

YEMEN TIMES



YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

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عيد سعيد وكل عام وأنتم واليمن بخير

OUR VIEWPOINT



TRIBUCRACY

The Unity Government suffers from a malignant disease known as tribucracy (tribal bureaucracy). Most senior officials in government office gather around them assistants and employees, the choice of whom depends on their tribal affiliation. Usually, the outermost circle is a free-for-all level. It does not matter where the employees come from. At the second circle level, the people should come from the former country (North or South Yemen) of the senior guy. Then in the innermost circle, there is room only for those people who come from the tribal group of the boss. This condition is so prevalent that YEMEN TIMES took up the matter with a few specialists at Sanaa University. A sociologist said that it was a normal human trait to try to enlist people as much similar to oneself as possible, specially under new circumstances which require the people to feel out their space and surroundings in order to make the necessary adjustments. A political scientist said that political expediency, specially under conditions change and political realignment, require that the people of the most inner circle be of utmost loyalty and reliability. Finally, an economist mentioned that due to the need for "additional income given the high cost of living in Sanaa", it is rather important that those who will get to see the finances of the boss are most discreet and cooperative.

For those of our readers who do not believe the existence of our system of tribal bureaucracy (tribucracy) and its structure, we ask that they pay a quick visit to one of the big shots, and let us know their observations. This tribucracy is one of the major reasons behind inefficiency, carelessness, and corruption in government administration. The socio-politico-economic considerations of the boss compromise him in terms of how much he can demand from his juniors and subordinates. They know this, and they take full advantage of it. In addition, the scramble of the political parties to win over new recruits, members and converts has made all of them turn a blind eye to the problem. They may, in fact, have indulged in their own tribucracy.

The consolidation of Yemeni unity requires that we overcome this phenomenon as fast as possible, because it is a representation of the divided past. The point is: "Is anyone in government paying attention!?"

The Publisher

DEBATES ON THE ROLE OF RELIGION: APOSTASY OR REFORMATION!

The nerve racking debates on Article (3) of the Constitution is gradually moving into a showdown on the role of religion in public life. In the final analysis, the debates have little to do with this article or that one; it has to do with the hegemony and governance of religion on politics. By extension, it has to do with the role of the religious clergy and theologians as the arbiters of power in society. The government is actually far from the fireline at this moment, as it is opposition parties against opposition parties. Yet the government is not too far away to sit comfortably. In a sense, it is itself concerned by the demands of the two sides. It is caught between a rock and a hard place.

On the one hand, over two hundred very senior theologians and religious clergymen from all parts of the country and all of Yemen's religious schools and sects have signed a statement urging the people to boycott the referendum. They state that it is "their moral and religious duty to ask the people of Yemen not to participate in the referendum on the constitution in its present form." They also urge the people to "demand amendments to the constitution" so as to make it conform to the Quran and the Sunnah. They want the constitution to state that Islamic teachings are above the constitution and that any text contradicting those teachings is unconstitutional; they themselves, of course, being the reference to decide on such matters. Already full mobilization at the grass root level is underway; thanks to the kind offices of the Attajammu Al Yamani Lil-Islah (Yemeni Congregation for Reform).

On the other hand, six major parties have signed a declaration against any amendments to the constitution and demanding to establish a broad-based government. On the issue of the demands of the clergy, they state, "We are

concerned that any additional changes in the constitution will place real doubts on the legitimacy of the constitution." A source from among these parties told Yemen Times, "Although we do not oppose Islam, we oppose the hegemony of theologians on political life under the pretext of religion." If religion is the measurement through which all political actions and thoughts are to be cleared, then the religious clergy, as most learned with religion, will continue to exercise a stranglehold and hold "veto power over political life." Another source from another party sees the whole process as a chance to achieve Yemen's "Reformation."

The leadership is caught in the middle. By sheer bureaucratic momentum rather than a clear decision on its part, it continues to prepare for the referendum. In the meanwhile, the leadership is contemplating certain steps among several options that will placate the clergy, hopefully without damaging the legitimacy of the constitution and/or its own credibility.

But the core of the problem remains - the role of the clergy/theologians in public/political life. Is Yemen witnessing a reformation or an apostasy? You, the reader, and history, are the judges!



THE BEST CHOICE

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HIZB AL-HAQ: A PARTY WITH RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS

Hizb Al-Haq (The Truth Party) is the political party of the theologians and the clergy. It is deeply embedded in theology and it is potentially, the most religiously-oriented political organisation in the country. It is natural therefore, that it boasts in its membership almost all the republic's muf-tis (scholars authorized to issue fatwas or clarifications on religious matters). Its constituent council is composed of:

Mohammed Bin Moh'd.
Ismail Al-Mansoor
Hamood Abbas Al-Muayyad,
Ahmed Mohammed Ali Shami,
Majd-Eddeen Bin Moh'd.
Al-Muayyadi,
Badr Eddeen Al-Hoothi

The list of the preparatory committee for this party, as it is not yet officially inaugurated, reads like a "who is who" of Yemeni theologians and clergy. Of the 340,000 members it

already boasts, its concentration is definitely in the Zaidi stronghold in the northern province of Sad'ada, and the north-eastern province of Aljowf. Nevertheless, it has started to spread out into other provinces, specially the provinces which have been traditionally the strongholds and centers of religion, such as Seyoun and Shibam in Hadhramaut, as well as other regions. Among its members are half a dozen members of the Council of Deputies, several of the major tribal leaders, and interestingly, a few university professors and several businessmen. The major objective of this party is to view and judge every issue from the point of view of religion (meaning Islam). It is an ardent believer in free enterprise as an economic system. Among the most striking beliefs indicated by the party is the fact that it considers itself the "heir"

entrusted to guide society. The most important mode of communication between the party apparatus and its members is the endless qat sessions, religious lectures, and sermons in mosques, and other meetings. The party does not possess its own newspaper as yet, although it intends to issue one shortly.

Although it has a religious base, this party does not see eye to eye with the other religiously-based political organisation in Yemen - the Yemeni Congregation for Reform. In comparison, the Hizb Al-Haq is by far less worldly. However, the two religiously-based parties do agree on the need to subjugate all laws and codes (including the new constitution) to the Islamic Sharia.

The detailed program of action, and the specific objectives will be made available to the public following the official inauguration of the party, in two months time.

LOCAL ECONOMIC BRIEFS

Yemeni-Danish Trade Ties Grow



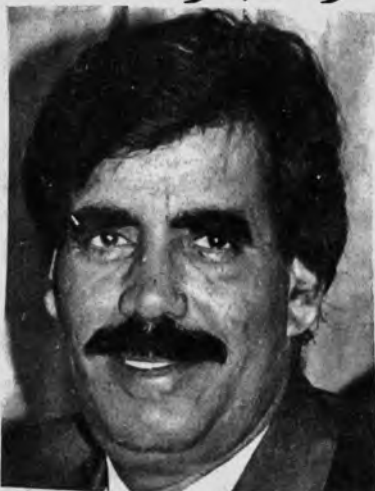
Since his arrival here in December, Mr. Hans Hugo From has been busy trying to upgrade the already existing Trade Office to the status of Vice Consulate. These efforts come within the framework of consolidating the trade links between Yemen and Denmark. The volume of trade during 1990, although decreasing from earlier levels, was a healthy US\$ 40 million which is considerable taking into account the fact that Denmark, with a population of about 5 million, is one of Europe's smaller countries. Mr. From says, "I am here to strengthen contacts and widen the links by looking for new avenues and opportunities for trade." Mr. From continues, "I also see new possibilities once the Aden Free Trade Zone is established for transit facilities to other areas in the Arabian Peninsula.. If the

setup is good, there would be plenty of opportunities for Dutch Companies to setup business here thus giving job opportunities to the Yemenis".

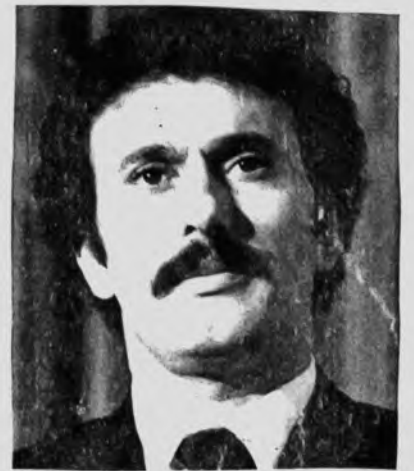
Regarding Danish aid to Yemen, the Vice Consul indicated that over the last two years, there have been some Danish contributions, particularly to the former South Yemen. Danish-financed aid projects in Aden include water supply, building pumping stations and laying of pipes. In the formerly North Yemen, the Danes financed building fishing ports and port facilities in Hodeidah. "Last year, we supplied telecommunication cables for the

Continues on p. 7

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MAKKI: YEMEN'S FORTUNES ARE IMPROVING!

Two months ago, an official statement was released declaring 22nd May 1991 as the first day of the new free trade zone in Aden. Since then many Yemeni individuals and groups from the private and public sectors as well as foreign ambassadors in Sana'a paid many visits to Aden to survey the possibilities of future business. To shed more light on the developments of the Aden free zone, YEMEN TIMES interviewed Dr Hassan M. Makki, First Deputy Prime Minister. Excerpts of the interview follow::



Q. As Chairman of the committee assigned to study the proposed free zone in Aden, what are your conclusions?

A. We made several visits to the area and established close contacts with those directly responsible for the operation of the ports, Aden refinery and other facilities. The committee, with some foreign input, has completed its preliminary study. Our conclusions include a proposal to urgently establish an 'Authority' whose basic task will be to present a detailed proposal of the rules and measures needed to implement the zone in accordance with the 'Investment Law' expected to be promulgated shortly.

This 'Authority' will also be responsible for strengthening international contacts to invite all those companies interested in establishing businesses in the free trade zone. Among the authority's immediate tasks is also to provide the required services for trade and industry, export, re-export and bunkering. It will also be authorized to seek funds and expand the existing port facilities and build up new ones to meet the future needs.

Q. As an economist, how do you assess the future of the free zone, and the whole Yemeni economy?

A. We want this free zone to be a gateway to the whole of Yemen in the positive sense. We do not want it to compete with our national economy, instead it is supposed to be a gateway or a bridge for the national economy. As regards the whole country, I think that the future of Yemen is very promising and there are indications of its growing economy despite the current difficult economic situation. Yemen's economy will regain its former growth rate and will embark on a steady modernisation and production process.

Q. Are there applications from companies to invest in the free zone?

A. We did not get into detail in that aspect, it will be upto the Authority of the Free Zone to follow up on this issue. There are some parties operating in the Gulf who have indicated strong interest. The Authority will, of course, benefit from other countries' experiences, specially places like Singapore, Hong Kong, etc.

Q. One of the major factors for success would be the legal and economic relations between the free zone and the hinterland (depth) of the country. How do you envisage the relations?

A. No doubt the 'Authority' would seek the appropriate amendments to the existing laws. I can point to the example of mainland China in this case. The main issues here relate to fears of smuggling already raised.

Q. During the last week, the Yemeni Riyal faced an acute problem. How do you assess the situation of Yemen's economy?

A. There are several basic factors which played a major role and created the current economic situation. This situation is the result of high (government) expenditure, reduction of foreign aid, very limited exports, and, of course, the fall-out of the Gulf War.

However, I personally feel optimistic that such a situation will not last for a long time. We should not consider the present situation as normal, but seek to remedy it. Some of the things we should do include more focus on the agricultural sector in order to cut down grain imports, to minimize oil consumption, and simultaneously seek to produce oil derivatives such as lubrication oils, grease, etc.

Q. In response to questions regarding the economic damages suffered by Yemen as a result of its adherence to UN Security Council Resolutions and while colossal sums of money have been allocated to other countries, Yemen did not receive any compensation?

A. The damages suffered by Yemen have been formally recognized by the parties concerned in the United Nations. Regrettably, the executive committee deciding such compensations, for reasons best known to them, have still not taken any action.

We still have high hopes that a minimum of impartiality will see light. Yemen's position has become increasingly understood and appreciated by many of the European and Arab countries. They now realize that our stand was neutral and not geared towards any immediate gains. The government is following up the issue and contacts continue with all parties concerned.

Q. How do you see Yemen's relation with its neighbours after the Gulf crisis?

A. Yemen did not take any steps to offend any party. It has been expressing its views, and it has the right to do so, even if such views are in the opinion of others right or wrong. We respect the government and people of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti ambassador and citizens enjoy full rights in Yemen and maintain their privilege on the same level as the Iraqis, or anybody else. Perhaps, Yemen's independent stand has been crystallized as it is the only Arab state to be a mem-

ber of the United Nations Security Council at the moment. Since there was no Arab unanimity, there was no chance for an Arab point of view. Yemen called for a peaceful solution to the crisis, and it did not recognize the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. It maintained that what happened could be remedied by peaceful means and without launching a war. Even those who supported the war option are beginning to have second thoughts today. I stress the fact the Yemen's stand was sincere and with brotherly feelings. The duty of the Arabs is to discuss their problems within the Arab family as much as possible and to collaborate with international circles to find out just and honorable solutions for all issues.

Q. In a few days, we will celebrate the Eid Al-Fitr holidays. Do you wish to convey a special message on the occasion?

A. I extend my best greetings to all. I wish on this occasion for a peaceful co-existence of all nations. Within

our region, I hope for a just solution to the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people, and the return of Arab solidarity and cooperation. Finally, best of luck and success to YEMEN TIMES and hope that all ministries, public and private sectors will effectively contribute to its growth at least through subscriptions. This weekly paper is the first Yemeni publication to highlight national problems and present the Yemeni point of view in a widely used foreign language- English. It deserves all support and I consider it as a national accomplishment.

Addendum:

Mr. Husain Al-Hubaishi, author of last week's "Personal View" wishes to re-express his views as follows: "Some people ask me what would happen if a high percentage of Yemenis say "No" to the Constitution. If these are the majority, then the answer is simple. The status quo remains in force until the constitution is redrafted."

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THE STORY OF YEMENI OIL IN A BOOK!

Mr. Ahmed Kayed Berat is Yemen's first engineer, having graduated from the United Kingdom in 1958. He is an old hand in matters of oil and minerals. He has just published a book entitled "Annaft fil Yaman" (Oil in Yemen), published by the Afif Cultural Foundation, February, 1991. YEMEN TIMES, a review of the book, went to speak to the author.



Q. Could you summarise the contents of the book you recently published on oil in Yemen?

A. The book is basically for the general reader. It is an introduction to the history of oil exploration in Yemen. But it starts about how oil is formed underground, the geological

structures, and a summary of the theories that have been put forward regarding the formation of oil. The book then gives a general picture of the efforts of international oil companies in discovering oil fields and the nature of oil concessions, especially in our area.

Finally I talk about oil in Yemen. Did you know that the first oil explorations in Yemen date back to 1953?

One of the first companies to start exploration was a German company. There were also visits by experts from the United Nations, all of which drew attention to the fact that the country's eastern region was oil-rich.

Q. You said that oil exploration in Yemen started

in 1953. How come oil production was delayed until 1984?

A. Oil production in Yemen was delayed due to local and regional factors. One of the important local factors was that the movement of foreigners in the country was restricted. The different areas of the country were isolated and there was no means of communication.

Also the tribes of the eastern regions were not prepared to meet "foreigners" from Sana'a, let alone the expatriates.

The regional factor was also crucial. Sufficient oil was produced in the neighboring countries to meet the global requirements. So production in Yemen was not considered necessary, specially given the difficulties posed at that time.

Q. Is the book available in the book stalls?

A. Yes, the distributor is Dar Al-Hikma.

Q. Will the publisher, the Afif Cultural Foundation, publish any more books?

A. This is the first of a series of books on culture. Eight books are planned

decides these matters. One of my colleagues on the board recommended that I write a book on oil. Another board member, Professor Muhammed Yusuf Abdullah, is writing a book on ancient Yemen.

Q. How long did it take you to write this book?

A. The actual writing of the draft took about five months and another three months for editing and publishing. Of course, researching, data gathering and analysis took much longer, but I depended heavily on my accumulation of knowledge on the subject through the years.

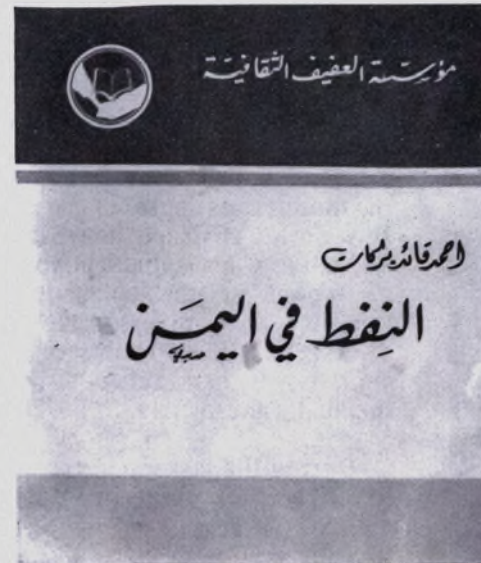
Q. Are the board members and/or authors paid?

A. No. The foundation works on a voluntary basis. All our efforts are free of charge. But the authors' actual expenses are, of course, covered by the foundation. This also includes the cost of publication. You will note that our compensation is more a moral and social nature.

for publication and the next one would be on women. The aim is to find issues of interest to society, and at the same time themes that will educate the people on the country and the world.

Q. How are themes and authors selected?

A. The foundation is managed by a board of trustees of which I am a member. It



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THE NEW YEMENI CONSTITUTION

The Final Segment

PART IV: THE JUDICIARY AND PROSECUTION OFFICE

Article (120):

The Judicial Authority is autonomous in performing its duties, and the judges are independent and not subject to any authority, except the law. No party may interfere in the cases or process of justice in any way, and such interference is a crime punishable by law.

Article (121):

The judiciary is a whole system. The law organizes this system in terms of ranks, responsibilities, the conditions and procedures for appointing, transferring, promoting judges and their other privileges. Exceptional courts may not be established under any conditions.

Article (122):

Members of the judiciary and general prosecution office may not be dismissed except under the conditions stipulated by

the law. They may not be transferred to any other profession except with their own consent, the approval of the relevant judiciary council, and as a punitive measure. The law defines the trial of the judiciary, and it organizes the lawyers' profession.

Article (123):

The law sets up the supreme judicial council which implements the guarantees provided to the judges in terms of their appointment, promotion, and dismissal.

Article (124):

A Supreme Republican Court is to be established by law which defines its formation, procedures, responsibilities, and duties which include giving decisions on the following:

- the constitutionality of the laws, ordinances, regulations, and systems.
- cases of conflict of responsibility between judicial bodies.
- cases of contested election results.
- decisions on articles

dealing with civilian, criminal and personal matters.
e) final decisions on administrative disputes, and punitive measures.

Article (125):

Court sessions are open unless a court determines, for reasons of security or general conduct, to hold sessions behind closed doors. In all cases, the session in which decision is handed is an open session.

PART V: THE REPUBLICAN EMBLEM, FLAG, AND NATIONAL ANTHEM:

Article (126):

The law stipulates the republic's insignia, emblems, badges, and national anthem.

Article (127):

The national flag is composed of three colors. These are, starting from the top: red, white and black.

Article (128):

The city of Sanaa is the Yemeni Republic's capital.

PART VI: BASIS FOR AMENDING CONSTITUTION, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS:

Article (129):

The Presidential Council and the Council of Deputies have the right to request an article or more of the constitution. The request should specify the articles which are to be amended, and the reasons for such an amendment. If the request is from the Council of Deputies, it requires the signature of one third of the members. Whatever the source of the request, the Council of Deputies discusses and decides, by a simple majority the principle of amending the constitution. If the Council decides against the principle of the amendment, another request for the same amendment may not be presented except after the lapse of one year thereof. If the Council decides in favor of the principle of the amendment, after two months,

the Council discusses the articles to be amended. If three-fourths of the Council of Deputies members approve the amended version, it takes effect.

Article (130):

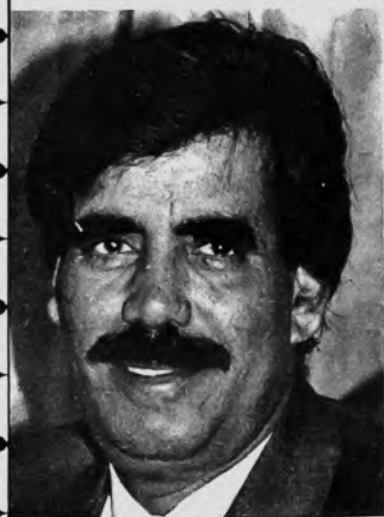
All decisions and laws in either of the two parts of Yemen that were in effect will continue to enjoy the power of law until they are amended according to the procedures and conditions stipulated in this constitution.

Article (131):

The text of the constitutional oath to be taken by the Chairman and members of the Presidential Council, members of the Council of Deputies, the Prime Minister and Cabinet members is as follows:

"I swear by the Almighty God to solemnly protect the republican system, and to respect the constitution and the law, and to covet the interests and freedom of the people completely, and to preserve the unity of the nation, and the sovereignty and safety of its lands.

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THE YEMENI UNIFICATION EXPERIENCE IS MOST RELEVANT TO KOREA'S UNIFICATION EFFORTS

Over the last year, two of three divided countries in the world were reunited. These were, of course, Yemen and Germany. The third country, Korea, hopes to follow the same path to unity. YEMEN TIMES went to speak to H.E. Mr. Chi Ho Lew, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (known as South Korea) on this matter. Here are excerpts of the interview.



Q. By studying the experience of German and Yemen unifications, what practical lessons have been learnt in the direction of the unification of North and South Korea?

A. The Yemeni experience is probably more relevant to Korea. Two lessons are specially pertinent from the Yemeni unification. Firstly, both countries have suffered from civil wars, which makes all initiatives in political compromise essential.

In the case of German unification, there was no fighting between the two countries nor were their any ill feelings. The problem was between the two governments. German unification took a different approach. Currencies were unified first, followed by an election and then the unification was formally announced.

In the Yemeni unification, the leaderships took a bold initiative by reaching political compromise first even when conditions for unification were not completed. That is why when the news of Yemeni unification reached Seoul, the first television crew to come here was from S. Korea. When President Saleh was inter-

viewed and asked what was the key to the success of the unification, he replied, "Do not let the other party feel defeated."

It was a very wise statement and widely reported in South Korea. The press coverage on Yemeni unification generated great interest among the Korean people. Earlier, the Koreans had thought that they could learn from the German unification. After ex-

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Q. How can Korea participate in the development of the oil industry in Yemen?

A. Judging from the Yemeni Government's statement including that of the Minister of Oil on the initial results of drilling in the Southern area and increased interest shown subsequently by foreign companies, I feel that Yemen has good prospects to increase oil production. South Korea imported crude oil from Yemen last year at the rate of about 20,000 barrels a day, thus making the balance of payments between the two countries in Yemen's favor. S. Korea does not produce oil but in line with the government's policy, Korean companies have expanded their overseas operations in oil development under the guidance of Korean Petroleum Development Company. We have had extensive cooperation with the former North Yemen, but so far we have had no involvement in the former South Yemen but as we get acquainted, we hope to cooperate in this area.

Q. What effect did the Yemeni unification have on bilateral relations between the two countries?

A. Re-unification brought about significant increase in the size of natural and human resources of Yemen. Well planned utilisation of these resources could provide greater potential to Yemen's economy. I am happy to say that bilateral

Excerpts from the Statement on UN Memberships made by ROK Foreign Minister, Lee Sang-Ock, on March 8:

It is with deep regret that North Korea still maintains the single seat formula for membership in the United Nations. South Korea believes that the entry of both Koreas to the UN simultaneously is in conformity with international law, and it will facilitate the Korean reunification process. We have in the examples of the two Germanys and the two Yemens a clear precedent. It is our belief that parallel membership will create an additional forum for cooperation, contact and exchange of points of view.

The Government of the Republic of Korea will do its utmost to enable South and North Korea to join the UN during this year. If North Korea is not forthcoming, it is our firm belief that our admission to UN membership will facilitate North Korea's joining the UN

relations have become closer in the areas of economy and trade. The cooperation in the fishing industry has been well received and as the Gulf situation stabilises, the economic indicators of Yemen are certain to be more comfortable. The establishment of a Yemeni embassy in S. Korea last year is also expected to encourage the Korean private sector to play a larger role in Yemeni economy.

Q. What is the potential for cooperation in the Aden Free Trade Zone?

A. It is too early to predict how we can cooperate in this area because plans are still under intense study in Yemen, and the legislature on foreign investment is yet to be finalised. We are hoping that under the technical assistance program, some senior officials of the Yemeni Government could visit South Korea to study our experience in the operations of the two free trade zones there.

Q. Is there any plan for establishing joint committees at the working or ministerial levels between the two countries?

A. S. Korea established diplomatic relations with Yemen only in 1985 and the embassy was opened in 1987. Ever since, there has been no visit to Korea by a Minister of the cabinet rank from Yemen while the Korean Minister

for Energy and Natural Resources has paid two visits to Yemen. We have joint ministerial committees established with only a few countries while in most cases, joint committees are set up at the working level headed by an undersecretary or of similar rank. So, the first step would be for a senior Yemeni official to visit Seoul for closer discussions of the possibilities of more cooperation.

Q. Korea is a very old civilisation and has a rich culture. Is there any thought on the part of the Embassy for cultural exchange and cooperation?

A. I hope there will be increased cultural exchange in the future but at the moment there are no specific plans. Exchange of people between Yemen and Seoul is limited at the present. If the trade and economic relations between the two countries increase, there is every likelihood of more cultural exchange.

Q. What can the governments do to promote more cooperation?

A. The Yemeni system is based on the market economy and that is very encouraging. In joint cooperation, the private sector is very important because what the government can do is very limited. So we should concentrate on creating the necessary incentives for more private business. I think that is the best approach in developing our cooperation.

**THE KOREAN COMMUNITY CONGRATULATES
THE YEMENI PEOPLE, GOVERNMENT AND LEADERSHIP ON
EID AL-FITR. KULLU A'AM WA ANTUM BIKHAIR.**

SALEH ASKS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Addressing Yemeni businessmen, economists, investors, members of the chamber of commerce and industry and bank officials who attended a Ramadhan evening session on Wednesday 3rd April, President Saleh urged Yemenis to invest their capital in the homeland where care, protection and support will be provided by the government.

"Our policy in building our economy does not depend either on those of the right or left wing philosophies. It is based on Yemeni concepts and values making maximum use of all the positive aspects in our potentials and aspirations," President Saleh said.

Expressing his hope, President Saleh said all should bypass the past with all its shortcomings and take investment initiatives to build a new Yemen. We have started a new stage and there is no going back to the past. All private rights and ownerships have been maintained by the constitution. The government will act to solve all the problems inherited

from the past whether in areas of housing or land ownership.

Referring to the current economic crisis in the country, President Saleh clarified that the government suffers from scarcity of resources, and the country suffers from limited exports. Such a situation seriously calls us to depend on the cooperation of the native capital. President Saleh then reaffirmed that the multiparty system and democracy as the only option for a better future. President Saleh then asked the businessmen to hold regular meetings to exchange views and realize the gravity of the economic situation facing the nation. As a specific suggestion, President Saleh urged all to rationalize expenditures and combat all forms of waste and extravagance. He also appealed for more production. The economic problems facing the country, President Saleh said, are not the problem of the government alone, but the problem of all merchants and citizens. We should all seek a way out of this economic

despair and the proposals presented by the Federation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry will



receive full government attention.

President Saleh then disclosed the formation of the "High Economic Committee" chaired by Dr Mohamed Saeed Al Attar, Minister of Industry. The members include Dr Faraj Bin Ghanem, Minister of Planning and Development, Fadhle Mohsin, Minister of Supply and Trade, Mohamed Khadem Al Wajeh, Minister of Civil Service, Alawi Salami, Minister of

Finance, Saleh Abdulla Muthanna, Minister of Transport, the Deputy Governor of Central Bank,

Cont'd from p. 2

Yemeni-Danish...

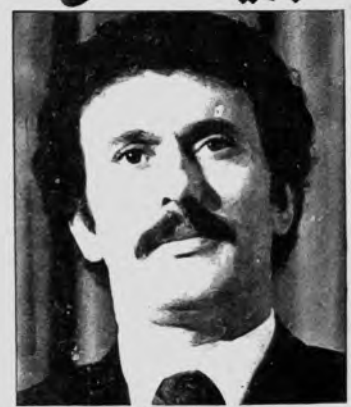
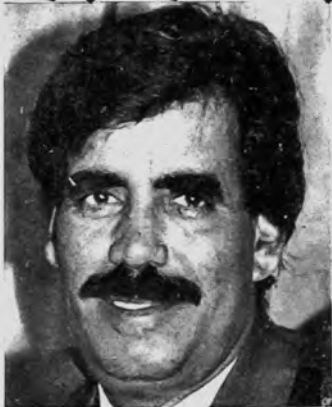
value US\$ 12 million, and there is favorable consideration for a new request this year,' Mr From said.

Following his meeting with Dr Al Haddad (in charge of the preservation of historical cities), Mr. proposed that Denmark adopt one of the old Yemeni houses and convert it into a museum at a total cost of US\$ one million which will be financed under the Danish technical supervision program.

Regarding his efforts to mobilize Yemeni exports to Denmark, Mr. From said, "I have already made some contacts. There is a good demand for Yemeni coffee. In Denmark, due to the cold winter, no vegetables are grown during the period November to June. Most of the vegetables are imported from Australia, California, Spain etc. It would be a good proposition to import vegetables from Yemen, but the transportation and packaging services will have to be improved."



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PERSONAL VIEW

TRAINING TEACHERS FOR THE FUTURE!



Dr. Waheeba Ghalib Far'e,
Vice Dean,
College of Education - Sanaa,
Sanaa University

Educational services in Yemen continue to grow in leaps and bounds to catch up with the demand that is expanding in geometric proportions. Starting from scratch three decades ago, educational services are provided today to over two million boys and girls in more than ten thousand schools, and taught by roughly forty thousand teachers. The country is struggling to meet its needs of teachers through graduates of either of the two systems of teacher training institutes, as well as the numerous colleges of education.

The Ministry of Education has embarked on a program to raise the standard of teaching as a profession, and teachers as an important factor in the development process. This is specially critical in the case of teachers at the elementary level.

The most pressing problem in this regard is the conflict or rather the dilemma between the mass-scale production necessitated by the unsatiable demand on the one hand, and the need to produce quality teachers, on the other hand. One step towards the solution is the new requirements in the qualifications of elementary teachers which have been raised from secondary graduation certificates to community college certificates. Soon this requirement could hopefully be raised to the university graduation certificates. This progress, will, of course, place new responsibilities and burdens on the colleges of education. But, if we adopt a sound medium to long term plan, as we are talking about five-to-ten years hence, it can be done. The establishment of colleges of education through-out the country is already part of the solution. The newer colleges can draw on the expertise of the older colleges, like the one in Sanaa. But performing this duty and overcoming its pendent problems will require a lot of efforts, and considerable resources. The question is, "Are the relevant authorities willing and able to commit such efforts and resources?"

REVIEW OF THE YEMENI PRESS

26th SEPTEMBER
28/3/1991

"Sanaa's Urban Growth"

Many cities suffer from what is called "population and constructional growth" which leads to the congestion of cities due to demographic pressures. The most important factor which feeds this phenomenon is the rural-to-urban migration. These symptoms are evident in the case of Sanaa.

The Sanaa basin allowed the city to receive population flows, and undergo constructional growth with minimum problems, so far. But this does not mean that we should overlook future growth. The unique location of Sana'a gives it its role in linking the other Yemeni cities and makes it the centre of communication and road network. It is also one of the ancient human settlements. This led to an enormous growth and expansion in constructional development to an area of 40, square kms.

In 1930, the population of Sana'a was estimated at 18,000 persons. In 1962 the population was estimated at 55,000 inhabitants.

According to the 1986 census, the figure was 427,189. It is not unlikely that it could have exceeded half a million (?) particularly due to the arrival of Yemeni immigrants from neighbouring countries. The increasing flow of people and the housing expansion in the capital of Sanaa has had unfavorable consequences, such as, unemployment, begging, crimes and other unfavorable social phenomena.

But what are the causes of

such rapid growth?

The economic motive comes at the top of all causes since manpower flows (internal migration) towards cities to look for opportunities for employment to ensure a better life. If we do not pay serious attention to the the rural-to-urban migration, the human flows may expand in future and yield negative consequences such as increases in prices of land, real estate, rents, etc. Another bad consequence is the lower production in rural areas. Those rural families who are attracted to settle in cities abandon agricultural occupations. Therefore, we must undertake comprehensive and flexible planning involving the state and the citizen so that the responsibility may be mutual and based on demographic and social cooperation and consciousness. I give below some ideas in this regard:

1. Implementation of verti-

cal and horizontal expansion in residential units based on geomorphological surveys of the land on which those buildings are to be constructed.

2. To provide utilities and services in towns and suburbs to reduce the pressure in Sana'a.

3. To adopt a population strategy leading to a population consciousness quantitatively and qualitatively.

4. To encourage the construction of residential projects and to provide various work opportunities which would realize development and economic growth in the other towns and suburbs.

5. To link more areas in towns with the communications network which would facilitate the provision of the needs of the Yemeni countryside.

by: ABDUL QADER
YAHYA AL SAMAWI
SANA'A UNIVERSITY



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YEMENI WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE

NAGAT N. ELDUWAIS
Career Woman

Women played a vast role in the history of Yemen. Their contributions were in all fields - social, political and economical. Some were famous philologists, others were involved in culture. In fact, two of the most famous Yemeni rulers were women - Queen Bilqis before Islam and Queen Arwa Bint Ahmed Al-Sulaihi after Islam.

Whenever we want to discuss the situation of Yemeni women today, we should relate to the changes that occurred in the country. These changes include the migration in huge numbers of Yemeni men to the oil rich Arab countries in search of jobs. Migration is not new to Yemen as the exodus of tribes is a recur-

rent phenomenon throughout Yemeni history all the way until the recent past.

Social changes have taken place throughout Yemen's history, but the years 1962 and 1963 mark very significant milestones. As a result of the 26th September, 1962, and the 14th October, 1963, revolutions, Yemen entered the age of modernisation. Within this framework, the momentum of social change accelerated.

Education was considered as one of the most important factors towards modernisation; thus it was made free for all citizens. Education became widely recognised as a vehicle for the advancement of the individual as well as the society.

As per Islamic teachings, women reasserted their rights, and the quest for freedom from male domi-

nance started. The first vehicle for this was education, and once educated, women began to seek a place in the public life. As a result, women exercised their rights in the business world - to buy and sell property, to take up employment, to start private ventures, and above all, to participate in the political life.

Nowadays, one can find women employed in schools, banks, hospitals, government offices, industries, etc. Such new engagements have not led her to neglect her responsibilities as a housewife and mother. As a result, a career women shoulders double the responsibilities and duties. In spite of this, there are still some men who consider women as inferior and can not accept her as an equal citizen and partner in life.

Somalia After Siad Barre

Sahel Yussuf Mohamed
Teacher at
Taiz Religious Institute

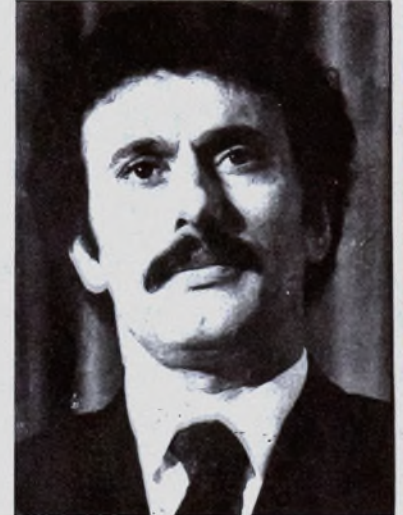
Since he came to power following a military coup on 21st October 1969, Mr. Siad Barre and his men retained unchallenged control over the country assisted by the flow of illegitimate military and economic aid from a few states with vested interests in the continuation of the Barre regime. Under various pretexts, the Barre regime practised nepotism, corruption, embezzlement of public money, and abused power by condemning dissidents to death or long prison sentences. Those practices were sufficient enough to push the people to the end of their endurance. The start of the war between Somalia and Ethiopia added to the misfortunes for both Siad Barre and the people of Somalia. Turmoil became rampant, and the army was called in to subdue the people. Government atrocities included mass genocide and vandalism, uprooting whole tribes, continued bloodshed and war, etc. As a result, thousands of Somalis fled the country in search of refuge. Finally the people

rose up in arms. Armed opposition was based on tribal affiliation although they took up nationalist titles like the Somali Socialist Democratic Front (SSDF) representing the Majertein tribe, the Somali National Movement (SNM) of the Isaac tribe, the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM) of the Ogaden people, the Somali Democratic Alliance (SDA) of the Gadu Birsi tribe, the Somali Democratic Movement (SDM) of the Rahan Weyn people, and the United Somali Congress (USC) of Hawiye tribe.

After fierce fighting, Siad Barre was finally ousted. However, the SSDF and SPM which formerly professed to be anti-government, joined hands with the ousted leader's army and opposed the interim government. This was a treacherous plot to divide the country further. Any group attempting to establish a system of government along tribal loyalties will take back the country a barbaric past.

Our people can rely only on Islam for the restoration of peace and for building a new and glorious post Siad Barre Somalia. Islam is our only rallying point and salvation.

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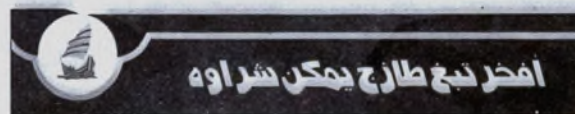
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- LOANS AND LEASE FINANCING	29,011
- SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS AND OTHER PARTIES	7,898
- INVESTMENT SECURITIES	5,715
- INVESTMENTS IN ASSOCIATED COMPANIES	270
- GOODWILL AND FIXED ASSETS	1,641

TOTAL ASSETS	67,507
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LIABILITIES IN MILLION US DOLLARS

- DEPOSITS FROM BANKS	27,909
- CUSTOMERS DEPOSITS	24,185
- SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS	7,229
- LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	4,575
- PROVISIONS	843
- MINORITY INTERESTS	969
- CAPITAL AND OWN FUNDS	1,615
- NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	182

TOTAL LIABILITIES	67,507
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SPORTS

LUCIANO EVALUATES PROSPECTS OF YEMENI FOOTBALL TEAMS

The Coach of the First Unified Football Team talks about football in Yemen and his coaching style. Ahmed Luciano Abreo, from Brazil, is Yemen's football team coach. A conservationist-minded, deep-thinking person, Luciano was converted to Islam. YEMEN TIMES spoke with him about football in Yemen today and the prospects. He spoke in fluent yet heavily accented English.

Prior to his coaching job in Yemen, Mr. Luciano, after leaving Brazil in 1981, coached the Nigerian national team for two years, and the Al Jabalain Club in Hayel, Saudi Arabia for three years. He came to the formerly North Yemen in 1988. One of his early accomplishments was the advance of Yemen's team to third place (After the teams of China and the United Arab Emirates) in the Asian Football Cup.

Q. When you first came to Yemen, you used to travel around the country to investigate the ways Yemenis lived. What did you find?

What do you remember?

A. That was in 1988. I find the people here nice and hospitable. I haven't encountered any major difficulty adjusting myself to life here because I'm used to Muslim cultures and traditions. I was in Nigeria for two years and in Saudi Arabia for three years. I associated wonderfully with the people. I have been invited to homes for lunch, dinner, snacks. But the best thing I like is that all people here are football fanatics.

Q. But would you put 5 or 10 years of your life in here?

A. I'll tell you, the priorities are funny with growing old. Finally though, my ambition and desire are to train young athletes and that can be fulfilled here.

Q. Do you think the newly formed unified team of North and South Yemen stands a better chance in future competitions?

A. There are lot of good and talented athletes from the former South and North Yemen. I just returned from Aden where I supervised the training of the football athletes there. I conducted some lectures and

seminars to the local coaches and I was very pleased by the response. Seventeen local coaches from the different clubs around the city of Aden attended.

Q. What is your assessment of Yemen's football future?

A. Yemeni athletes are very smart, they have the right attitude to this sport, and finally the sports programs are not very expensive activities. Thus, the future of sports, in general, and football in particular, is rather bright.

Q. Other countries send their national teams out in order to gain more experience and knowledge so as to perform better in competitions. Is that a good policy for Yemen?

A. Some countries like Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain send their athletes for training abroad. First because they can afford it, and secondly because training cannot take place locally for almost half of the year due to the weather. But in our case we are training under conditions where the weather is suitable year-round.

Q. It must be difficult for you to name the athletes for the national team. What are

your criteria in selecting the athletes?

A. First of all, there is always criticism coming your way once you choose the athletes to play a game. At the moment, the second round of the local football league among the leading clubs of Aden and Sana'a was just finished. We will do the finals after Ramadan, maybe in May. Selection will depend on performance in this competition. This is good because they will work hard since there is a wide variety of good athletes competing from the North and South. The second selection criterion is, of course, seniority and achievements.

Q. Can you give me the name of the local football athlete that you admire most?

A. Yes, I like the style of Sharaf Mahfoodh.

Q. One last question. What are your plans for Yemen in the coming Olympic games to be held in Barcelona, Spain?

A. Immediately after the finals of the local football competitions, we will select



the National Team so that he and the boys can prepare for the coming elimination rounds. Thirty players will be chosen from the different clubs. Through training rounds, the number will be reduced to twenty three. By the time of departure, only twenty will be included in the squad. Yemen is grouped with Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Iran and Pakistan in the preliminary round.

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YEMENI CAREER WOMEN CARRY A DOUBLE BURDEN - AT HOME AND AT WORK

Amat Al-Aleem Sousuwah, has been newly appointed as Assistant Deputy Minister of Information with the rank of Deputy Minister. Thus, she becomes the highest ranking female in the government today. She is an old hand in information and media affairs, and holds an MA in the same field. YEMEN TIMES took the occasion to talk to her.

Q. You are, I believe, the first female Deputy Minister in the Sanaa government. How does it feel to be the highest ranking woman in the government?

A. This is the first time that a woman has held the post of a Deputy Minister in unified Yemen. But you will kindly note that there had been a deputy minister in the former South Yemen. In my opinion it is a big responsibility and a challenge. I hope this is not going to be the first and last chance for a female to be appointed to a senior post in this country because there are many qualified women in Yemen and they certainly can do a good job in any position they may hold. It has been a positive step on the part of the government in giving equal opportunities to women. I hope that I will be able to carry out my responsibilities well and prove that we are equally qualified as the men.

Q. What are your plans regarding the programs on radio and television now that you are in charge of this?

A. I have many ideas and plans. To start with, I would like to build a data base to supply us with information to be gathered from and about our viewers and listeners. I plan to initiate research in this area in order to obtain feedback from our viewers and listeners.

Q. Does that mean there will be program ratings?

A. It would be a part of my plans. I know it will cost a lot of money and many hours but at the end it will be worth getting the correct feedback.

Q. How do you compare career women with other women in Yemen?

A. Career women have dual responsibilities- they take care of their home responsibilities as well as their job duties. It really calls for a lot of hard work and they have to struggle to balance both sides. They have to prove that they are good mothers, housewives, etc., as well as prove that they are good in their respective jobs. Our society does not encourage such life style of women. I am not recommending that all women should work, but those women who are educated and well qualified should put their knowledge to work by taking up jobs, if they choose to do so.

Q. What are the major

problems facing career women in our society?

A. There are many problems, specially if the working women have children. It would a very important decision for such women to choose between taking care of their children, at least in their early childhood, and between their career prospects. In my opinion, it is very important for women to concentrate on bringing up their children till they are capable of taking care of themselves and then the regain their freedom to pursue their career. This would mean foregoing seniority, promotions, etc., but such a sacrifice eventually would be for the better.

Q. You are promoting the role of career women in this country. Why haven't more women been forthcoming in taking up jobs especially in nursing and other services?

A. The problem is that most of the women in our country lack the necessary education to take up such jobs, and the pay is not that good. Also there is no encouragement from the government. Finally the social attitude in our country is such that it does not respect Yemeni women taking up such jobs.

Q. Are there any women associations which could provide information, raise social awareness regarding the contribution of women to society?

A. There were many women's associations. Following the reunification, they



were all merged to form one union. The first function of any such union is to bring to the attention of all women, their status in society, their rights, etc. In our case, unfortunately, our union is still in its development stage. Also many women do not wish to directly link themselves with the union as they feel it is too politicized. Furthermore, the leadership of the union is not fully aware of the changes in society and not much is done to change the strategies.

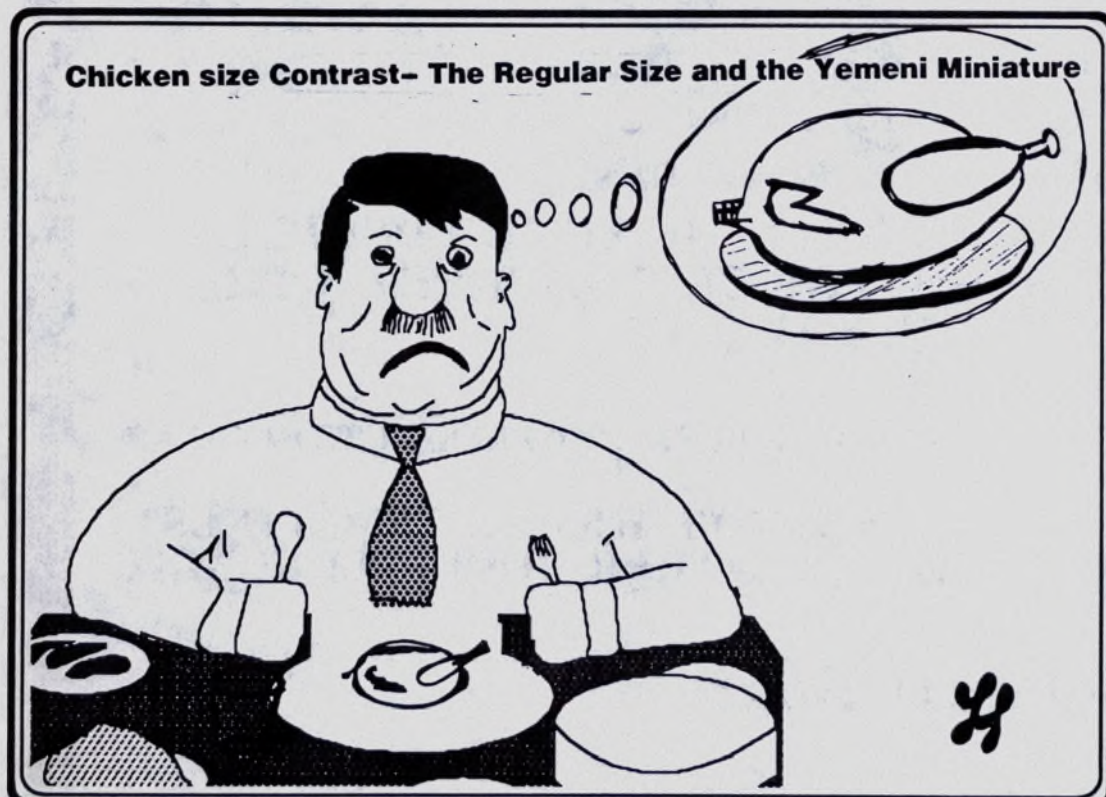
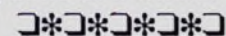
Q. Some women actually represent a more serious hindrance to the progress of career women. Could you comment?

A. Yes, that is a correct statement and I face this almost every day. Some of the women are more hardcore anti-career women than the men themselves, mainly because they have been programmed by the religious, political and social values of our society. During my childhood, I found it normal to go to school. Today, I am surprised that there are some

women who try to persuade other women not to send their daughters to school due to religious beliefs. It is very unfortunate to see such things happen because in our religion, it is very clearly stated that education is the duty of all. Islam has called upon all (including women) to be educated, go to work, etc. It is very important for us to believe in certain values such as the value of education, value of work, and the value of self-esteem, and not to give them up under any circumstances. There are many women who are willing to participate in society's well-being and they can prove that they are equally qualified and capable of doing jobs as efficiently as men.

Q. Do you have any final words on this occasion?

A. I will work very hard and diligently to create a different attitude towards career women. Of course I will assist women as much as I can, but my work and responsibility is towards the public as a whole.



CABINET RESHUFFLE IMMINENT

Reliable sources informed YEMEN TIMES that a cabinet reshuffle is imminent (before 22nd May, the first anniversary of the country's unity). The sources added that two factors are pressing for the reshuffle. On the one hand, the need for a broad-based government has become the demand of both the government and opposition parties. On the other hand, more than half a dozen government ministries are paralyzed because the top two guys are not even on talking terms, let alone working terms. Hence the reshuffle. Behind the scene negotiations are presently underway to redistribute the portfolios, and to decide which posts will go to which opposition parties. It is expected that twelve current ministers will be out of the government