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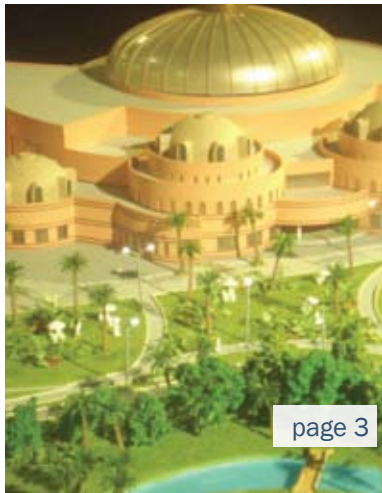
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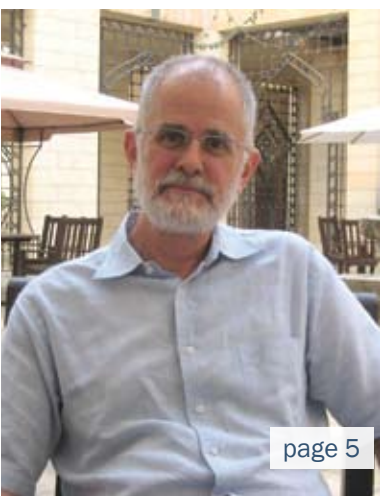
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What's New
Boom Time Looming For Al Ain



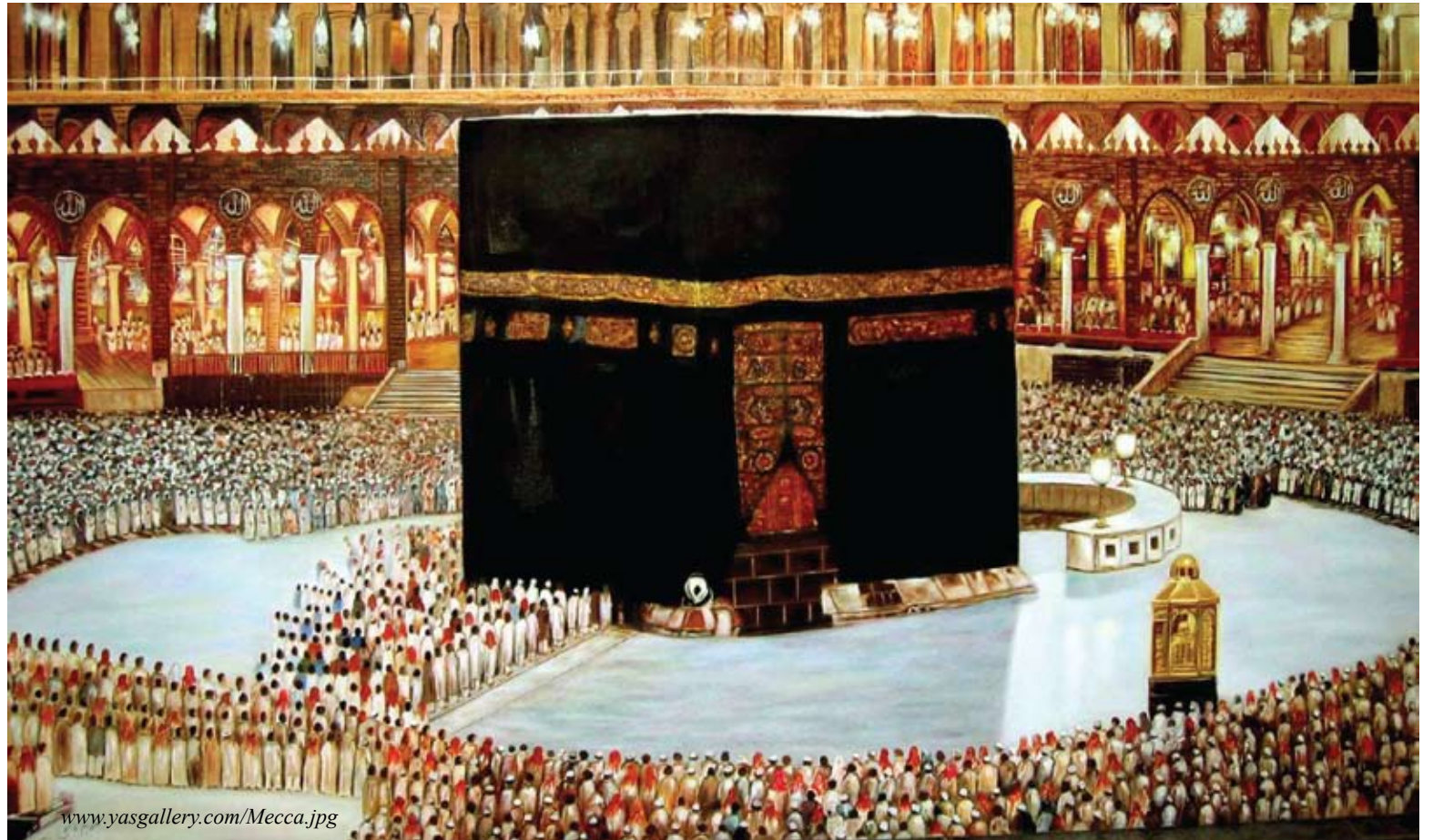
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Education & Clulture
Gaps in knowledge put Arabs at risk with HIV



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Awareness
Remembering The Spirit Of Christmas



www.yasgallery.com/Mecca.jpg

Hajj , the Holy Pilgrimage and Eid Al Adha
Muslims celebrate across the world

- Maha Tatanaki

Muslims around the world are in anticipation of the time of Hajj – the Holy Pilgrimage and Eid Al Adha. The Holy pilgrimage is one of the five pillars of Islam. Pilgrims head to Mecca and spend days in worship and prayer. Hajj means visiting the House of God, the Ka'bah, and carrying out all the acts of worship that follow the pilgrimage.

The pilgrim is required to wear simple garments to strip away

distinctions of class and culture. Pilgrims circle the Ka'bah, meditate, drink from the Zamzam water and celebrate Eid Al Adha along with Muslims around the world. The Eid Al Adha starts the day right after the part of hajj called 'al waqfa'.

Also know as the festival of sacrifice, this Eid is a commemoration of Prophet Ibrahim's loyalty and commitment to God. As a test of faith, Ibrahim was commanded to

sacrifice his son. As he drew his knife, God intervened and spared him the son he so dearly loved. Instead, Ibrahim was asked to sacrifice a sheep.

Domestic animals, usually sheep, are sacrificed symbolizing Prophet Ibrahim's devotion and God's mercy. The meat is distributed among family and the poor and hungry. Prayers are performed early in the morning followed by a Khutba (sermon). Muslims greet each other with

'Eid Mubarak' (blessed Eid).

Eid Al Adha also marks the end of the Hajj or Pilgrimage to Mecca, the tenth day of the month of Dhul Hijja in the Islamic Lunar calendar. The celebration lasts for four days. Families come together and meet with friends and neighbours. It is a time of giving and charity as well as celebration. The blessed share their blessings with the less fortunate, making it a time of happiness and giving.

Al Ain Times

Wishes you Eid Mubarak and Merry Christmas

WHAT'S NEW

Tawam Hospital manages critical patient information with technology from Philips Medical Systems

New Intensive Care Unit integrates complex patient data to improve care and save lives

- Al Ain Times

Tawam Hospital affiliated with Johns Hopkins International and Philips Medical Systems announced that they have successfully implemented one of the most advanced Patient Data Management Systems in the world at the Al Ain, Abu Dhabi-based hospital. Using Philips' IntelliVue Clinical Information Portfolio CC Clinical Information System, patient data is collected from life support equipment and centrally stored online, providing instant access to clinical staff from anywhere in the hospital.

The sophisticated solution, which is currently connected to 20 beds in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU), also includes Philips Clinical Decision Support, an intelligent software application that recognises the symptoms of Sepsis and provides a new line of defense against the condition. The hospital successfully went 'live' with the system at the end of August, the result of close collaboration between Tawam Hospital, Philips Medical Systems and its distributor, Emitac.

"The IntelliVue Clinical Information Portfolio Clinical Information system is highly efficient and very user friendly. It has had a significant positive impact on the way we evaluate and treat patients," commented Dr. Said Abuhasna, Chairman of the Department of Critical Care Medicine at Tawam Hospital. "By integrating complex data and providing quick and easy access to patient information, the system is contributing immensely to improve the quality of care delivered in our ICU."

"Philips is the only clinical systems solution provider that is able to cover the 'continuum of care' for critical documentation in Intensive Care and

Anesthesia in one platform," commented Diederik Zeven, General Manager for Philips Medical Systems Middle East. "That's why we were able to provide Tawam Hospital with a tailored solution designed around its specific needs."

Tawam Hospital now plans to expand its IntelliVue Clinical Information Portfolio installation to cover its High Dependency Unit and its pediatric and neonatal Intensive Care Units, providing integrated care across the hospital. The system will also link to the Hospital Information System that is currently being planned for the hospital. "Following the success of the ICU project, Tawam is looking forward to expanding the application of this technology into these new units and ultimately resulting in better patient outcomes," said Muhammad Tariq, Tawam Hospital IT Project Manager.

The Philips IntelliVue Clinical Information Portfolio, Clinical Information System supports the reporting and monitoring requirements set out by the Joint Commission International Hospital Accreditation, the largest accreditor of healthcare organizations in the United States. The scheme, which already accredits Tawam Hospital, ensures that the automatic compiling of reports and subsequent continuous improvement processes takes place. "This new technology will give Tawam Hospital in affiliation with Johns Hopkins Medicine a great opportunity to increase the quality of service for our patients in the UAE & GCC countries," commented Michael Heindel, Tawam Hospital CEO.



يوم التوعية بأمراض التهاب المفاصل ٢٠٠٧

كيف تتعايش مع التهاب المفاصل

تعرف على التهاب المفاصل واحم مفاصلك من التلف

Arthritis Awareness Day 2007

Live Well with Arthritis

Understand Arthritis & Prevent Joint Damage

التاريخ: ١٧ ديسمبر ٢٠٠٧

الوقت: ٩:٠٠ صباحاً - إلى ٤:٠٠ عصراً

المكان: قسم العيادات التخصصية - انتظار السيدات

Date: December 17th, 2007

Time: 09:00-16:00

Venue: Polyclinic Female Waiting Area



WHAT'S NEW

BOOM TIME LOOMING FOR AL AIN

- Monique Holtzhausen

Judging by the success of the Real Estate and Finance Exhibition held in Al Ain last week, the Garden City of the Gulf is poised on the brink of an exciting era of growth and developments.

According to exhibitors who showcased some of their biggest and most impressive projects to the trade and general public, plans for several new commercial, residential and tourism initiatives are already on the table. "These are not pie-in-the sky dreams, but massive investments in infrastructure that will be pumped into the city of Al Ain," assured a spokesperson for Al Qudra Real Estate who was exhibiting at the show.

Several new commercial complexes, residences, recreational facilities and shopping centres are only some of the projects that will be filling the skyline of Al Ain. Said Mohammad Ahmad Assaf, a customer service officer of Al Wifaq Finance Company

and a division of Union National Bank: "Both local and international investors are recognizing Al Ain as a sure bet and an area that will give them a good return on their investments." Adds Assaf: "Our city has a unique character that is distinctly different from that of Abu Dhabi or Dubai... and this is attracting more and more people who are opting for a quieter lifestyle and quality of life."

Although the city could rightfully be described as being quiet and less stressful when compared to the two other large cities of the UAE, Al Ain is a far cry away from being a sleepy town. "Al Ain provides a haven for city dwellers seeking respite from the frenzied pace of everyday life. However, the same qualities that make this city a major attraction to visitors, present a quandary for the city's residents who are seeking particular recreational facilities, but have thus far been left wanting," Al

Qudra said.

Addressing this need, Al Qudra Real Estate has revealed details of two of their most ambitious developments for Al Ain, scheduled for completion within the next year.

Eve's Gate

An oasis set within an oasis, Eve's Gate is an exclusive development for the women (and their children) of Al Ain and is a gift from Al Qudra Real Estate to the municipality of Al Ain.

Situated on the road between the Hilton and Intercontinental Hotels, the first phase of this development is already in full swing and will be completed by 2009. "Until now, women of Al Ain have had to drive to neighboring Abu Dhabi or Dubai for their shopping, beauty, health, leisure and entertainment," a spokesperson for Al Qudra explained. Eve's Gate will change this forever with its luxurious greens and surrounded by palm groves, lush

garden beds and lily ponds. "Since Eve's Gate will be catering exclusively for females, every nook and cranny of this development will be dedicated to meeting their needs. It will be a comprehensive community for women of all ages, desires and requirements," he said.

In addition to its numerous facilities and amenities, Eve's Gate will also consist of a well appointed hotel, savory restaurants, alfresco coffee shops, luxurious villas, a sports club and pro shop, shopping area, ladies' spa and even a kids club that will consist of a nursery, children's restaurant, pool, play and recreation area.

New-look Ain Al Fayda

Another exciting development that was announced at the Real Estate and Finance Exhibition is the 24 km² development of the existing Ain Al Fayda resort into an enhanced,

state-of-the-art "healing oasis". Lodged at the base of Jebel Hafeet amidst abundant foliage and healing hot springs, the revamped Ain Al Fayda will incorporate healthcare, leisure and wellbeing into an extraordinary concept called a "diagnostic centre" by Al Qudra, where one can rediscover inner peace and well being.

New facilities that are being planned for this area include a specialised recovery / rehabilitation hospital as well as a nine distinctive hotels (ranging from 5-star facilities to chalet and apartment-type accommodation), several new restaurants and alfresco café's and street-side coffee shops as well as numerous new fun and entertainment facilities. "We will be catering for families with our Children's Forest Camp Fun Park, a water park, adventure golf, an indoor entertainment centre, 4x4 desert track, aquarium, cinemas and even a new 18-hole signature golf

course," the Al Qudra spokesperson revealed.

The existing summer house of the late Sheikh Bayed will remain but will be renovated to preserve this important part of the country's history for future generations.

If one could look into a crystal ball and predict what Al Ain would look like in five years from now, it would most certainly be an interesting mix of culture and heritage combined with new architectural developments and investments. Says Al Qudra: "The future of our city [largely] depends on legislation and whether or not the law will change to allow foreigners to own property in Al Ain. If that happens, the city will see a boom because many international investors are interesting in investing in the area. It is a tourist destination situated within the Golden Triangle [between Abu Dhabi and Dubai] that has something very unique and exciting to offer."



Eve's Gate



Eve's Gate

Plans for a new Mövenpick Resort in Al Ain

- Ola Salem

Mövenpick Hotels & Resort signed a management contract for a first-class city resort in the heart of the city of Al Ain with the owning company Sorouh Real Estate PJSC. The Mövenpick Resort Al Ain is scheduled to open at the end of 2010.

This is Sorouh's first foray into the hotel

development business and the announcement represents a landmark portfolio transition for the company already recognized as a developer of premium integrated lifestyle communities.

Located next to Hafeet Mountain, Mövenpick Resort and Spa Al Ain will overlook the Al Ain Town

Centre and Oasis, Al Ain Sports Club and Hafeet Mountain. Construction of the hotel is due to begin soon.

The contemporary styled property will feature 230 modern and spaciouly appointed rooms, suites and chalets.

Roundabouts Demolished New Municipality Project to Improve Traffic in Al Ain

- Ola Salem

Al Ain Bridge, one of landmarks of the city, and seven roundabouts will be demolished as part of a project to improve traffic flows.

Project director Hamad Deeb announced that the

project will undergo four phases. The first is planned to start January next year.

The roundabouts set to be demolished next year include the bridge roundabout, Al Takhtit roundabout,

Shaikha Salama Mosque roundabout, Al Muraba'a roundabout, Al Mandous roundabout, Al Qaseed roundabout and Al Kura Al Ardeyah roundabout.

EDUCATION & CULTURE

Using English

- Lucky Mae F. Quilao

"The English language is nobody's special property. It is the property of the imagination; it is the property of the language itself."

~Derek Walcott, Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992, West-Indian poet, playwright, writer and visual artist

International English. Global English. World English. Common English. General English. Interlingua. Apart from studying in a multicultural school, most students in Al Ain and in the rest of the emirate are learning too the official language of the European Union, the United Nations, aerial and

maritime communications, and international athletic organisations: English. It may be the British Empire who spread the language far beyond the British Isles, and the Americans during the 20th century, but it is no longer exclusively theirs. English has evolved and absorbed aspects of various cultures

worldwide. Currently, over 380 million people speak English, while the language is the third largest means of communication next to Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. India has the most number of native and non-native speakers of English.

The five-week language programme was established in 1997. About 18 students ages 16-19 from government-run schools and colleges were chosen to attend a summer school in the United Kingdom, live with British families, and experience their culture first hand. All the expenses of the programme including college fees, air tickets, accommodation, and living expenses were shouldered by the foundation.

The Sharjah Higher Colleges of Technology will also host the fourth annual English Language Teaching in Schools (ELTS) Conference under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Education and Chancellor of the Higher Colleges of Technology. On November 23 and 24, around 800 delegates composed of English language teachers, principals, zone officials,

academics and education leaders would participate in the event sponsored also by the UNESCO Chair Program, University City Professional Network, Cambridge University Press, Macmillan, Pearson Longman, Findel Education International Division, Oxford University Press, Almoe, Thompson Heinle, and Promethean.

"We wanted our students to be 'world citizens,' so we are providing them quality education because that is their right, and opportunities to widen their horizons and enable them to take up all the challenges in this world. Each child is our hope," added Miller. "A school should be multicultural for it would give every child an opportunity to meet another child from another part of the world, understand his or her customs and traditions, know each other, and prepare them if they want

to study abroad." "Of course a child will prefer to learn in just one particular format and not have many things. But in the world of today, where the horizon is so broad and there is so much to learn from, I do not see children not adjusting to multicultural schools. In fact, they love it because they get to see other things, they get to learn much, and it is so much from learning from a book because they are learning from experience.

"Today's child can assimilate quite a lot. They are very advanced and have access to so many things. Today's world, on the other hand, needs you to expand. If it would only be following the Indian style or the European style or the Arab style, we would not get excited. We see the good that comes from multicultural schools and become better citizens, better people."

| Countries using English as their first language | Countries using English as their second language | |
|---|--|---------------|
| United States (215 million) | Netherlands (87%), | Austria (53%) |
| United Kingdom (58 million) | Sweden (85%), | Belgium (52%) |
| Canada (17.7 million) | Denmark (83%) | Germany (51%) |
| Australia (15 million) | Luxembourg (66%) | Norway |
| Ireland (3.8 million) | Finland (60%) | Iceland |
| South Africa (3.7 million) | Slovenia (56%) | |
| New Zealand (3.0-3.7 million) | | |

"English is a communicative language. It can be understood by almost everybody, and I encourage it here in school. It helps students become more confident because they have command with the language and they are able to communicate with other people. Though some universities may not require it, others ask for their students to be knowledgeable in English," said Rocky Wollee Miller, Principal of Our Own English High School. "A new language allows you to switch from your native tongue to something that somebody else would understand. That is a very good thing

for a child to learn. It shouldn't be an issue. I do not see why some object to that. Why should not a child be encouraged to know more languages to enable him or her to work elsewhere? Only if parents insist their children learn three to four languages would it become a hindrance to a child's education." The need to learn English was responded to by almost all of the schools here in the UAE. They either provide instruction in English or teach in both English and the native tongues of the language-minority students. Other forms of instruction include ESL (English as a second language), ESOL (English for speakers of

other languages), EFL (English as a foreign language), ELT (English language teaching), TESL (teaching English as a second language), TESOL (teaching English for speakers of other languages), TEFL (teaching English as a foreign language), EAL (English as an additional language), ESD (English as a second dialect), EIL (English as an international language), ELF (English as a lingua franca), ESP (English for special purposes, or English for specific purposes), EAP (English for academic purposes), ELL (English language learner), and LEP (limited English proficiency).

"Viewed freely, the English language is the accretion and growth of every dialect, race, and range of time, and is both the free and compacted composition of all."

~Walt Whitman, Poet, 1819-1892

"He who does not know foreign languages does not know anything about his own."

~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a German writer, 'the greatest man of letters and the last true polymath to walk the earth'

Even in the United States, English-language-proficiency is a must because it helps students understand their lessons better (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001). Some critics argue though that if children master their first language first and learn through it, they would develop stronger literacy skills in the long

term. In the UAE, an international bank is promoting education in the emirate. "HSBC believes a good education is the single most important factor for the UAE's continued economic development and prosperity. As the world's local bank, HSBC strongly believes that its business

will flourish if the host community flourishes. That is the reason why HSBC actively contributes to events that promote education and places great emphasis on educational initiatives like this," said Kaltham Al Koheji, Chairperson of HSBC in the Community Middle East Foundation.

ADCCI-CTI conducts development workshop

- Lucky Mae F. Quilao

Two government agencies held a Personal Power Women's Development Workshop, December 6, to instruct participants how to start and improve businesses as well as develop their skills as managers and executive women.

With the theme Change what you want to change, be what you want to be, Elizabeth Escolme Schmidt of Victrix & Associates emphasized the importance of self-esteem in her talks, which was sponsored by the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber Training Institute.

"A woman should look after her self-esteem and how to care for her family. If everyone is happy, then everything goes all from that. To care for herself and her family, they should be able to do what they want to do. Self-esteem is so

important in living our lives and fulfilling our dreams."

A member of the Arab International Women's Forum and nominated as New Woman's 100 Spirited Women of Australia, Schmidt added that 'women should realize their potential, and make something happen with it.' "It is a shame to go to heaven and have regrets for not having tried something. There is more freedom for women now. What we should do as well is encourage more people to seek other people's well being and empower them."

"I believe that women are very good businesspersons, and there are a lot of them in the Arab World. Here in the UAE, women run small and medium businesses very well. You just have to look around to see this change.

Women of today are more independent in their spirit and finances in a lot of Western countries, as well as in Manila, Hong Kong, China and other parts of the Southeast Asia."

But Schmidt warned the women who are trying to outshine even themselves. "Your limitations are a personal thing. But I think that women who are trying to do everything are making a mistake. It is just too much to do. They should learn to balance their lifestyle. The formula comes within them and how firm their resolve is to a change that would benefit everybody."

"Change is independence some people desire. As long as they are motivated enough and acquire the right training, women can do anything. They can get their goals once they wanted to."

"Learn a new language and get a new soul". ~Czech Proverb

EDUCATION & CULTURE

Gaps in knowledge put Arabs at risk with HIV

- Lucky Mae F. Quilao

In a recent study entitled Break the Silence: HIV/AIDS Knowledge, Attitudes, and Educational Needs among Arab University Students in UAE, three medical students Fatima Alfaresi, Shamma Almazrouei, and Amal Muraddad, together with their faculty advisors Dr. Peter Barss, Associate Professor of the Department of Community Medicine of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Dr. Maria Ganczak and Dr. Fatma Al-Maskari found 'alarming gaps in knowledge' about HIV and AIDS among young Arab students of UAE University.

"The students had probably not had sufficient and effective teaching about HIV/AIDS. Some thought that being in the same room with a person with HIV, eating the same food, or having a mosquito bite could make them catch the disease," recalled Dr. Barss. "We do not know the reason for this lapse. It could be cultural or, as in many countries, reluctance to report details about diseases that might affect tourism."

Adapting a World Health Organisation Cross-National Study Questionnaire, the researchers also learned that among the 5280 first year students of the UAE University they sampled in their survey, only a third knew that there is neither vaccine nor cure for HIV and AIDS. Relationships with PLH (People Living with HIV) were also dreaded, with some 53% wanting the patients to live apart from them.

Some 57% of the respondents, on the other hand, believed that teaching about these diseases in schools was inadequate, so they relied upon the media who sometimes give out 'conflicting coverage of AIDS research,' resulting in more muddled minds.

"The media may not be very effective in teaching younger people. They should focus on the major shortcomings that lead to increased risk of infection and to irrational fear of

persons with HIV and AIDS, and assess their readers or audiences as to whether the information provided has been effective."

Doing something

While testing for HIV for all foreign workers and marrying couples is mandatory and religion prevents others from having premarital and extramarital relationships, there is still a need for further education and training. "We thought that better knowledge about HIV and AIDS could improve knowledge for self protection, diminish fear about being around people with the disease, and make young adults more compassionate and caring towards those who suffer from this illness," Dr. Barss added as he explained the interventional study they later conducted involving some 2000 Grade 12 students in Al Ain and Abu Dhabi in collaboration with Dr. Michal Grivna and several teams of medical students.

"The first study we did allowed us to actually do something, and that is to give the students interactive workshops modeled on those developed by the World Health Organisation. High school students tend to be more responsive to close interactive communication rather than teaching with fancy slides."

The UAE government is also increasing support for awareness campaigns on HIV and AIDS. "After we did our initial survey and then the intervention study, the government was actually interested to augment our efforts. One of our former colleagues, Dr. Jamal Al Mutawa, now with the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi, has worked closely with a committee that will provide a comprehensive program for prevention and management of AIDS in the UAE. Other branches of the government are involved too. Hopefully, based on the results of



Dr. Peter Barss, Associate Professor of the Department of Community Medicine, shared his research on HIV and AIDS.

the research, educational programs for HIV in schools will be improved."

Dr. Barss also suggested considering an organization for the PLH. "I suppose there could be a way of having some sort of group for people who know that they are HIV+ so that they can choose a spouse within that group. The young patients may want still to have a home, a partner, since most will live many years with the infection. So how do you deal with that without spreading the infection?"

Currently, the prevalence of AIDS has increased since 1990 in the Arab region, with over half a million Arabs plagued with AIDS and about 68,000 newly infected with HIV. In the UAE, the Health Ministry has identified 466 local patients, and has deported foreign workers with HIV and AIDS.

What is HIV and what is AIDS

"HIV is a virus. It is a very small, invisible particle found in the body. One can get infected with HIV and not know it. The infected person may not even get sick at all for years. But, at some point, the virus may proliferate and harm a person's immunity or resistance to other infections, making the individual prone to other diseases such as tuberculosis, pneumonia and others. HIV, by itself, does not get us sick until it harms our organs and allows us to be attacked by bacteria or other microbes. When it does, only then does the person become sick with AIDS."

GCC DEANS OF COLLEGES OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ADDRESS PERTINENT ISSUES IN AL AIN

-Monique Holtzhausen

The deans of twelve Colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences (Arts) met at the United Arab Emirates University this week to discuss the future of social sciences and the unique challenges facing this specialized area of study.

According to Dr. Donald N. Baker, Dean of the UAEU College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), this was the eighth meeting of its kind. "This Council of Deans is made up of about a dozen national state-funded universities within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region and meets every second year. This year we were privileged to have representatives from many universities in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman," Baker explained. Dr. Maymoona Al-Subah, Dean of the College of Arts in Kuwait University and Dr. Muhsin Ahmed Al-Mansoori, Secretary of

the Deans of the Colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Middle East, also attended this meeting.

Some of the pertinent topics that were discussed during this year's 3-day summit include quality assurance, academic accreditation, teaching performance assessment, ensuring the employability of graduates, language proficiency, and incorporating technology into the learning experience.

"As deans of our respective colleges, we must produce graduates who are well versed in local and global cultures, capable of independent critical thinking and problem solving, equipped to meet the changing demands of the job market, and able to provide leadership in the unique social environment of individual countries," Baker said. "A gathering such as this

not only paves the way for increasing inter-college collaboration but also ensures that we are all working towards common goals that will ultimately benefit the GCC region as a whole".

Addressing the delegates and media at the official opening ceremony, Dr. Abdulla Al-Khanbashi, Provost of the UAE University, highlighted the responsibility of the Colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences to raise great thinkers and scholars who would impact and benefit every area of society. "Well-trained leaders and great thinkers are vital for ensuring the overall wellbeing of every generation," Dr. Abdullah Al-Khanbashi said. He stressed the importance of providing students with the necessary infrastructure such as well-equipped libraries, excellent faculty and internships to train them for meeting the challenges at hand.



AWARENESS

REMEMBERING THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Shopping centres throughout the world this time of the year are merrily decorated with brightly coloured Christmas decorations, festive lights and shoppers galore who are jostling to buy last minute treats and presents for Christmas. Unfortunately, all too often it is the tired and aching feet, angry stares and irritated voices harassing the poor sales assistant or checkout cashier that soon dim out the festive cheer. Christmas time is supposed to be a time of gratitude, peace and generosity that is supposed to mark this special time of year...



Celebrating Christmas in a Muslim Country

Although the frenzied pre-Christmas activity might be slightly less in Al Ain compared to what is currently happening in the rest of the world, the true meaning and spirit of Christmas does not have to be diminished. For most of us, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (25 December) will be a normal working day. Although past experience has shown that you shouldn't expect too many of your co-workers to wish you a "Merry Christmas", you can expect to feel a bit more homesick on this day as you share a thought to your friends and family sitting down to a hearty Christmas meal, singing Christmas carols and opening gifts.

"I use this time of year to spread the feeling of love and goodwill to everybody I come into contact

with – regardless of their faith, nationality or background," says Sheryl Goodwin, a personal assistant from the United Kingdom who moved to Al Ain five years ago. "Celebrating Christmas in Al Ain has taught me that it is not so much about the atmosphere in the shops or the giving of gifts as it is in the rest of the world. It is more a quiet gratitude for the greatest Gift ever that I hold in my heart and share with others through a warm smile or being more tolerant when I drive or am looking for a parking space!"

Creating your own Christmas atmosphere

Due to the timing of the Eid Holidays this year, the Al Ain Evangelical Church decided to hold its official Christmas service yesterday (14 December). However, many churches throughout the UAE will be hosting a Christmas service on the 25th and many of them are even offering a free meal to the poor or lonely on this day (details available on the web).

To make sure that this day does not go by unmarked in your own home, why not put up a Christmas tree (even a little one will do!), play your favorite Christmas CD as loud as you can (there are some good deals currently available at Carrefour), bake cookies for you and your neighbours and put out your Christmas stockings.

Who knows... Santa might just find his way across the desert dunes to your home!



"Teach the Children"

I recently came across the following description of what the different Christmas symbols and ornaments mean. It gives a great explanation to your children and friends who might want to know why elements such as the Christmas tree, holly and wreath are used to symbolize the birth of Jesus Christ.

"I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front



of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out.

"What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat, and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous character we all know.

He then answered me with a simple statement.

"TEACH THE CHILDREN!"

I was puzzled; what did he mean? He guessed my question, and with



one quick movement pulled a miniature toy bag from behind the tree.

As I stood puzzled, Santa said,

"Teach the children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it in front of the fire place.

"Teach the children that the pure green colour of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, representing the everlasting hope of mankind. All the needles of the tree point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."

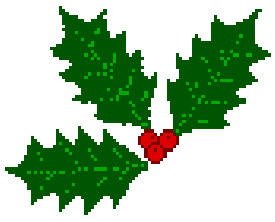
He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR.

"Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Saviour for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise [the night that Jesus Christ was born in manger and angels announced the good news to shepherds in the field]."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE.



AWARENESS



“Teach the children that the candle symbolises that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. When we see this great light, we are reminded of God who spoke to us through Jesus, and fills our lives with light.”

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree.

“Teach the children that the wreath symbolises the real nature of love. Real love never ceases, like Gods love which has no beginning or end.”

He then pulled from his bag an ornament of **HIMSELF**.

“Teach the children that I, Santa Clause symbolise the generosity and kindness we feel during the month of December.”

He then brought out a **HOLLY LEAF**.



“Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by Jesus when He died on the cross for our sins. The red holly represents the blood shed by Him.”

Next he pulled from his bag a **GIFT** and said,

“Teach the children that God so loved the world and that HE gives us so much... We thank God for his special gifts.”

“Teach the children that the wise men bowed before the baby Jesus on the night He was born and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We should always give gifts in the same spirit of the wise men.”

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **SUGAR CANE** and hung it on the tree.

“Teach the children that the sugar cane represents the shepherd’s crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back lost sheep to the flock.”

He reached in again and pulled out an **ANGEL**.

“Teach the children that it was the angels that announced the glorious news of the Saviour’s birth. The angels sang ‘Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men.’”

Suddenly, I heard a soft tinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a **BELL**.

“Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring to guide us to God. The bell symbolises guidance and return. It reminds us that we are all precious in the eyes of God.”

Santa looked back and was pleased. I saw the twinkle in his eyes as he said:

“Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the centre, for I am but an humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship Him, our Lord and our God.”

Merry Christmas everybody,
and may this Christmas Day be filled with blessings, love and good cheer!



MERRY Christmas

LIFESTYLE

Mom's Kitchen

- by Amal Rahuma Tatanaki

FISH CURREY



Ingredients:

4 T ghee
 1 t fenugreek seeds,
 1 t cumin seed , 4 curry leaves
 3 chopped onion, 1 T fresh ginger, 1T garlic
 2 chillies, 1/2 t cumin powder, 1/2 t coriander powder
 1t chili powder
 1/2 t turmeric
 3/4 t grammasala
 1 cup yogurt, 1/2 t salt
 1 kg kingfish pieces

GARAMASALA

1 cup cumin
 1/2 cup caraway
 1 cup green cardamom
 1/4 cup black cardamom
 1 cup black pepper
 1/2 cup cloves
 1/3 cup cinnamon
 1/2 cup nutmeg
 Wash, dry roast, grind

Method:

Fry the spices(whole) then remove from oil. In the same oil fry the fish for 3 min on both sides, remove fish. In the same oil add all the onion and garlic fry for 1 min ,then add all the other ingredientsexcepting the fish. Cook for 10 min . Add the fish. Let cook for 10min. Serve with white rice or chapatti.

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ENTERTAINMENT

SUDOKU!

A Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid which has been subdivided into 9 smaller grids. The aim of the game is that each column, row and box must contain each of the numbers; one to nine. Meaning you cannot use the same number twice in any column, row or box!

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

Upcoming Films

- Reviewed by Ola Salem



National Treasure 2 ★★★★

Treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates looks to discover the truth behind the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by uncovering the mystery within the 18 pages missing from assassin John Wilkes Booth's diary. The mystery takes Ben, Abigail, and Riley to Buckingham Palace and then to a book in the White House where they hope the answers they're looking for will be. An interesting sequel which will successfully draw you in.

Contains some violent scenes.



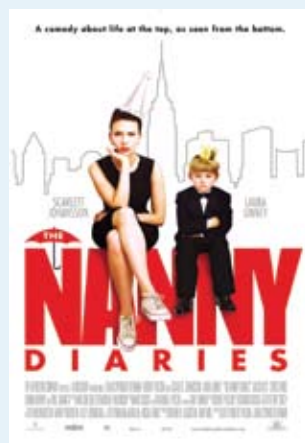
The Golden Compass ★★★★

An exciting fantasy adventure set in an alternative world where people's souls manifest themselves as animals. In this parallel Oxford, young Lyra Belacqua begins a dimension-crossing odyssey that starts off with only being a rescue mission and winds up being a dark epic quest to save not only her world, but ours as well. A great fantasy film full of magic, villains and intriguing questions.



Bee Movie ★★★★

Barry B. Benson is a graduate bee who's uncertain about his career choice; making honey. Outside the hive, he is saved by Vanessa, a florist in New York City. As their relationship grows, he realizes that humans are stealing the bee's honey and so decides to sue them for this reason. A lively film bursting with humor and amusement.



The Nanny Diaries ★★★★

Twenty-one year old college graduate, Annie Braddock, goes to work as a nanny for a rich New York family referred to as the 'X's who turn out to be a family from hell. She quickly learns that life is not very rosy on the other side of the tax bracket; as she must cater to Mrs. X and her spoilt son whilst trying to avoid Mr. X. Watching the clash of the classes is entertaining but a little too common in movies lately.

Contains mild language.

Photo of the week



Flowers in Al Ain - by Noel Malicdem

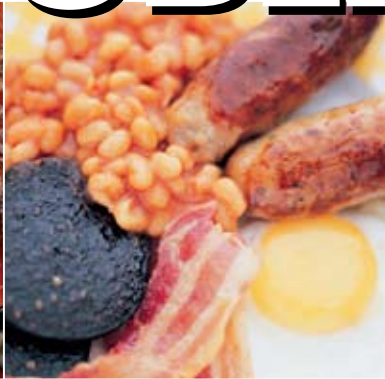
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SOLUTION:

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

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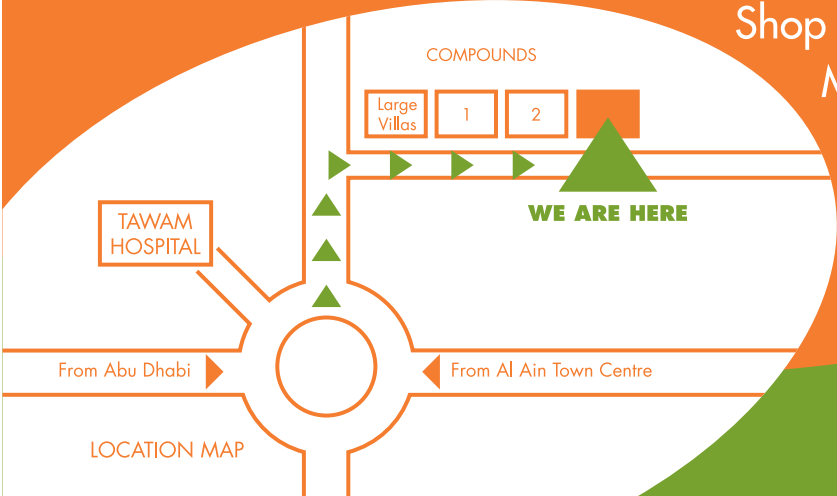
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