



Vol. 3, No. 5; September 21, 2010

Announcements

Inauguration of Government Affairs Services Center's (GASC) New Office

The department of Government Affairs has launched its new Government Affairs Services Center (GASC). Our office has been relocated to Room 2226 in Building 16. The official inauguration of the new location was held Saturday, September 18, 2010. We would like to remind you of some of our main services:

- Issuing and renewing residency document (Iqamaa)
- Issuing Exit/Re-entry Visas
- Issuing driving license
- Assist with international Visa issuance
- Support with airport arrival assistance
- Support with custom clearance

GASC will operate from Saturday to Wednesday from 8 AM until 5 PM. For all your inquiries, you can reach us at:

Phone: (808) 0970 ; **Email:** gasc@kaust.edu.sa

RSN Sections:

- **Announcements** from KAUST departments;
- **Community News**;
- **Insight / Up Close**;
- **BITS & PIECES**;
- **Classifieds / Personal Notes**

Contact:

editor@redseanews.info.

For archived newsletters and more put **redseanews.info** in your browser and see what you've been missing or just haven't discovered yet.

Go straight to **redseainfo.info** for maps, group contacts, Jeddah info, and much more.

Community News

Saudi National Day Community Events

In celebration of Saudi National Day this September, Community Services is pleased to announce a number of events and activities:

1. **Special Dinner Buffet** with live music at the Al Marsa Yacht Club on Wednesday, the 22nd.
2. **Saudi Themed Night** at the KAUST Beach on Thursday, the 23rd.
For full details about and reservations for the above, click [here](#).
3. **Saudi Themed Dinner** at the Campus Diner each evening from Wednesday, the 22nd to Friday, the 25th.
4. **Saudi Hospitality** at Discovery Square from 7 pm till 9 pm on Thursday, the 23rd.

Best Regards,
Community Services

New Bus Schedule

The new bus schedule is shown below. It went into effect on September 18.

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Work Haul Bus Jeddah - KAUST	Leave Jeddah (Habitat) 06:20 Leave KAUST CS OB BUS TERMINAL 17:20							
IMC, Sairafi Mall, IKEA.	Leave KAUST 08:00 Leave Sairafi 13:00 Leave IMC 13:30	Leave KAUST 08:00 Leave Sairafi 13:00 Leave IMC 13:30	Leave KAUST 08:00 Leave Sairafi 13:00 Leave IMC 13:30	Leave KAUST 08:00 Leave Sairafi 13:00 Leave IMC 13:30	Leave KAUST 08:00 Leave Sairafi 13:00 Leave IMC 13:30	Leave KAUST 08:00 Leave Sairafi 13:00 Leave IMC 13:30		
IMC, Ballad	Leave KAUST 16:00 Leave IMC 21:00	Leave KAUST 16:00 Leave IMC 21:00	Leave KAUST 16:00 Leave IMC 21:00	Leave KAUST 16:00 Leave IMC 21:00	Leave KAUST 16:00 Leave IMC 23:00			
Al-Ballad						Leave KAUST 16:00 Leave Ballad 23:00	Leave KAUST 16:00 Leave Ballad 21:00	
Roshan Mall, Red Sea Mall, Mall of Arabia \$			Leave KAUST 17:30 Leave Mall 22:00 \$				Leave KAUST 16:00 Leave KAUST 21:00 \$	
Roshan Mall, Red Sea Mall, Mall of Arabia						Leave KAUST 10:00 Leave Mall 19:30		
Mall of Arabia					Leave KAUST 18:00 Leave Mall 23:00		Leave KAUST 16:00 Leave Mall 21:00	
Al-Tahlia Street, Jeddah International Market (J.I.M.)					Leave KAUST 17:30 Leave J.I.M. 23:00	Leave KAUST 17:30 Leave J.I.M. 23:00		
Makkah *					Leave KAUST 17:15 Leave Makkah 22:30	Leave KAUST 13:15 * Leave Makkah 21:30		
Madinah # 2 Day Journey, Overnight in Madinah						Leave KAUST 9:15 Arrive Madinah 15:00	Leave Madinah 17:00 Arrive KAUST 22:45	
<p style="font-size: small;">Journey times: KAUST to IMC - approx 1½ hour, KAUST to the Malls - approx 1 hour, KAUST to Makkah approx 2¼ hours, KAUST to Madinah approx 5¼ hours.</p> <p>Note : \$-Weekly Alternate schedule to Red Sea Mall and Mall of Arabia, * Trip to Makkah every 2nd Thursday of the month, # Trip to Madinah every 1st Thursday of the month.</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Shopping buses, trips to Madinah and Makkah depart from Parking Lot opposite Tamimi Super market</p>								

To check for updates, please visit logistics.kaust.edu.sa and click Transportation in the side menu.

Perspectives on Japanese Culture, Technology and Entrepreneurship

September 26 and 27 will bring several interesting seminar sessions to Campus – and they are open to anyone who wants to learn about **“Japanese Technological Civilization”** (in 4 sessions); **“Intellectual Property Rights Management”** (in 2 sessions); **“Japanese Style Painting”** (in 1 session); **“Technology Management Strategy”** (in 2 sessions); and **“Entrepreneurship in Japan”** (in 2 sessions). Five very distinguished professors from Japan will be here to share their experiences and knowledge in these areas. If you haven’t registered yet, be sure to do so soon. You won’t be turned away. Send an email to professional.development@kaust.edu.sa, indicating the courses you want to attend. Contact Graduate Services for more information. These sessions will be held in the Student Center Building (#18) starting at 9 am.

And, a very special event will be presented on September 26, **at 9 pm**: a Samurai Tea Ceremony. A Grand Tea Master will provide the experience. KAUST Announcements will be made.

Time to Plan Ahead:



**Women's
Fitness
Summit**

Harbor
Sports Club
Sept 30 – Oct 1
8 am – 4:30 pm

Mubarakah
Ibrahim

For more information, call 808 6616 or contact recreation@kaust.edu.sa

KAUST Recreation is hosting our very first Women’s Fitness Summit: a weekend of Wellness & Fitness exercise classes and workshops at the Harbor Sports Club which will be run by Fitness Expert and Key Note Speaker Mubarakah Ibrahim and her team, all from the East Coast of the United States. Our very own Harbor Sports Club Ladies Fitness will be conducting the class components.

The Program runs from 8am-4.30pm on both days and will include a diverse range of invigorating choices from Yoga & Body Pump classes to Stress Management and Nutrition-based workshops.

The cost of the weekend is 500SAR and will include a light breakfast, a healthy lunch, a T. shirt, a bag and a whole lot of inspiration, education, interaction, motivation and fun. So, be there, it’ll be worth it!!

--KAUST Recreation Services

Green means GO,

And this sign means



It has come to our attention that many “drivers” think this doesn’t apply to them. So, for the purpose of clarity: **any vehicle** = bicycle, tricycle, motor scooter, golf cart, pickup truck, crane truck, van, and your typical car/SUV in the roadway - is expected to actually **STOP** when at an intersection displaying this sign in **your** direction.

Insight/ Up Close

Though the holiday has ended, this article by Maaz Gazdar will provide a further understanding of the Eid celebration that gave you a whole week of no work. And, maybe you’ll remember his recommendations for next year.

Eid Al-Fitr

The Muslim Celebration Following Ramadan Fasting



By Maaz Gazdar

Eid Al-Fitr is a special day of celebration in the Muslim calendar. It is based on the Islamic **lunar** calendar. Eid Al-Fitr starts with the sighting of the new moon after 29 or 30 days of fasting during Ramadan. Eid comes from the root Arabic word meaning Return, and is a regular event. Fitr means to break-fast or not fast. So, Eid Al-Fitr means the regular celebration of breaking-fast. On this day, optional fasting is **not** even allowed.

Zakat Al-Fitr is an obligatory act of giving food (preferably from the staple food of the country such as wheat, barley, rice and so on) to the poor prior to the special prayer on the day of Eid. It is intended to ensure that all those less fortunate have ample food on this special day and is expected of every person in the household of those who can pay it. (For more details on Zakat, see Red Sea Newsletter Volume 3, No. 2; August 24, 2010.)

Some typical activities that take place during Eid Al-Fitr in Saudi Arabia follow. There are many regional variations, but hopefully this will give you a flavor of some in our own “backyard.”

1. From the time of the sighting of the new moon, or even earlier, most people will start to head back to the rest of their immediate family. It is common for people to spend the last few days of Ramadan in Makkah or Madinah.
2. From the sighting of the new moon till the special Eid prayer, people will be reciting the Takbir, which goes as follows:

**Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar. La ilaha illa-Allah
Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar. Wa lilallahahill Hamd.
(English Translation:)**

**Allah is the greatest, Allah is greatest. There is no deity but Allah
Allah is greatest, Allah is greatest. And all praises are for Allah**

3. Prior to the Fajar (dawn) prayer in the mosque, people will have a shower, wear new clothes, or the best they have, and generally beautify themselves. Applying Henna also takes place for the females in the family.
4. The special Eid prayer is held in the largest mosque in the area, or in an open field, and takes place shortly after sunrise. People would either have a light breakfast before heading to the prayer area, which would normally include dates, or will take dates and sweets with them. They would then distribute the dates, sweets, coffee to those in the prayer area.
5. Where Eid prayers take place in an open field, it is common for every member of the household to attend, from the youngest to the oldest. People would go to Eid prayers and return via different routes.
6. The Eid prayer includes a short sermon normally reminding people to continue with their additional religious adherence, as well as good things to do on Eid, such as visiting relatives.
7. Following the prayer, all family members would typically gather in the household of the eldest member of the family, where they will all have the Eid breakfast together. This breakfast could include a wide range of traditional, laboriously prepared dishes.
8. After the Eid breakfast, or during visits to other family members, children normally receive Eidiya. Eidiya are gifts, token gifts or token cash from the adults to the children.
9. The rest of this day would include visiting extended family, family in-laws, and neighbors and would include lots of food and drink. It can also include family outings to amusement parks or, where applicable, to the older traditional village/town centers where hand-operated carousels (merry-go-rounds), swings, rides and stalls usually are.
10. Although Eid celebrations are very family oriented, it is also a time when people show their generosity and hospitality to neighbors and strangers alike. From sharing dates and sweets in the prayer area, to inviting people to have lunch or dinner with them, and to giving young children Eidiya.

What Happens After Eid Al-Fitr

During Eid Al-Fitr people normally reflect on their lifestyle of additional religious observance during Ramadan, and it is typical that people will make a concerted effort to better themselves.

Fasting an extra six days during this month (Shawwal, or the tenth Islamic month) is an optional act of worship with great reward, so many Muslims will fast these extra days due to the saying of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) who said, "Whoever fasts Ramadan and follows it with six days from Shawwal it is as if they fasted the entire year" – Sahih Muslim.

When talking to a number of Saudi colleagues, one thing became apparent. As families in Saudi Arabia disperse around the Kingdom, and indeed around the world, the special time of Eid and its associated celebrations are losing their grandeur. So if you are ever invited to an Eid gathering, make the effort to join in. Finally, a big thank to all our Saudi colleagues who have shared their experiences with us and a belated Eid Mubarak to all.

BITS & PIECES

There is a little “girl” in our midst who has been bounced around from one home to another – each time thinking “this is my new home, this is where I get to be loved.” Sadly, her thoughts and no doubt hopes have not been met. This little, beautiful creature – growing more and more uncertain every day, needs little more than a warm and friendly environment in which to thrive. If you have patience and a kind heart, you will win her over. Without it, her outlook is grim!

You’ve seen her face – a few times: each time the foster parent decided he or she wasn’t the right match for her. Without your kindness, this little “girl” will be *no more*.

Please contact susan.hemp@kaust.edu.sa if you are ready to be the last stop on Snowball’s roller coaster ride of multi-family experiences that this sweet white kitty has been exposed to.



Classified Ads / Personal Notes

Hayden Evans is interested in making a little money while serving his community. He is 10 years old and in 5th grade; he reads voraciously and writes quite well. He could be a perfect match for a young HES or ECC student struggling with English, or someone who wants to learn English particularly well. Hayden would connect well with the younger crowd and be good and conscientious about helping improve his “client’s” English while earning a little extra income.

AND:

Since our arrival on campus almost a year ago, I (David Evans) have served as an informal bike maintenance guy for lots of people, most of them kids. I’d like to extend this service *gratis* to any student at KAUST School. All they need do is come see me in my classroom at HSS, Room 175, sometime on a school day, and let me know what’s wrong with their bike and, if I think I can fix it, we’ll make a time for them to bring their bike over for repair. My plan is to have the repair time serve as a mechanical tutoring time as well, so that kids can learn some of the finer points of taking care of their bike.

CONTACT: **David Evans** for both Hayden’s tutoring and David’s bike maintenance at:
david.evans@kaust.edu.sa

Dr. Joan Mitchell has been rescuing cats over the years in Jeddah. Unfortunately, because of great irresponsibility on the part of cat owners (no spaying or neutering), there are too many of them for their own good. Joan, a vet, takes care of more than 20 cats in her garden and it’s time for her to find them lovely and caring homes.

Anyone interested in adopting lovely cats, please contact me (daisy.trilk@hotmail.com) or Joan Mitchell (leimitch@hotmail.com). **All these cats** are special, neutered and vaccinated. If you are not interested in cats yourself, please forward this message to your friends who might be.

BG



Britney



Boots



Buster



Casper



Casperini



Cleo & Patra



Danny



Emily



Honey



Tippy



Smokey



Puss 'n Boots



Ortzi



Polly



I had to leave a few out – but if the “style” of kitty isn’t pictured here, it’s possible one is waiting for you in Dr. Joan’s garden.

and this is “ET” who would like a home to phone home to !

Can you help Dr. Joan help these abandoned kitties? If so, you will help make this world a better place – for many.