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Naat competition for children by Bazm-e-Mustafa

Houston, TX: On November 25, 2007, children between the ages of 5 to 12 warmed the hearts of the audience by rendering beautiful Naats in praise of Prophet Mohammad (PBH) in their distinct, refreshing, and unique styles. Bazm-e- Mustafa organized the competition, held at the Pakistan Center. Program began with Tilawat by Hafiz Syed Ismail Hamdani followed by Naat and Hamd by Syed Ayaz Mufti and Saqib Qadri, which set the atmosphere for the event.

Thirty-seven children participated in the competition. Each participant received a certificate, trophy and MP4. Despite the wet and cold weather a large number of people attended the event.

The three judges were Allama Faizan-e-Mustafa, Syed ayaz Mufti and Saqib Qadri. After prayer by Allam Mukhtar A. Naemi, winners

of the competition were announced. The 6 winners were presented Umrah packages, which included provision for a guardian. The awardees were Mukaram Niazi, Ovais Mustafa, Ovais Raza, Taha Ali, Mohammad Hassan Raza and Zohaib Fatani. A special prize of \$500 was given to Naat khawan Sami Ismail.

On the occasion, Razi Niazi, whose son Mukaram Niazi was one of the winners in the competition, announced Umrah packages for all the three judges.

The program concluded with Syed Moinuddin Haider's, founder of Bazm-e- Mustafa, note of thanks. According to the organizers the program could not have been a success without the untiring efforts and support of King Fuel, Obaid-ur-Rehman, Azamuddin, Dr. Naseem Khatri, Sardar Ahmed and Rashid Abdul, amongst others.

Deal allows for permanent US military bases in Iraq

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee disappointed over deal that allows for establishment of permanent U.S. bases in Iraq

WASHINGTON, DC: Congresswoman Jackson Lee, a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement in response to Monday's agreement between President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki guaranteeing an ongoing U.S. troop presence in Iraq:

"I am extremely disappointed by the agreement reached November 26th between President Bush and Prime Minister al-Maliki.

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Pakistani, 1 Arab killed in Arlington

By Raja Zahid Khanzada

TX: A driver and his passenger were killed when their car collided with an 18-wheeler in Arlington. The accident was reported just before midnight on eastbound Interstate 20 at Cooper Street.

The driver, 23-year-old Arab Abdel Rahman Joudeh of Louisiana, and passenger, 18-year-old Mohammad Khan of Grand Prairie, died at the scene. The driver of the tractor-trailer was taken to a hospital in critical condition. The cause of the accident is under investigation. Mohammad Khan is from Pakistan.

ICNA launches Sacramento Chapter

Sacramento, CA: The ICNA West Regional team was in Sacramento to launch the first local chapter of its dawah project, WhyIslam. For the past 11 months the Regional team had been working closely with all the local Islamic Centers and key individuals to organize the WhyIslam signature workshop: Dawah 101. Thousands of fliers were distributed and announcements made in all the Islamic Centers during the preceding several weeks, resulting in an overwhelming response.

The workshop, conducted at three different times at Sacramento State University was the 10th one organized by ICNA

West. The 10 local Islamic Centers and the Sacramento State MSA sponsored the event. Registration was closed early for two of the events due to reaching full capacity.

During the workshops the audience enjoyed mock dialogues and interactive sessions along with informative and humorous tips on practical and organized dawah.

An interesting video was screened about the WhyIslam project, and several gifts were given to winners of random Islamic quizzes. The Regional President introduced the dawah activities in the region and

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HPD Crime Reduction Unit improves safety in neighborhoods

HOUSTON, TX: – The Houston Police Department announced that the newest addition to their Crime Reduction Unit has made vast safety improvements in the Southwest Houston area. It has been reported that within their first two weeks, officers arrested 269 criminals in an effort to address citizens growing concerns about crime in their neighborhoods.

Over 50 uniformed police officers patrolled the Club Creek area of Southwest Houston, making their presence known around businesses and homes in the area. Many of those arrested were career criminals with arrest histories that included nar-

cotics and other felony charges. Houston City Council Member M.J. Khan notes how beneficial this new endeavor has already been in protecting the residents of District F in Southwest Houston, "The diligence of this new addition to the CRU has already made a substantial and necessary improvement to our district. The commitment that this administration and the current City Council has made to provide the resources needed to keep our citizens safe is evident by this initiative. I am proud of our police officers and grateful for their continued dedication to protecting the lives of Houstonians."

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See detailed Ad on pg. 64

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