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16 December - 30 December 2006 . Vol.1 Issue 12. www.alaintimesuae.com 2 Dhs

Proudly published by AlphaBeta Publishers, Al Ain

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## THE AL AIN DIALOGUE DIVERSIFYING THE OIL ECONOMY

### Seeking Regional Solutions for Sustainable Development

#### A Gulf SoL Event

'The Al Ain Dialogue, Diversifying the Oil Economy... Seeking Regional Solutions for Sustainable Development' concluded Tuesday, December 12, in Al Ain, UAE. Sponsored by the Gulf Society of Organizational Learning (GulfSoL), multinational Gulf leaders dialogued on creating sustainable economic develop-



ment to benefit the next generation and all those that follow. The discussions between one hundred seventy representatives from business, academia, and government were concluded with a presentation by HRH Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Secretary General for the Saudi Supreme Commission for Tourism. On the topic of 'Building Innovation and Learning in Government,' HRH Prince Sultan said, "Learning is critical today. It's a new and different world, changing by the hour. People who don't learn don't get up to speed, and are left behind."

The two-day conference started on Monday at the Al Ain Palace Museum,

former residence of UAE visionary Sheikh Zayed. The first presenter, Mohammed Al-Fahim, Chairman Emeritas, Al-Fahim Group, talked about his childhood of growing up in that same palace in 'Building Connections: Bringing the Past into Focus.' "None of us had anything at that time, even Sheikh Zayed. Yet he made sure that all of us were sent all over the world to be educated to bring our learning back to help our country."

Sparked by the growing realization that oil alone cannot sustain GCC economic growth over the long term, the group shared experiences and ideas on securing long term economic, social, and environmental well-being of Gulf communities. Sustainable development translates into the quality of life the current generation leaves to generations that follow. 'We have a window of opportunity right now. With capital from this second oil boom, we can invest in endeavors that will create new opportunities for our children and grandchildren,' said scheduled keynote speaker, Salim Al-Aydh, Senior Vice President of Saudi Aramco Engineering & Operations Services.

Shielded by a tent from foggy and rainy weather, participants continued discussions on December 12 at the Mercure Grand Hotel, Jebel Hafeet. Dr. Peter Senge—author of 'The Fifth Discipline,' renowned business strategist, MIT Senior Lecturer, and international Society of Organizational Learning (SoL) Founding Chair—helped participants explore diverse perspectives on issues critical to a healthy economic future in the Gulf. In facilitating conference dialogues, he said, "The value in the dialogues is that they serve as a catalyst for moving forward. We are here to ask ourselves and each other, 'What will be our contribution to the future?'"

Dialogues followed each of a series of presentations on strategic topics. Dr. Nahed Taher, CEO of Gulf Investment Bank, presented 'Investing for the Long Term: Building a Sustainable Foundation for Prosperity.' She said, "We need to face problems in the GCC economies, and work hard to overcome them as soon as possible... for our children. National security comes from fighting poverty. We need to create jobs."

In contrast to traditional practices importing labor in the unskilled job categories, Dr. Peter Cappelli, Senior Advisor to the Economic Development Board of Bahrain and Professor of Management at the Wharton School, stated, "Using local labor has been proved to increase productivity as well as improve job conditions."

December 12 afternoon sessions broke the group into three separate tracks. In "Sustaining what Matters: Local Identity in a Global Economy," participants compared the benefits and costs of double-digit growth in Dubai.

The two other sessions covered "Building Workplace Skills Collaboration Between Education and Business," and "Promoting Local Innovation: Regional Experiments to Enable Research and Business Incubation"

UAE University assisted GulfSoL with the event. Students were heavily involved in local implementation.

HRH Prince Sultan sent participants back to their countries, businesses, and universities with this thought, "If you love your country and you love your soil, you can make miracles happen."

## Editor's Note

When my father - God rest his soul - was taken ill 11 years ago, we travelled from the U.A.E to Switzerland so that he could be treated.

As we were far from home and in a foreign country, we were surprised to find Arabic food delivered to us everyday. Mystery evaporated when we had a much greater surprise. One day, Sheikha Fatima came to visit.

It was her habit, while abroad to visit all Emirati patients and send them food to help them feel more at home.

This is just one example of how Sheikha Fatima holds the hearts of all the people. With her tenderness, care and reaching out to those here and abroad, she truly is the 'mother of the U.A.E'.

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## In Focus

# A Spiritual Journey

*'Here I am at Thy service O  
Lord, Here I am*

*I am at Thy service and Thou  
hast no partners*

*Thine alone is all praise and all  
bounty, Thine alone is sovereignty*

*Thou hast no partners'*

*"Labayk Allahuma Labayk*

*Labayka La Shareek Lakka Labayk*

*Inal Hamdah, Wal Ni'imatah, Laka  
Wal Mulk*

*'Here I am at Thy service O Lord,  
Here I am*

*I am at Thy service and Thou hast  
no partners*

*Thine alone is all praise and all  
bounty, Thine alone is sovereignty*

*Thou hast no partners'*

*La Shareek Lak"*

It is the time to abandon the flawed world and come to God. It is the time for Hajj-the pilgrimage. Those who are capable will go to Mecca, while others stay behind and join in the celebrations of Eid Al Adh'ha.

For fourteen centuries, innumerable millions of Muslims, men and women from every corner of the world, have made the pilgrimage to Mecca, the birthplace of Islam. Hajj, beginning in the 12th month of the lunar Muslim year, is a commemoration of love and a celebration of faith that brings together Muslims of all races and tongues.

Hajj means visiting the House of God, the Ka'abah, and carrying out all the acts of worship that has been ordered to be performed there. It is obligatory on a person once in his lifetime provided he has reached puberty and is physically and financially able to perform it.

The pilgrim is required to wear special garments that are very simple and that strip away distinctions of class and culture so that all stand equal be-



fore God. Pilgrims circle the Ka'abah, meditate, pray, drink the holy water Zam Zam and celebrate Eid Al Adh'ha where Muslims around the world participate in this happy occasion. Sheep and other animals are sacrificed, and their meat is passed out to the poor.

Before leaving Mecca, pilgrims usually make a final tawaf around the Ka'abah to bid farewell to the sacred city. According to the social traditions of some countries, pilgrim can proudly claim the title Hajj or Hajja. The pilgrims feeling cleansed and reborn free of sin return to their homelands with a sense of spiritual serenity intending to turn over a new leaf.

- Maha Tatanaki

Photographs: [www.islam.org/hajj](http://www.islam.org/hajj)

### GLOSSARY OF ISLAMIC TERMS:

**Adaan:** the call to prayer (salat), usually issued from the mosque

**Eid Al Adha':** a festival of sacrifice. An animal is sacrificed and passed out to the poor.

**Hajj:** - One of the five pillars of Islam.- Set of acts of worship to be performed in and around Mecca at least once in a lifetime by every Muslim.

**Ihram:** - garb of the male pilgrim worn during Hajj - consists of two pieces of white plain cloth, one of the pieces wrapped around the midriff and the other around the shoulders.- ladies wear ordinary unpretentious clothes.

**Ka'abah:** - a cubic structure originally built by Prophet Abraham and his eldest son Ishmael. - daily Muslims turn towards it to perform their prayers.

**Mahram:** - the husband, or a male companion of a female pilgrim (E.g. father, brother, uncle, nephew, etc.) - a woman must be accompanied by a mahram for Hajj for her own protection.

**Zam Zam:** sacred water in Mecca which sprang forth under Ishmael's baby feet.



## What's New

# The Sound of Music at the House of Arts

**A**s I walked in to the House of Arts, introduced to me as an institution for the teaching of the arts, I was struck by the simplicity and serenity of it all. A lovely room named "Café Concerto" met me on my right, set with a gleaming white piano and simple black chairs - a room for the artists and aspiring artists to relax and have a cup of coffee or juice.

I sat down with Ms Gabriele Malzahn, the founder of the House of Arts, over a glittering glass of Apple juice in the "Café Concerto".



into the arts and there was a large demand for musical activities. By founding the House of Arts, I wanted to create a place where artists of different kinds could meet and stimulate each other, and where one could learn the arts. Music was a great part of my life, and I would love for everybody to experience the beauty of performing music with others."

Ms Malzahn sat to the piano and the room resounded with a captivating melody in fine execution.

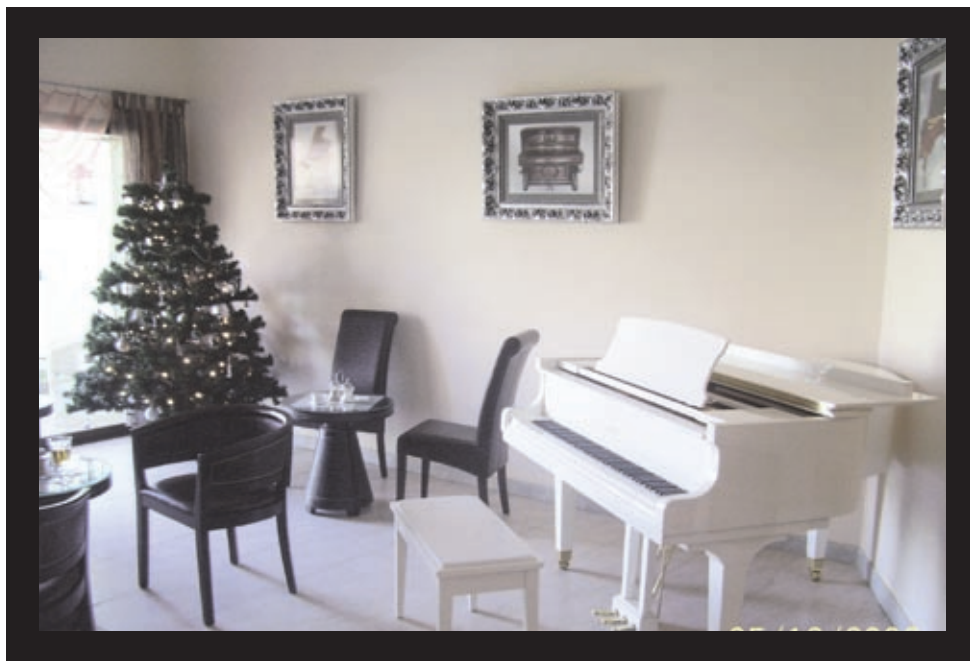
There are classes for the young and old, the beginners and the advanced. Lessons in guitar, piano, drums and violin as well as voice lessons. Each

*"I wanted to create a place where artists of different kinds could meet and stimulate each other"*  
- Gabrielle Malzahn

student is advised as to his ability and level before joining any class and students have the option of registering for music examinations from the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College.

Teachers in group classes ascertain that each student receives the attention needed. Students are also given the unique opportunity to perform in regular concerts and recitals to build up on confidence and presentation.

Ms Malzahn took me on a tour. We climbed the "Starry Stairway" to visit the "Golden Guitar", "Piano Palace" and "Kinder Carousel" rooms. The



rooms were delightfully set up with instruments and simple furniture, radiant with light coming through the windows.

I am happy to find such a treasure of a place here, a place with the mission to "bring music and art to people living in

Al Ain, to provide a meeting and gathering point for all local talent". For all that seek, you have found what you are looking for.

- Reem Tatanaki

### 1- Tell me about yourself.

"I have lived in Alain for over 8 years to date. I was an Opera singer and have a teaching diploma in music. When I first arrived in Alain, I discovered it was difficult to find fellow artists and meet with them to share and practice our arts. I therefore took the initiative. I organized my own concerts in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Alain and started to teach."

### 2 - What was the purpose behind creating the House of Arts?

"I realised a great many people were

## Coffee & Luxury

Scalini Cafe is finally open.

It has the GREATEST coffee. On my first visit, I tried the 'Mudslide Mocha'. Immediately hooked.

Scalini is not a franchise, it's owned by an Al Ain resident Mr Ahmed Shikili. The secret behind their outstanding cup of coffee is an Arabian brand imported from Italy.

The place exudes a classic elegance and for those working people our there, there is even an area to conduct business meet-



ings, complete with presentation / T.V screen.

The setting was superb ,service was impressive and most importantly, the coffee was GREAT.

Scalini's doors are open and customers are welcome. The official opening of Scalini Cafe will not be until January.



**THE BOOKWORM CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA AT AL AIN HILTON HOTEL**

THE BOOKWORM IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT A BOOKFAIR WILL BE HELD IN THE BALLROOM OF THE AL AIN HILTON HOTEL

ON

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Park 'n' Shop Complex, Al Wasl Road, Dubai  
Tel: 04-394-5770

# Where and When

# Cinema

**Nadi Al Ain**  
03-7222255

 **Kabul Express (Indian)**  
11:30, 4:45, 11:30

 **Beda Dosthe (Malayalam)**  
1:45, 8:00



**COMPANY DETAILS**

www.alaintimes.ae / www.alaintimesuae.com

Chief Editor: Dr. Fadwa Al Mughairbi

Published by Alpha Beta Publishers and Media consultants  
PO Box 15229, Al Ain, UAE

Phone: (03) 767 1995 Fax: (03) 767 1997

Phone: (050) 449 1704

Emails: ads@alaintimesuae.com  
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Printers: Al Ghurair Printing & Publishing House LLC  
PO Box 5613, Dubai

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 **Saw III (18+)**  
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 **Apocalypto**  
10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15, 11:45

 **Kabul Express (Indian)**  
12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, 12:00

 **Eragon**  
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30

**GRAND CINEMAS** **Grand Rotana**  
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 **Saw III (18+)**  
10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00

 **Apocalypto**  
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30, 11:55

 **Mateegy Norqos (Arabic)**  
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50, 12:10

 **Eragon**  
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00

To advertise or add an event to the Agenda  
CALL US : 050 449 1704

AL AIN AGENDA - EVENTS IN THE CITY	Organizer	Activity	Venue	Date	Time
	The House of Art	Exhibition of hand knotted rugs	Hilton Hotel Al Ain, The Old Majlis, for more information call Mahmood 050-8675813	Saturday 16 - Sunday 17 December	11:30am-10pm
	Book Worm Bookshop	Bookfair	Hilton Hotel Al Ain, for more information please call 03-7686666	Saturday, 16 Dec Sunday, 17 Dec	12 noon - 8pm 9 am 1 pm
	Pacos	Christmas Quiz with Quiz Master Keith Norton, with prizes & surprises	Hilton Hotel Al ain, for more information please call 03-7686666	Monday, 18 Dec	From 8:30 pm
	Intercontinental Al Ain	Min Trio Concert	Intercontinental Al Ain, for more information, please call the hotel: 03-7686686	Wednesday, 20th Dec	
	Indian Social Centre	- Mehfil - Hindi - Women's Forum Activities: Art & Craft competition - Christmas & New Year Celebration	Indian Social Centre, for more information, please call Mr. Naushad 050-5831306	- Thursday, 21 Dec - Friday, 22 Dec - 28th or 29th Dec	
	Al Ain Evangelical Church	International Christmas Celebration	Church sanctuary on the grounds of the Oasis Hospital. For more information please call (03) 722-3337.	Friday, 22 Dec	9 am & 11 am respectively
	Al Ain Hilton	- Family Christmas Quiz, with quiz Master Keith Norton - Christmas Party	Hilton Hotel Al ain, for more information please call 03-7686666	- Friday, 22 Dec - Sunday, 24 Dec	- 4 pm 6 pm -call for details
	Arabesque restaurant The Wok Horse & Jockey Luce	Buffet & Santa visit	Intercontinental Al Ain, for more information please call 03-7686686	Sunday, 24 Dec (Christmas Eve.) Monday, 25 Dec (Christmas Day)	

# Lifestyle

Making

## Stuffed Vegetables



### Ingredients

- 5 small pieces zucchini, tomato, eggplant and capsicum
- Stuffing:
  - budle parsley chopped
  - 2 med tomato chopped
  - 1/2 kg mutton finely chopped
  - 1 cup egyptian rice
  - 1/4 cup oil
  - 4 med onions chopped
  - 2 Tb tomato paste
  - slat and pepper to taste
- Sauce
  - 1 cup water
  - 1 Tb tomato paste
  - 2 Tb oil

### Method

- Core the vegetables
- Mix stuffing ingredients in bowl
- Stuff vegetables
- Arrange stuffed vegetables in rectangular tefal pan
- Mix sauced ingredients together and pour onto the vegetables in the pan
- Cover the pan with aluminum foil
- Cook on stove on medium heat for 1 hr
- Remove foil
- Place under grill for 10 minutes to roast

Serves 5

**Quotes To Be Remembered**  
*'If everything Seems under control you're not going fast enough'*

Mario Andretti

## All About Nails

- Maha Tatanaki

### Tips to Keep Nails Strong & Healthy

Take a few moments a few times a week at least to check the condition of your nails – their color, the texture, the appearance of ridges or white marks. You will be pleased with the way they complement your wardrobe and your own personal style. Consider the following tips:

Drink lots of water. Keep your body hydrated everyday to maintain not only healthy nails but a wonderful complexion too.

Fortify your diet with vitamins, supplements and healthy food full with daily doses of Vitamin A, Vitamin C, calcium, folic acid, protein, Vitamin B12, and zinc.

Finish with a clear topcoat to add gloss and sheen.

Start with a base coat to strengthen and protect the nails.

Store nail polish in the refrigerator to maintain a smooth consistency.

Avoid using your nails as tools. This means no picking, scratching, digging, etc.

Increase the amount of calcium in your diet.

Use products containing alcohol, especially perfumed lotions, sparingly.

Wear rubber gloves when you do chores that involve continual submersion in water or contact with harsh detergents or chemicals.



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**CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD**

*Al Ain Evangelical Church proudly presents*

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION**

**Date: Friday, 22 December 2006**

**Times: 1<sup>st</sup> Service @ 09:00 am  
2<sup>nd</sup> Service @ 11:00 am**

**Venue: The Sanctuary  
Al Ain Evangelical Church  
Oasis Hospital Grounds, Al Ain**

**Snacks & refreshments to be served**  
**EVERYBODY WELCOME!**

## Features

### AJ Festival – 2006\*

On the 14 and 15 December 2006, Al Ain Juniors is celebrating its Festival to mark the inauguration of the school's new building and focus the attention of the people of Al Ain on the Hope Center- a center of children with special needs - an off shoot of Al Ain Juniors. Al Ain Juniors has been addressing its concern towards the mentally and physically challenged children for the last half a decade by establishing, and successfully running a 'loving home' by the name 'HOPE CENTRE' located at 'Oud al Tauba', Al Ain. A cluster of well trained Physiotherapists, Occupational and Speech-therapists support the healing touch to the well-being of 30 plus children in the Hope Centre of different nationalities including UAE citizens.

On 14th December 2006 we are dedicating the Hope Centre to the public with a greater commitment to explore enough resources for procur-

ing the electro-mechanical medi-care devices and systems to enhance and accentuate the human touch, needed for the fast recovery of these angels. The event will be marked with a grand stage presentation of Al Ain Junior's School students, depicting the misery, destruction and strife found rampantly in the world through a musical play 'The Dawn' coupled with a Arts & Science and Cultural Exhibition organized by the students and teachers of the AJ family.

We extend our humble request to all the citizens of the UAE, particularly the residents of Al Ain to support our noble cause by donating in any forms of your preference- through your generous donations or by medical equipments needed for the children with special needs. We anticipate your wholehearted compassion and concern.

*Mrs. Tanveer Arshad*

*Principal*

## "Ain Al Emarat", a new modern Al Ain city...

Al Qudra Real Estae of Abu Dhabi has launched its new unique project during the City Scape Exhibition in Dubai last week. The new project covers about 9,300,000 square meter and will be known as "Ain Al Emarat" which means "Eye of Emirates".

The project is unique of its kind as building a whole new city adjacent to Al Ain. The new Al Ain consist of residential, commercial, sports and entertainment facilities.

( Read more in the next issue of Al Ain Times ) .

*\*NO SYMPHONY CAN BE COMPOSED \**

*\*IF ALL INSTRUMENTS ARE NOT WELL TUNED\**

*\*BOTH THE OLD AND NEW INSTRUMENTS!!!\**

Given a quick glance at anything God Almighty has created would definitely urge a person to realize that everything is woven with such an intrigue and harmony that no single item is found to be odd or to be discarded. Even the branches of the trees spread in any direction give an aesthetic and thoughtful composition of synchronization. A music composer of any caliber can never succeed in producing a harmonized and pleasing to ears composition if he doesn't tune all his instruments to be played at on go.

A lot of adjustment has to take place

A lot of effort has to put...

Some old strings are to be tightened

Yet some new strings are to be loosened

This resonance of sounds does not come so easily

It requires heartfelt emotions

Well trained senses

Flair of gentleness

Prick of conscience

Fathom of deep thoughtfulness

Appreciation for artistic values

Adaptability of circumstances

Recognition of power of change

An aptitude for innovation & creativity

Vastness in imagination

A zeal for being genuine

And above all a true fear of God

*Conceived by: Abid Nathaniel*

*Vice Principal: Al Ain*

*Juniors School*

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#### Hospitals

Al Ain Hospitals  
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Tawam Hospital (03) 767 7444

#### Hotels

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Hilton Al Ain (03) 768 6666  
Intercontinental Resort (03) 768 6686  
Mercure Grand Hotel (03) 783 8888

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Megamart Al Jahli  
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# ? ? What is **YOUR** child watching? ? ?

What is your child watching?

More importantly, what is your child playing?

While many parents have learned to monitor the movies and television shows their child is watching, they have yet to realise the dangers of the videogames children and adolescents play.

Media such as television and games impact learning and social behaviour because they have come to replace play time with friends and family time. Also, hobbies such as reading and drawing have become almost obsolete as today's children want quicker solutions and would rather have visual storytelling than use their imagination in books with no pictures.

Tolerance is low and aggressive impulses are high. Violent video games have an even stronger effect than television because they employ the strongest teaching methods: interaction and decision making, rewards and repetition. Violent and aggressive games are very fun.

Taboos are no longer a problem and children roam happy and free in a world where killing is ok and fighting and stealing gives you points!!

Children spend a lot of time playing and watching TV at the most critical ages. These are the ages in which they develop their personal skills and healthy communication abilities. Games are excellent teachers and their 'powers' should

be better used. Also, those who regularly play violent games, have shown greater tendencies to aggressive behaviour, both verbal and physical.

In a study conducted in the U.S.A, the average boy plays 13 hours a week.

We need to be more active in the prevention of this problem. A whole generation is losing sight of right and wrong. Frequent exposure to violent and bloody scenes have desensitized viewers. We must be more assertive in establishing the sense of right and wrong. A better awareness of the issue will allow us to be more selective in the entertainment we allow our children to pursue. Family interaction and hobbies is a great way to minimise the problem by allowing them to have fun outside the tight world of gaming and T.V.

- Reem Tatanaki

Photograph by Heba Abdel Jaber



**Al Ain Times Awareness Campaign**

**BE AWARE  
Make a Difference**

## Education and Culture

### Ask the Vet

Dear Dr.A,

Despite having been treated several times with a propriety flea and tick treatment, my dog still keeps scratching his ears. I have tried bathing them but this doesn't seem to help. Do you have any advice for me?

Thank you,

Mark from Al-Ain

Dr A replies

There are factors to consider before diagnosing ear problems ie.age and breed of your dog. Dogs with floppy ears such as poodles and cocker span-

iels are prone to ear-problems, but you must also consider the age of the pet. In the case of puppies and young dogs ear mites could be the problem but these should be dealt with good propriety treatments such as frontline. In older dogs a bacterial or yeast infection could be causing your pets discomfort and a specific ear cleaning solution which is usually used for 7-10 days is needed. It is recommended that you take your dog to your veterinary surgeon for a proper examination of the ear canal. Never use anything on your pet which has not been prescribed by a vet.

Always make sure your pet is fully vaccinated.

Paws for thought...



### Kitty needs a Home

"I need a new home"

I was rescued with my kittens, abandoned to die when my owner left the country. I am a neutered friendly house cat, litter trained and very loving. Currently fostered in a home with many cats and a dog I would like a home of my own where I would be the perfect lap cat.

Call: 050 7309079

## Be Known.

## Al Ain Times

ads@alaintimesuae.com



so you want to learn ...

## Judo...

Al-Ain Judo Club is one of the most popular growing clubs in Al-Ain.

Judo means the way of gentleness. Judo is a vigorous sport that provides self defense and self discipline but at the same time has the principle of gentleness at its core.

*Judo means 'the way of gentleness'*

AJJC's head instructor is Marc Corbeil, a certified instructor with the US judo association. Allen smith joined as an instructor this autumn. Timmy Corbeil is an instructor in training, and along with his sister, Kristy, they assist with the instruction with novices. All the instructors make the effort to make

Judo fun for the younger students with exciting games and activities.

Judo is a fast paced and vibrant Olympic sport that requires both physical and mental commitment. Training sessions are grouped by experience and age and are held in the Al-ain English speaking School on:

Mondays & Wednesdays 4:30-6:30 pm (under 16) 5:00-7:00 pm (over 16)

Fees are:

Dhs 15 per class

Dhs 20 for families

Marc can be contacted at marc@mcorbeil.com or on 050471 9269

### Booksplus Book Review

#### Christmas Drinks

This fabulous collection of cocktails and other drinks contains everything you need for Christmas parties, chilly winter evenings and Christmas day itself. From traditional tipples to festive - themed cocktails, this little book makes entertaining at Christmas easy.

#### The Night Before Christmas - A Pop-Up Book

This entertaining Christmas book illustrated by Mr. John Patience and printed by Peter Haddock Publishing. It is an inspiring story in which children anticipate Santa Clause and wait for him to give them their presents on the night before Christmas.

## Teacher Feature

### Who is Lyn Craig?

Lyn has been with Liwa Private School since 1999 and the head of English since 2003. Married to Husband Mike, who is a mechanical engineer, they have been in the emirates for 13 years.

*'Her positive attitude and zeal for work makes her a great favorite'*

Responsible for the new Kindergarten section which opened in September 2006, Lyn's busy day involves dealing with parents, students and teachers. Her positive attitude and zeal for

work makes her a great favorite with everyone she comes in contact with. Her 'open door' policy means that she spends a great deal of her time dealing with the everyday running of this very busy section of Liwa private School. In her spare time she likes nothing more than to chill out on the beach snorkeling with turtles. Whether at work or not one thing is for sure, Lyn Craig is a real 'live wire'!

*Each issue will feature a different teacher or key worker from a school in Al-Ain, if you would like to nominate someone at your school, E-mail us with details now!*

## Sports

### Highlight on Al Ain Football School

## Football fundamentals are the hub of our work irrespective of the results!!

The Al Ain club football school is considered the oldest one among the all other football schools in the UAE clubs. The administration of the Al Ain club gives the school more attention and consideration and provides it with all financial and morale support in order to achieve its planned objectives. Al Ain club looks to the school as a factory that produces talented and distinguishable players who could be promoted to the advanced categorical squads with the first team being the most important target.

The Al Ain kids' school composes of the Club Football School near Khalifa stadium and six traditional branches located at Al Makam, Zakhir, Al Yahr, Al Hayer, Mezyad, and the main centre located at the club. And new training centers in Wagan, Abu Kraya and the Al Ain modern school, where almost one thousand boys, all of them are students of ages ranging between six to eleven years receive their regular football training sessions and get to learn how to become a good football player. They are coached and supervised by 42 coaches; many of them work in the Al Ain educational zone schools as physical education trainers. Most of these coaches are part timers and only 16 are full timers among whom five are allocated to the club's branches as head coach. Khalid Salim is the head manager of the school and the Dutch Sief Ronde is the technical director.

#### Looking for talents

A big number of the first team players with high technical abilities had started their career in the football school. They stepped up gradually from one age group to another when they were young until they reached the senior team. Some of them have hanged their boots after a successful and glorious march crowned with unprecedented achievements while others are continuing their efforts looking for valuable and additional success.

"We always look and search for the talented kids and encourage them, once found, to join Al Ain football school. There is an appreciated and continuous collaboration in this regard with Al Ain educational zone to make our dreams and aspirations come true. Outstanding young football players

with ages less than 11, who are school pupils, are our main target", said Sief Ronde in an interview with "Al Ain Times". He added, "Our part time coaches who work for Al Ain education zone schools, bear the task of discovering and finding out the best players, test their technical abilities before asking them to join Al Ain football school. We organize league championships to pick up the best players. Full time club coaches are also making visits to the education schools. The chosen boys are classified afterwards in the selected line up for the under 9, 10 and 11 age groups of the football school".

#### Private schools

"We try to cover all the governmental schools as the private schools are not targeted in this phase. Nevertheless, we are planning to put them in our plans although their studies timing does not coincide with the schedule of the daily training timing applied in the football school. Moreover, the parents prefer their sons to confine themselves to their academic studies without giving care to their football hobbies despite of the fact that sport is beneficial to the body and brain of every human being. Despite of this problem, we are planning to approach the private schools with all the hope to find some boys whose tendency meets with their fathers' desires. I must put it clear that we treat the players with flexibility and according to their academic conditions" quoted the Dutch coach as saying. I always ask the coaches not to shout on the players and try to make them feel happy and enjoy the game".

#### Ideal System

The Al Ain football school Dutch technical coach assured that the players in the club's six branches train two or three times per week whereas their colleagues in the u9, u10 and u11 club selection teams conduct four training sessions a week. He said that the Al Ain club secures transportation for the players and the buses collect them from home to the fields and vice versa. He stated, "In Al Ain school we apply an ideal system to teach the boys how to learn the basic fundamentals of playing football and how to play as one group, how to use their skills,

how to dribble with the ball and how to round up a player ect. We look for prominent players to give them a full opportunity to practice football and at the same time promote their technical capabilities and that helps them launch and start their career from a solid ground to become outstanding footballers. However, without any doubt this big job needs more patience.

Sief Ronde pointed out that Al Ain club has signed a contract with Badr Hamad who is very experienced in teaching the boys how to improve their individual technical abilities. Badr was the assistant coach in Al Gazira club for many years. He worked with the Dutch trainer Coerver before transferring to Al Ain club. His work is confined to the club's branches and he trains the players there every day but he comes to the football school once a week to provide the under 9, 10 and 11 years old boys with every bit of experience

#### Fundamentals

Sief Ronde made it clear that teaching the kids the fundamentals of football is one of the most important objectives of Al Ain football school. He stated, "bearing this fact in mind, the coaches do not search for the results although positive results boost the morals of the players and stimulate them to better their performance. But positive results should not be against our main target".

The Dutch coach said that among Al Ain football school teams only two are taking part in the domestic competitions. The under 10 years squad is currently leading the table with fifteen points following their win in five successive games while the three-times champions under 11 years team maintained nine points from five matches. "Teaching the kids the basics of football is the hub of our work irrespective of the results. Nevertheless, it becomes quite difficult to convince others in the Arab world with this opinion. The Arabs evaluate and judge the coach's work according to the positive and passive results he achieves. If it happens that a coach gets poor results for one reason or another, his job would be terminated".



#### Dispatch to parents

Asked about whether he is facing any obstacles that hinder his job and deprive him from maintaining his goals, Sief said: "there are no big problems but the misunderstanding of the players' parents to our job confuses my mind. Some parents stand on the way of their sons justifying that playing football might affect their sons' academic studies. Sometimes we get to know that a number of players are absent due to academic home duty obligations, but we do not take any actions against them. I hope to introduce in the future a balanced system that leads to the success of the players in football and academic studies as well. However, this needs the help of the boys' families. The new discipline will take into consideration that a player should have full rest and go to bed early besides eating appropriate food that suits sportic people like fruits and vegetables.

At the end of this interview, Sief Ronde hailed Al Ain club describing it as a club with a great future, regarding the working conditions and the potential of talented players in Al Ain city.

On the other hand, Khalid Salim the manager of Al Ain football school assured that H.H.sheikh Hazaa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan the first deputy of the president of Al Ain club visits the kids' teams from time to time to give them morale boost, solve their problems and support their plans and programmes. Khalid also assured that the football school is rich of talented players who receive consideration and follow up from their coaches in order to promote their technical standard besides the consideration given to them by the club who takes care of their studies through part time teachers.

- Salah Sulaiman

## Sports

### England World Cup Captain teaches youth Rugby in Al Ain

-Steve Arnott

On Sunday 3rd December the Al Ain Rugby Club, sponsored by De Verre PIC, hosted Martin Johnson the recently retired England Rugby captain. Martin Osborne Johnson CBE (born March 9, 1970) is a former England rugby union player and captain. He was known for his strong leadership and "no-nonsense" approach to the game. Johnson led the England side to a Grand Slam and World Cup in 2003. He toured three times with the British Lions, becoming the only man to have captained them on two separate tours. He also led his club Leicester Tigers to back-to-back Heineken Cup victories and won the league six times.

He spent two hours training all the Al Ain youth teams ranging from 5 years old up to 16 years. All the youth players were delighted with the experience and on several occasions some of the youth players were able to surprise him with their skills. Eroni Sotutu sold him a beautiful sidestep during a practice game and Martin was very impressed with the pace of Ross Coombe. Mr Steve Holden one of the youth team coaches will dine out for ever on the fact that whilst refereeing the practice game he was able to penalise Martin for a forward pass!

To fund the afternoon training session, a black tie festive dinner was held in the evening, this was sponsored by Etihad Airways, Hilton, Rotana and Intercontinental Hotels and was attended by over 100 people. The evening was opened by the club Chairman, Mr Mark Smith who thanked all the committee for their hard work organizing the event, especially Bob, Lexie and their two month old daughter Skye! After the dinner Martin Johnson took part in a very humorous question and answer session chaired by Justin 'Sambo' Sampson from ESPN-STAR Sports. This was followed by the auction of a signed England and British Lions shirts.

The whole event is part of an initiative started by Niven Aldridge and Steve Arnott, of Al Ain Rugby Club, to promote youth rugby in the area. The club already has 92 youth players, of all nationalities and age groups, attending training twice a week and playing in competitions around the Gulf region. Currently Al Ain's Sam Diaper is playing for the Arabian Gulf Under 19 squad and four more players will shortly have a trial for the Arabian Gulf Under 16 team.

*Everyone of all age groups and experience levels are welcome to attend, for more information contact Steve Arnott on 050 3351250.*

AL AIN CRICKET ASSOCIATION - 12 Dec 2006

### ACA INVITATION LEAGUE: 5th & Final Round Matches Report:

As predicted, favourite teams WED CC, Mughal CC, Ghantoot CC and Al Jabri CC with convincing victories in their last round matches qualified to enter the semi-finals of the ongoing ACA Invitation League. The matches were played over the week-end in Al Ain.

Al Jabri CC and Pakhtoon CC both had impressive wins by eight wickets against Al Imran Coaching and Al Faraa Blues, while WED CC thrashed Bin Saqr CC by a huge 126 runs to earn the top spot in Pool 'A' with over-all best run-rate.

WED CC posted highest total of the tournament amassing a huge 274/6 with Imtiaz Ahmad finding form with an unbeaten 83. Imtiaz shared a century 4t wicket partnership with skipper Tariq Ansari (64) to thrash Bin Saqr bowlers all over in the morning drizzle. Bin Saqr chasing at 12 runs an over collapsed to 148 all out with Azeem Ansari taking 4/18 with cleverly bowled spin bowling. In their other outing against Al Faraa Blues, WED CC bowlers especially Waris (4/34) bowled out Al Faraa Blues depleted batting due to injuries for 167. The target was easily surpassed by WED CC in 16th over with Sajjad Hussain hitting a quick fire unbeaten 74.

Al Jabri CC who have maintained an unbeaten record in this tournament so far displayed their fine team work again with crashing victories against Al Imran Coaching by eight wickets and against Ghantoot CC by three wickets. Omer remained their hero and rightly man of the match in both outings with his all-round performance against Al Imran CC (73 n.o., and 3/19) and scoring an unbeaten 67 against a strong Ghantoot CC.

For Ghantoot CC Arshad's blustering 51-ball 105 (4 sixes, 15 fours) went in vain as his side ended on the losing side.

In the strong Pool 'A', Pakhtoon CC managed their second win of the tourney against Al Faraa Blues by seven wickets. After bowling out Al Faraa Blues for 145 with Awad taking 4/14, Pakhtoon CC's Nabeeb (69) and Tauseet (43) shared a splendid 105-run opening stand paving an easy win for Pakhtoons.

In their other outing against favourites Mughal CC, Pakhtoon CC was beaten by 69 runs. Mughal CC's opener Amanat hit a marvelous 63-ball 123 (5 sixes, 15 fours) sharing a 180-run second wicket stand with Saeed Butt (81) as Mughal CC reached 261/6 in 25 overs. Pakhtoon CC could only manage 197/7 with

Tauseet fighting the lone battle with a polished 77.

After the final round matches, WED CC being the top team in Pool 'A' will face Ghantoot CC (from Pool 'B') while Al Jabri CC, the top team in Pool 'B' will contest against Mughal CC finishing second in Pool 'A'.

Both semi-finals will be played at ACA grounds in Mazyad on Friday, 15th December starting at 7.45 a.m.

Ghantoot CC's Arshad hit 105 but ended on the losing side

### Summarized Scores:

WED CC beat Bin Saqr by 126 runs.

WED CC 274/6 in 23 overs (Asad 28, Azeem Ansari 33, Tariq Ansari 64, Imtiaz Ahmad 83 n.o., Javed Asim 32, Faisal 3/43) Bin Saqr CC 148 all out in 15.1 overs (Idrees 35, Ataullah 21, Faisal Ali 32, Azeem Ansari 4/18) Man of the match: Azeem Ansari of WED CC

Al Imran Coaching lost to Al Jabri CC by eight wickets.

Al Imran Coaching 137 all out in 23.2 overs (Saad 24, Ravi 22, Saqib 39, Omer 3/19) Al Jabri CC 141/2 in 15.3 overs (Omar 73 n.o., Saud 32, Nisar Chaudry 21) Man of the match: Omar of Al Jabri CC

Al Faraa Blues lost to Pakhtoon CC eight wickets

Al Faraa CC 145 all out in 18.1 overs (Thomas 54, Chetan 29, Awad 4/14, Nabeeb 2/5) Pakhtoon CC 147/2 in 14.5 overs (Nabeeb 69, Tauseet 43) Man of the match: Awad of Pakhtoon CC

Ghantoot CC lost to Al Jabri CC by three wickets.

Ghantoot CC 213/7 in 23 overs (Ashfaq 20, Arshad 105, Ishaq 2/27) Al Jabri CC 214/7 in 19.3 overs (Omar 67 n.o., Nisar Chaudry 41, Khalid 31, Wajid 4/29) Man of the match: Omar of Al Jabri CC

Al Faraa Blues lost to WED CC by seven wickets.

Al Faraa Blues 167 all out in 23.3 overs (Hiren 38, Irfan 23, Waris 4/34, Sajjad 2/15, Azeem Ansari 2/17) WED CC 172/3 in 15.3 overs (Asad 33, Azeem Ansari 37, Sajjad Hussain 74 n.o., Hiren 2/37) Man of the match: Sajjad Hussain of WED CC

Mughal CC beat Pakhtoon CC by 69 runs.

Mughal CC 261/6 in 25 overs (Amanat 122, Saeed 81, Imran 21 n.o., Nabeeb 2/43) Pakhtoon CC 192/7 (Tauseet 77, Shezad 27, Amanat 2/27, Tariq 2/21) Man of the match: Amanat of Mughal C

- Dr. Ahmad Tariq Ansari for ACA (050-6231590)

### Dubai Creekside Triathlon World-Class Field

The 1st event of its kind in the UAE of Urban-Ultra Triathlon will take place during the Dubai Shopping Festival at Dubai Creekside Park on Friday 19th January 2007 to raise awareness on "Health Through Sport" and to raise funds for local

charity. The event consists of a beach start 750m swim, a 20km closed-road bike ride and a beautiful 5km run in one of the best locations in Dubai-waterside along the banks of Creek Park.

World-class field of professional triathletes and ironman champions such as Chris McCormack, Faris Al-Sultan and Ben Harely as well as number of top class female athletes like Ina Rheinders and

Svetlana Brkic to complete the pro-athlete field. Amateurs are encouraged to participate in the cash-prized competition racing right along the pro athletes. This event is organised by Urban-Ultra Events and supported by DSF.

*For more information and registration please contact Ms. Pascale de Jong-Phishface at 04-3903767 (Please see agenda of events page).*