



WAHDAT

"A publication of the Islamic Education Center"



November 2007 (Shawwal/Zul-Qa'dah 1428) www.iec-houston.org info@iec-houston.org (Tel.) 713.787.5000

IEC Offers a Helping Hand

IEC has taken an initiative to offer services to the community whereby assistance is provided to those who are in need of food, transportation, family consulting, crisis support, and translation services. For more information or if you need assistance or would like to volunteer/donate please call 281-818-1118. All personal information will be kept confidential.

Hajj Preparation



Those brothers and sisters who plan to go for Hajj this year with the IEC Hajj service are requested to contact Moulana or Br Jafar Amir at the earliest. A detailed flier is available at the IEC.

Crescent International

The Crescent International is a unique magazine of the global Islamic Movement that provides a perspective unparalleled. The Prophet (saww) has obligated all Muslims to be aware of the plight of their brothers and sisters in the Ummah. This newsmagazine is a highly recommended publication. Please support the Crescent by subscribing to it by visiting www.Muslimmedia.org.

Electronic Bulletin Board

Insha-Allah very soon there will be a monitor placed at the men's and ladies' side of the prayer hall where the community will be able to view various important information about upcoming programs, announcements, news etc. at the IEC.

We hope this will help in keeping the community informed about programs/announcements in a timely fashion.

May Allah (swt) bless those who contributed to this project.

Quran Competition

During the Holy month of Ramadhan the IEC conducted its first Quran Contest. Many children participated with great enthusiasm. We thank all the parents for preparing their children to memorize the suras and we hope to continue to conduct sessions throughout the year and build on the experience thus far.

General Body Meeting

On Oct 20th the third GBM of the current board's 2-year term was conducted. The community members were given an update on the progress thus far and the plans for the future. They were also given an opportunity to ask questions to the board members on variety of issues.

Al-Qasim Youth Camp Nov 9th – 11th, 2007



The annual IEC camp awaits your participation. It is not only for the youth but for all outdoor enthusiasts. With a change in the campsite from the past years excitement is building for the Nov 9th weekend. Please note that there will not be any bus service this year.

Guests include Moulana Aelya (Seattle), Moulana Shamshad Haider (Dallas), and our dear Moulana Shabbiri amongst others. Participation is limited and you are encouraged to register by filling out the form at the IEC. For more information you may email us

Islamic Stamp in the US



Did you know that you can purchase a book of Islamic Eid Stamp at the IEC? By doing so you will help in keeping the stamp in circulation. Every stamp that is used can be a small tool to keep the identity of Islam and Muslims alive in the US. Please buy your stamp at the IEC by asking any director in the board.

Hujjatul-Islam Qara'ti DVDs available at IEC

Many community members were in attendance when our dear guest Agae-Qara'ti was visiting the IEC. He delivered lectures in his unique and gripping style that resonated with all in the audience. Now we can relive the moments and learn from this great teacher. DVDs of the event are available for a *hadiya* of \$6 but are free if one is unable to contribute. The set consists of 3 DVDs in a very well packaged DVD holder. To get a copy please inquire with any board member.



Relocating & Membership

Please make sure that you inform the IEC of your new address. This helps us in getting the Wahdat to your correct address and cuts down on expenses.

Please encourage your relatives and friends to become a part of the IEC by registering as a member of the IEC. One can become a member by filling the registration form at the IEC and paying the annual dues.

IEC News In Your Inbox

In order to get the latest updates on the happenings at the IEC you can simply visit the IEC website at www.iec-houston.org and enter your email address under the mailing lists heading. This service does not require you to be a member and is free to anyone.

Ramadhan: A Look Back

The Holy month of Ramadhan is a highlight of the events at any Islamic Center. The IEC, however is outstanding in the services that it provides during this month of blessing. Daily iftaar for hundreds of people, duas, lectures, a'maal of Laytul Qadr, the Day of Quds rally all culminate on the Grand Day of Eid al-Fitr.

We pray to the Almighty to give us another opportunity to be His guest next year and that we take lessons from this past month to better ourselves to be worthy of His blessings.

Much gratitude to all those who served, participated and volunteered for the sake of gaining Allah's (swt) blessings.

IEC Board of Directors & Open Board Mtgs.



The IEC Board consists of nine directors who work under the guidance of the Resident Alim Hujjatul Islam Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri.

The community is welcome to come and talk to the entire board during the open board meeting. This is done to give any community member an opportunity to express themselves freely.

Open Board meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month from 8-10am at the IEC main office.

Cemetery Update

Community members now have three options to purchase burial sites: Paradise Cemetery (current site), Forest Lawn (Westheimer/Dairy Ashford) and Forest Lawn (Woodlands). To learn more about these options please pick up a detailed flier at the IEC or contact Brs Hadi Elmi, Askari Navi, Jawad Syed or Imran Dhanji.



Return of Benazir Bhutto

The Kleptocrat in an Hermes Headscarf

By JEMIMA KHAN

She's back. Hurrah! She's a woman. She's brave. She's a moderate. She speaks good English. She's Oxford-educated, no less. And she's not bad looking either.

I admit I'm biased. I don't like Benazir Bhutto. She called me names during her election campaign in 1996 and it left a bitter taste. Petty personal grievances aside, I still find jubilant reports of her return to Pakistan depressing. Let's be clear about this before she's turned into a martyr.

This is no Aung San Suu Kyi, despite her repeated insistence that she's "fighting for democracy", or even more incredibly, "fighting for Pakistan's poor".

This is the woman who was twice dismissed on corruption charges. She went into self-imposed exile while investigations continued into millions she had allegedly stashed away into Swiss bank accounts (\$1.5 billion by the reckoning of Musharraf's own "National Accountability Bureau").

She has only been able to return because Musharraf, that megalomaniac, knows that his future depends on the grassroots diehard supporters inherited from her father's party, the PPP.

As a result, Musharraf, who in his first months in power declared it his express intention to wipe out corruption, has dropped all charges against her and granted her immunity from prosecution. Forever. Notably, he did not do the same for his other political rival, Nawaz Sharif, who was recently deported after attempting his own spectacular return to Pakistan.

But the difference is that Benazir is a pro at playing to the West. And that's what counts. She talks about women and extremism and the West applauds. And then conspires.

The Americans and the British are acutely aware that their strategy in the region is failing and that Musharraf's hold on power is ever more tenuous. They have pressed hard for Benazir and the General to cut a deal that would allow them to share power for the next five years in a "liberal forces government".

It's all totally bogus. Benazir may speak the language of liberalism and look good on Larry King's sofa, but both her terms in office were marked by incompetence, extra-judicial killings and brazen looting of the treasury, with the help of her husband--famously known in Pakistan as Mr 10 Per Cent.

In a country that tops the international corruption league, she was its most self-enriching leader. Benazir has always cynically used her gender to manipulate: I loved her answer to David Frost when he asked her how many millions she had in her Swiss bank accounts. "David, I think that's a very sexist question."

A non sequitur (does loot have a gender?) but one that brought the uncomfortable line of questioning to a swift end. Of all Pakistan's elected leaders she conspicuously did the least to help the cause of women. She never, for example, repealed the Hudood Ordinances, Pakistan's controversial laws that made no distinction between rape and adultery. She preferred instead to kowtow to the mullahs in order to cling to power, forming an expedient alliance with Pakistan's Religious Coalition Party and leaving Pakistan's women as powerless as she found them.

The problem is that the West never seems to learn; playing favourites in a complicated nation's politics always backfires. Imposing Benazir on Pakistan is the opposite of democratic and doubtless will cause more chaos in an already unstable country.

Make no mistake, Benazir may look the part, but she's as ruthless and conniving as they come--a kleptocrat in a Hermes headscarf.

Jemima Khan is an ambassador to Unicef. (This article was taken from Counterpunch.org)

November, 2007

Wahdat, Islamic Education Center Newsletter

November 2007 SPECIAL EVENTS AT I.E.C.

Please contact Br Moosa Raza (281-813-9487) to sponsor any programs listed below. May Allah bless you.

* Date subject to change based on moon-sighting

Tue, Nov 6th <i>25th Shawwal</i>	SHAHADAT IMAM AS-SADEQ (AS) Maghrib.....5:49 pm Isha.....7:00 pm Quran Recitation.....7:20 pm Salam/Marsia.....7:30 pm Speech.....7:45 pm Dua Tawassul.....8:30 pm
Mon, Nov 12th <i>1st Zul-Qa'dah</i>	WILADAT HAZRAT MASUMA (AS) Maghrib.....5:45 pm Isha.....7:00 pm Quran Recitation.....7:20 pm Qaseedah (Farsi).....7:30 pm Speech.....7:40 pm Dua Tawassul.....8:30 pm
*Thu, Nov 22nd <i>11th Zul-Qa'dah</i>	WILADAT OF IMAM RAZA (AS) Maghrib.....5:45 pm Isha.....7:00 pm Quran Recitation.....7:20 pm Qaseedah (Farsi).....7:30 pm Speech by Moulana Zaki Baqri.....7:45 pm Dua-e-Kumail.....8:30 pm (Estimated Cost of Program: \$900)
Sat, Nov 24th	CULTURE & RELIGION
A 1-DAY FORUM Noon - Maghrib (Details inside the Haqq Section)	Moulana Shamshad Haider (Dallas) Moulana Abbas Ayleya (Seattle) Moulana Zaki Baqri (Toronto) Br Hashim Alauddeen (Houston)