

# NEWSLETTER SALAM



By: The Level 7 Class of 2011-2012  
Bilal Masjid Sunday School <http://bilalmasjid.com/sundayschool>

## Introduction

We are restarting the monthly newsletter. This issue will talk about Sports, people's hajj experiences, current events and important highlights on what is happening to our masjid.

## Sports

By Humzah Ahmed

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Blazer's Super Star Brandon Roy retired due to bad knees. Being the best Blazer in seven years, Brandon Roy left a gap in Blazer history as well as in our hearts. The biggest reason he retired was because of his generated knees, leaving him in pain. Although financially this is very beneficial, the Blazers will never be the same. The team will have an increased salary cap as Brandon Roy was one of their most expensive players.

## Hajj Interview

By Feroze Hasan

This year Saadia aunty and Shahid uncle went for Hajj. They are parents of Soha who goes to Sunday school, level 6. They were gone from October 26<sup>th</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup>. Here is an excerpt from my conversation with Saadia aunty on her return.

**Q: Why did you decide to go for Hajj this year?**

A: We had been planning to go for a long time. This year we had the money and the inclination. We felt like it was the right moment.

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**Q: How was your journey?**

A: Our journey was as easy as it could possibly be. It is not like the olden days when people traveled for months on camelback to reach Mecca. Now, Alhamdulillah we can travel from one place to the other in a matter of hours.

**Q: What was the most challenging part?**

A: The hardest part was leaving Mecca and coming back to Portland.

**Q: What was the best part and why?**

A: The best part was the tawwaf because it made me think about the Kaaba and how it was built. It made me think about people like the Prophet (PBUH) who made tawwaf the same way like I was doing.

**Q: What did you learn?**

A: I learnt that this world is not it, it is simply a test. The worldly aspects of this life are easy to become engulfed in. At Hajj I realized the need to remember Allah at all times.

**Q: How would you compare Mecca and Medina?**

A: Medina is peace and tranquility. Mecca is harsher and rough even the terrain and the mountains that surround the city are rugged and have no trees on them.

**Q: What advice would you give to people who have not gone for Hajj?**

A: You should make your niyat. If it's the right time, Allah will open the doors.

## News from Egypt

By Ibrahim

Conflict between the ruling military council and the protesters in the streets continues to grow in Egypt. Protesters, impatient with what they perceive to be the slow pace of reform, have taken to Tahrir Square and other public places in growing numbers in recent weeks, amid calls for the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to continue on the path to true democratic government. But the ruling generals have other ideas in mind, namely a process by which they would remain outside the jurisdiction of the newly elected president. That sort of power would give the military the power to intervene on the side of protesters against the president, as happened in February, when the army sided with the Tahrir Square protesters against Mubarak; but the reverse is also true, in that a president elected by a majority of the Egyptian voters might very well see his role as commander-in-chief superseded by the generals in charge of the nation's armed forces. Indeed, one of the generals recently suggested that the military should have the role, in a post-Mubarak Egypt, of "guaranteeing supra-constitutional principles." In a sense, the military has played a major role in running the country since 1952. Mubarak himself took over as president after the assassination of Anwar Sadat, and both of those leaders were heavily dependent on military advisers and support to keep them in power. This marks a sharp divide between the military and the people on the streets. Both groups were united in their opposition to Mubarak once it became clear that the groundswell wasn't going to dissipate. In fact, the military's refusing to fire on protesters — as has been the case in Bahrain, Libya, Syria, and Yemen — was a key part of the revolution that brought down Mubarak. Suggesting that parliamentary elections, long scheduled for September, might be pushed back a further two months because of the scope of the

changes required in the political landscape. Although some protesters have voiced their opposition to such a delay, others — namely those belonging to political parties other than the ruling DNP and the Muslim Brotherhood — would probably welcome a delay because it gives them more time to solidify their own fledging political parties.

## Current Events

By Umair Zaidi

### Habitat for Humanity

On December 3rd, people of the Bilal masjid community went to build houses for the people that could not afford. We provided half the labor, and the family provided the other half. We are building the house for them for free. On that day, we built houses. That might not sound like much, but hey it was one day, we tried as hard as we could. The people who helped build the houses gained a big reward. They had helped the poor get a place to live and will Insha'Allah gain a place in Jannah. One way to do this is with the table of contents. A table of contents that has descriptive and enticing headlines will go a long way toward getting the reader beyond the articles on the front page.



### Masjid Expansion

We are planning to expand the Masjid. We will need over \$1,000,000 and are hoping that you can donate in the donation boxes in the main mosque. (There are 2. One is in the men’s side and one is in the women’s side.) There are at least 300 people in this community, if everybody donated 10 dollars a week for a year that would make about a million dollars.

### White House Problems

A couple of weeks ago, the Oregon state fire department came and investigated around. It turns out that the white house has fungus growing in it and is not safe for a class. Since the masjid does not have any other place to move the classes that are in the white house, Sunday school will have two sessions: One in the morning and one in the afternoon. Only three classes will be affected by this. The three are:

Level:	Level 7	Level 8	Level 9
Time:	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Place:	Trailer E	Trailer W	ISGP hall

I hope that not many families have a problem with this arrangement. Hopefully, this will only last 1 school year as the school board has announced.

### Out of This World Eid Prayer

A lot of times, we have rented schools, halls, and sometimes just prayed in the masjid, but this year we had the Eid prayer in Out of this World Pizza. I got there and it was a great scene. I saw about 15 rows that had about 80 people in each row. For the first time, sisters were able to see the Imam and listen to the Khutba peacefully without much disturbance. There were donuts from Donut Day (go to Google maps and search up Donut day and you will find the address to a halal donut place. The actual shop is run by Muslims. They taste great too.) The Donuts ran out in 2 minutes. There was candy, and some people even got goody bags. The prayer was undisturbed; thanks to the Bilal masjid volunteers. The whole thing was a success. I hope this happens next year

### Comics

By Faaiz Waqar



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