

Thinking
green

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WATER CONSERVATION

Water is essential to our survival, it is essential to human health. The human body can last weeks without food, but only days without water. Thus, water is at the core of sustainable development. From food and energy security to human and environmental health, water contributes to improvements in social well-being and growth, affecting the livelihoods of billions.

The quantity and quality of water is being affected with time. Water conservation has become an important subject and includes all the policies, strategies and activities to sustainably manage the natural resource of fresh water and to protect and meet the current and future human demand. Population, household size, way of living, habits and affluence all affect how much water is consumed by an individual and a family.

The goals of water conservation efforts include ensuring availability of water for present and future generations, where the withdrawal of freshwater from an ecosystem does not exceed its natural replacement rate. It includes Energy conservation as water pumping, delivery and wastewater treatment facilities consume a significant amount of energy. In some regions of the world over 15% of total electricity, consumption is devoted to water management.

The key activities that benefit water conservation are any beneficial reduction in water loss, use and waste of resources, avoiding any damage to water quality and improving water management practices that reduce the use or enhance the beneficial use of water.

A fundamental component to water conservation strategy is communication and education outreach of different water programs. Developing communication that educates water users and the general public is another important strategy utilized in water conservation.

Water conservation programs involved in social solutions are typically initiated at the local level, by either municipal water utilities or regional governments. Common strategies include public outreach campaigns, tiered water rates (charging progressively higher prices as water use increases), or restrictions on outdoor water use such as lawn watering and car washing. Cities in dry climates often require or encourage the installation of xeriscaping or natural landscaping in new homes to reduce outdoor water usage.

New technology poses a few new options for consumers, features such as full flush and half flush toilet reducing the water consumption and waste. Also available are modern shower heads that help reduce wasting water. Old shower heads are said to use 5-10 gallons per minute, while new fixtures available use 2.5 gallons per minute.

It is alarming to know that Cape Town in South Africa, one of the world's iconic tourist destinations, could run out of water by April 2018 as the city's worst drought in a century risks forcing residents to join queues for emergency rations. "Day Zero" - the date taps are due to run dry as city authorities are planning to build desalination plants and drill underground boreholes. At the current rate of water consumption, the city is likely to reach Day Zero on 22 April.

There is a real risk that residents will have to line up. At a trial water collection site, similar to an estimated 200, the city may introduce, people line up between metal fences waiting to fill up containers from standpipes. A maximum 25 liters of water will be provided per person/ day instead of more than 87 liters of water consumed per person/ day.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends 7.5 liters per capita per day to meet domestic demands. Around 20 liters per capita per day will take care of basic hygiene needs and basic food hygiene. Poor water quality and absence of appropriate sanitation facilities are deadly, some 5 million deaths per year are caused by polluted drinking water. The WHO estimates that providing safe water could prevent 1.4 million child deaths from diarrhea each year.

We need to understand that 60% of total household water supply is used inside the home in three main areas: the kitchen, the bathroom and the laundry room. Saving water is easy for everyone to do. Let us try the following water conservation tips at home:

- Turn off the water tap while tooth brushing, shaving and face washing.
- Use low flow taps in wash basins.
- Clean vegetables, fruits, dishes and utensils with minimum water. Don't let the water run while rinsing.
- Run washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full.
- Using water-efficient showerheads and taking shorter showers.
- Learning to turn off faucets tightly after each use.
- Repair and fix any water leaks.
- Use dual flush toilets which use up to 67% less water than conventional toilets

RESPECT AND CONSERVE WATER, ACT NOW & DO YOUR PART.

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(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)

Saudi cash injection bolsters Yemeni rial

Aden

Saudi Arabia's move to inject US\$2 billion cash into Yemen has helped ease concerns regarding falling currency in a country that depend mostly on imports for food.

According to reports, Yemeni rial witnessed a sharp increase following the announcement of the massive cash injection by the Saudi Arabia Central Bank.

Following the move, in response to a plea for help by Yemen's president and prime minister, the Rial, on Thursday, rose 16 per cent against the dollar.

"Interfere with saving the Yemeni rial now and not tomorrow. The salvation of the rial means saving the Yemeni people from an imminent starvation," Yemen's Prime Minister Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr pleaded on Tuesday.

"As the value of the rial goes up, the living conditions of Yemeni citizens will change for the better," the Saudi information ministry said following the cash injection.

The economy of the Arab world's poorest country has been pushed to the brink of collapse by a civil war that

began with the takeover of the capital by Iran-backed rebels in September 2014. The government has been unable to pay salaries for more than a year, and the rial has more than halved in value against the dollar, leaving Yemenis unable to afford food staples and bottled water.

Yemen's rial stood at 215 to the dollar in early 2015 but had dropped steadily to about 500 against the dollar this month. On Thursday, money changers across the country - including in the rebel-held capital Sanaa and the government bastion of Aden - reported the dollar trading at between 420 and 450 rials.

The Saudi-backed government has now capped the exchange rate against the dollar at 390 rials, but money changers across the country appeared to have turned a blind eye.

President Abdrabu Mansur Hadi transferred the central bank from Sanaa to Aden in 2016 but the rebels still operate their own central bank from the capital.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia sent its ambassador Mohammed Al Jaber to Aden on Thursday, three years after

he fled Yemen as the Houthis overran Sanaa.

Prime minister Ahmed bin Dagher, receiving the ambassador, thanked the kingdom and asked Riyadh and Abu Dhabi to send experts to audit the fund's transfer, the loyalist news agency Saba reported.

Meanwhile, in a move yesterday, Canada said it will provide \$12 million to aid groups in Yemen.

Friday's announcement of \$12.1-million in aid brings Canada's total humanitarian assistance for Yemen to \$65-million since March 2017. A senior government official indicated more funding could be announced for the poor Middle Eastern country this year.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain are leading members of the military coalition that intervened in the Yemen conflict in March 2015 to support the country's internationally recognised government.

The war has left more than three-quarters of the population in need of humanitarian aid and 8.4 million at risk of famine, according to the United Nations.



First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the West Asian Athletics Federation, President of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF) and President of the International Combat Week Supreme Organising Committee and Fourth World Amateurs MMA Championship His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa on Thursday received sponsors of the events organised in Bahrain under the patronage of His Majesty the King's Representative of Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa. The ceremony was held at Al Wadi Palace in the presence of Youth and Sports Affairs Minister Hisham Al Jowder and representatives of sponsoring companies, newspapers and official authorities. Shaikh Khalid praised the support received and said it contributed to the success of the events held. Among those honoured were *DT News* Editor-in-Chief Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood, who thanked HH Shaikh Khalid and stressed the newspaper's supportive stances towards Shaikh Khalid's initiatives that support the Bahraini youth and sports movement.

Education Minister Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi yesterday received the second batch of Quran recording of outstanding reciters at the Bahrain Centre for Gifted Students. The recordings were presented to the minister by Academic Talented Group Chief Dr. Budoor Bouhajji, who also revealed plans to release the third edition of the project. The initiative was first launched in 2008 as part of efforts to hone the skills of gifted students at all educational levels.

