and to ensure moving from the status of a country of low income to the rank of middle income economies with rapid growth by 2025," said the Yemen's Strategic Vision 2025.

However, the WB said that the current industrial sector does not have a conducive environment for growth.

The sector suffers from weak infrastructure, government bureaucracy, reliance on imports, conservative family businesses, and undeveloped banking facilities. In addition, the small manufacturing enterprises that constitute 95 percent of the sector face great difficulties in obtaining financing, said the WB.

Manufacturers in Yemen mostly produce foodstuffs, followed by textiles and clothing, wood-based products, metal products, and construction and building materials.



Taiz University to be Yemen's technology university

Gap between education and markets

The 2006 National Strategy for the Development of Higher Education in Yemen points out the following challenges:

- "There is no tradition of preparation for entrepreneurship and self-employment, and graduates generally leave Yemeni universities without the skills necessary for this"
- "Academic activities do not comply with recent socio-economic trends... [While there is an imbalance] of higher education outcomes and society's needs and labor market demand."
- "Yemen has a particular difficulty producing sufficient graduates in science, engineering and mathematics, and universities are dominated by social science and humanities students. This probably results not only from a lack of student demand, but of supply as well."
- The strategy recommends that educators make the following improvements:
 - Improve the quality of the graduates of universities and other higher education institutions with particular emphasis on acquiring breadth and depth of knowledge, problem-solving skills, critical and creative thinking, communication skills in both Arabic and English, lifelong learning, IT skills, and proactive participation in achieving their personal and national aspirations."
 - "Universities should consider whether they might run short modules in aspects of entrepreneurialism for postgraduates, for which fees would be paid; and also whether more generally they should run postgraduate programs specifically to prepare students for specific careers for which their original program may not have prepared them"
 - "To develop universities and other higher education institutions vertically and horizontally, initiate or open new disciplines, and diversify programs that meet local, national, and regional labor market needs."

A step towards the path

With an estimated cost of USD 4.9 million, the program will start the first master's degree programs in Taiz University. "We aim to position Taiz University as Yemen's technology university," said Bert Grees, the Project Supervisor.

The programs will initially focus on mid-term career engineers and not regular students. "We found out that there are almost no Yemenis that have master's degrees in these fields," said Pijano.

He added that the program was designed train future teachers for undergraduate program at the Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology. Prospective students need to have bachelor's degree in relevant field, and at least two years experience working with industrial sector.

Ali Shuoab, PMU Manager-TUDelft Project added that the program also pro-

vide training to the staff of the IT department at the university.

The choice of Taiz and Taiz University

The Taiz region, located in the south western part of Yemen with an estimated population of about 4 million, is a favored location for consumer goods-related manufacturing.

The Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies is the largest enterprise conglomerate in the area. Its operations include six production groups in the areas of: general manufacturing (raw materials), Unilever products, Kraft products, cigarettes, packaging products and other consumer products.

In addition, the region features a host of small to medium sized enterprises, factories and mills which produce consumer goods, such as foodstuffs, chemicals, plastics, rubber products, soaps, detergents, disinfectants, packaging materials, cigarettes, various raw material inputs, and a range of other manufactured goods.

The project outline also emphasizes the importance of the relationship between the university and industry. It says it wants to work with the "Yemeni industrial entrepreneurial sector in particular by delivering graduates with knowledge, skills and attitudes to assume leading responsibilities in the process of innovation, knowledge transfer and in sustainable development."

The Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology is the latest

department at Taiz University and was established in 2004.

The Faculty aims to contribute to the development of Yemeni society and the region in the area of IT and Industrial manufacturing systems engineering problems. Staffing of the Faculty includes 16 Yemeni professors.

According to the project outline, weaknesses in the program stem from its newness and the fact that its academic staff is relatively young and limited in size. It is expected to increase in the years ahead.

Though the current programs have certain weaknesses, particularly with respect to the managerial aspects of engineering and IT, the teachers are "qualified and very motivated to complement their teaching skills." They seek to collaborate with staff from other faculties and the private and public sectors, noted the outline.

In 2005 and 2006 the faculty had 571 students, including 158 women. Enrollment was up from 388 in 2004. Students are enrolled in undergraduate degree programs in the fields of communications and computer engineering, software engineering, IT and industrial and manufacturing systems engineering.

With respect to these programs, the project outline highlights their relative youth and that little is still known of their quality as there have been neither graduates nor feedback from the world of business.



Graduated IT students from the Yemeni universities are technicians and lack the competency to design and manage business processes, improve productivity



"Industrial development should be a strategic option and determinant of economic development in Yemen over the next period

بِقَوْلِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ يَخْتَارُ
مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْكُمْ وَيَهْدِي
مَنْ يَشَاءُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ
وَاللَّهُ يُهْتَدَى

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سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته
ومغفرته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته ويألفه أهله وذويه
الصبر والسلوان ... إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون
المعزون:
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Invitation for General Bid No. (16) for the year 2009

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (16) for the year 2009 at 100% government funding for:

Importing, fixing, licensing, testing, operating and guaranteeing two power generating units for Sa'ada local radio broadcast station.

All the interested importers and specialized companies must apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

**The TV and Radio General Corporation
General Administration for Projects
Tel: (01/ 230752)**

Cost for buying the bid documents (YR 200) non refundable.
The deadline of selling the documents is: **22/9/2009.**

The bids must be presented in a red wax sealed envelopes t the bids and tenders committee's secretariat at the corporation. The names of the bidding company and of the project along with the tender number and the bidder's name must be written on the envelop, which should contain the following documents:

1. An unconditional bank guarantee of (US 2,500\$) valid for 120 days as of the date of bid opening or a cashable check.
2. A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2009 (feign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration document from their home countries).
3. A copy f valid insurance certificate for the year 2009 (insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefit from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen).
4. A copy of valid registration and classification for the year 2009.
5. A copy of valid Zakat certificate for the year 2009.
6. A copy of valid commercial registration valid for the year 2009.
7. A copy of valid profession license certificate for the year 2009.
8. A copy of valid sales tax registration certificate for the year 2009.

The deadline for receiving the proposals is at 11:00 am on Tuesday 29/9/2009 at the corporation's main premises.



Invitation for General Bid No. (17) for the year 2009

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (17) for the year 2009 at 100% government funding for:

Importing, fixing, licensing, testing, operating and guaranteeing TAPE LESS portable TV cameras.

All the interested importers and specialized companies must apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

**The TV and Radio General Corporation
General Administration for Projects
Tel: (01/ 230752)**

Cost for buying the bid documents (YR 100) non refundable.
The deadline of selling the documents is: **22/9/2009.**

The bids must be presented in a red wax sealed envelopes t the bids and tenders committee's secretariat at the corporation. The names of the bidding company and of the project along with the tender number and the bidder's name must be written on the envelop, which should contain the following documents:

1. An unconditional bank guarantee of (US 2,300\$) valid for 120 days as of the date of bid opening or a cashable check.
2. A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2009 (feign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration document from their home countries).
3. A copy f valid insurance certificate for the year 2009 (insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefit from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen).
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Intersos is seeking candidates for position of:

Legal and Social Counsellor

The full details of the above mentioned vacancies may be found at Intersos Office, Villa n1481, white city Al Salvador Street, Khormaksar, Aden or at Intersos Office in Al Jazarat Street, Diplomatic Area, Sana'a.

Interested candidates are asked to submit their applications only in English (including a hand writing cover letter, copies of certificates and CV) to the Intersos Office, or via e-mail at intersos_yemen@hotmail.it

The deadline for receiving applications is **5 September, 2009.**
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

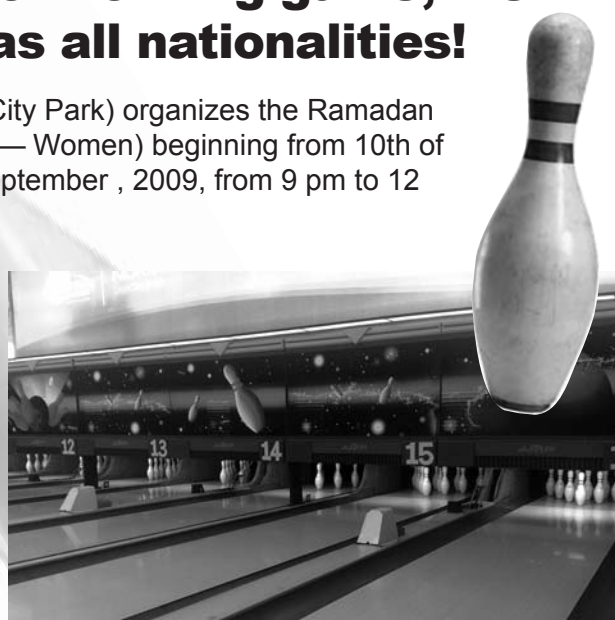
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الإستعلامات: ١١٨ حوادث (المروم) ١٩٤.
الشؤون الخارجية: ٢٠٥٤٤/٧ الشؤون الداخلية: ٢٠٣٧٢/١٧. البحيرة: ٢٥٠٧١١/٢. وزارة المواصلا (تلفون) ٧٥٢٢٢-٢.
الإذاعة: ٢٣٢-١/٢. التلفزيون: ٣٣٢-١/٢.
مؤسسة الباصات للنقل داخل المدن: ٣٣١١١/٣.
وزارة المواصلا: ٢٣٥١١٠/١/٢/٣. السياحة: ٢٥٤-٢٢.
الطبيب الأحمر: ٢٠٣١٢١/٢. تليم: ٧٥٢٢٢٧٧

فنادق

فندق فراسي ت: ٢٠٤٢٥٧٠/١٧ - ١٠-٤٢٥٧٠
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فندق موفيميك ت: ٥٤١٠٠٠ - فاكس: ٥٤١٠٠٠
فندق سيا ت: ١٠-٣٧٣٧٧٠
فندق ريلاكس ان ت: ١٠-٤٤٨٧١٠
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البنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج فاكس: ٢٦٠٠٨٢٤ ت: ١٦٠٠٨٢٢-١-٩٦٧-١
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بنك التضامن الإسلامي ت: ١٠٧١٦٦٦٦٦
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بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ١٠-٥٣٣٨١٢
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مكاتب ترجمة

معهد يالي ت: ٤٤٥٨٢٣/٣/٤-٤٤٥٨٢٣ فاكس: ٤٤٨٠٣٧-٣
معهد اللغة الألمانية ت: ٢٠٠٩٤٥٠
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زأويه (Budget) ت: ٣٠٦١٨٠٥-٣٧٢٧٠ فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨
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شركات للتأمين

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البريد السريع

صنعا ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٢٢٨/٢٣٠
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العالمية للسفريات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١١٥٨٩/٢٠

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Cheering in the rainy days of Ramadan



The fourth day of Ramadan was sunny in Sana'a, but the road around the Old City, the Salla, was still flooded from the night before.



Just outside the Old City, near Bab Al-Yemen, cars and busses swished through the flooded streets for the first three nights of Ramadan.



Despite the rains, shoppers filled the markets just before sundown on the third night of Ramadan.

By: Heather Murdock

It was raining just after 6 o'clock on the second night of Ramadan, but reddish sunlight reminded hungry fasters that it was not yet time to eat.

Hadda Street in Sana'a was barren. A few busses to Bab Al-Yemen flew past me and the other wet stragglers trying to get home. The bus drivers were in a hurry- it was almost time to break the day's fast.

I wondered if the drivers could see me waving at them through the rain and mist. I moved further into the street.

A minibus that was labeled "Tahreer" stopped, and the driver said he was changing routes and going to the Bab.

Around 6:30, the driver must have heard the melodic calls from the mosques announcing the end of the fast, because he passed dates back to me and the other two passengers. All I heard was the rain pounding on the metal roof of the minibus.

Water sprayed into the open doors, and we zipped down the empty streets. Suddenly, it was night.

Ahead we saw street lights reflecting off a wet road descending into a brown river, and the driver slowed the bus. A taxi in front of us had driven around the next corner, and was now backing out. Our driver pressed on, past an empty car and another minibus, abandoned in the flood.

Soon the river covered the tires, and splashed onto the floor of the bus. We moved slowly, but our wake still broke over the raised sidewalk.

I wondered if the bus was going to make it.

On the sidewalk, men socialized and ate under awnings and in shops. As we inched by, several men, who chomped while they watched the bus, cheered.

At the same moment, the man on the front bench and I realized that the people on the sidewalk were encouraging us because our bus was conquering the flood. We both laughed.

When we rolled back onto a solid ground, I didn't recognize know where we were. There are many routes from Hadda Street to the Bab, and this one was new to me. The other passengers got off the bus, and there were few, if any, streetlights.

A few minutes later, the driver told me he couldn't make it to the Bab because of the floods, but he would drop me off as close as possible.

When I got off the bus, the water was about a foot deep, and the current flowed fast. As I trudged through the streets, bits of trash and plastic bags swept by me. A few men picked through the water with bare feet, and robes in hand.

On the sidewalk and under tarps men and boys were eating.

I hopped up onto the crowded sidewalk and saw a couple of teenage boys in track suits breaking their fast under a blue tarp attached to a building. The rain was loud and they did not look up.

"Excuse me?" I said. They could not hear me over the rain drumming on their tarp. I repeated myself louder. "Excuse me?" They continued eating.

"Guys!" I shouted.

They looked up mid-chew, and one told me the Bab was straight ahead.

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الشفاء للزوم Al-Shifaa for Dates

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When I reached the corner of Bab Al-Yemen Street, there was a happy, just-fed crowd on the corner. Some were pressed against the buildings to stay dry, but most stood in the rain on the edge of the raised sidewalk, watching the action in the lake that once was an intersection.

Slowly, cars descended into the deep. When they rolled back up to solid ground, the growing crowd cheered.

A white car with a flat roof got stuck. A half a dozen men hiked their white robes up and hooked them onto their traditional jambiyya knives. They plodded into the water, laughing.

They pushed and the car's wheels reconnected with the asphalt. The driver pulled out of the lake and the spectators on the sidewalk celebrated.

A burly man with wet black hair looked proud and delighted.

"Cool, right?" he said. I agreed.

The next morning, the rivers had turned back into roads. The Old City was quiet and dry, and the date shops were closed.

Around 10 o'clock, while most people rested after a night of feasting and praying, the markets slowly came back to life.

Later that day, as the third night of Ramadan drew closer, the rain began to fall again and streets began to flood. By 5 o'clock, robes were hooked over jambiyya knives on Bab Al-Yemen Street and umbrellas covered the fruit in the market.

Shoppers waded through the deepening river roads to buy last-minute items for the coming night's feast.

And as the time to eat drew nearer, the intersection flooded, and the first minibus of the night got stuck. About five men jumped into the muddy water and pushed, ready to celebrate another rainy night of Ramadan.