

# INDO GULF GLOBAL

## The Prince of Wales VISIT THE DAWOODI BOHRA MOSQUE

London. The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visited a Muslim community in London that has made a major contribution to British business and has patriotism at the heart of its faith.

Numbering over a million and settled in over 40 countries, the Shiah Fatemi Ismaili Tayyibi Dawoodi Bohras are a denomination of Islam with a distinct identity, culture and ethos that preserves their Islamic beliefs while aiming to integrate and assimilate with the culture fabrics of the countries in which they have made their homes.

There are over 6,000 Dawoodi Bohras in the UK. In London, they number more than 3,000 although the Dawoodi Bohra Mosque in North-West London welcomes large numbers of visitors from all over the UK, Europe and the World. The Prince and The Duchess are practising Anglicans. Over the years they have sought to encourage inter-faith dialogue in the UK and overseas and regularly visits the mosque. Loyalty and Respect are the two prominent qualities Dawoodi Bohras are encouraged to practice. They are loyal to their Imam, Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin, and one of their key principles "patriotism" is to make a positive contribution to whichever country they live in.



## Clinton seeks to improve US image with Muslim world

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton moved Wednesday to boost U.S. ties with the world's most populous Muslim nation and its neighbors, pledging a new American willingness to work with and listen to Indonesia and the rest of Southeast Asia. Her message was received warmly by officials in Jakarta, the childhood home of President Barack Obama, although small and scattered protests were held in several cities, with some Islamic hard-liners setting tires on fire and others throwing shoes at caricatures of Clinton. She said her choice of Asia for her first overseas trip as Obama's top diplomat was "no accident" and a sign of the new administration's desire for broader and deeper relations with the continent on regional and global issues. Clinton, who arrived from a stop in Japan and will head Thursday to South Korea and China, was particularly effusive about Indonesia, which she said deserved praise for its hard-won multiethnic democracy and efforts to fight terrorism while respecting human rights. She announced plans to restart Peace Corps programs in Indonesia that were suspended in 1965 when volunteers were expelled after leftists accused them of espionage.

And she said the two countries would cooperate on climate change, trade, education, regional security and a host of other issues, while indicating that more development aid would be provided. Clinton said she had written about the importance of his time here as a young man at a conference with Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda. "It gave him an insight into not only the capacity for people with different backgrounds to live harmoniously together," she said, "but also that democracy and modernity not only can coexist but thrive together."

Indonesia, a secular nation of 235 million people, has personal ties for Obama, who spent four years out at the airport to welcome Clinton were 44 children from his former elementary school in Jakarta. Clinton carried Indonesian and U.S. flags. She smiled and swayed to the music as they sang. Wirajuda said Indonesia had invited Clinton, but neither he nor Clinton would say if an invitation had been extended. "President Obama is a great leader of the free world," Clinton said. "I am proud to be here in Indonesia; of course, without the right to vote," he said. Another of Clinton's goals in Southeast Asia in general, stressing the growing importance of a region that often felt slighted by the U.S. She said she would sign the bloc's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, a nonaggression pact. Clinton said she would also announce a new U.S. strategy for the region. Clinton said she would skip a conference — something former Bush administration Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice skipped in 2006.

"It really shows the seriousness of the United States to end its diplomatic absenteeism in the region," Clinton said. Pitsuwani, adding that "the road to reconnecting with the Muslim world" might well run through the region.



His Holiness Syedna (TUS) delivers religious sermon in Nairobi  
Syedna (TUS) arrived at Saifee Park, Burhani Masjid in Nairobi (Kenya) to preside over the Waaz Majlis on shahadat of Imam Hasan AS.

## BAHRAIN, IRAN DECLARE 'GOOD' NEIGHBOURHOOD

TEHRAN — Gulf neighbours Bahrain and Iran jointly said in a statement that they will maintain good relations, indicating that the diplomatic row that erupted between them last week was over. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who met with the visiting Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad al-Khalifa, called for "more closeness and cooperation between the two nations, this friendship and closeness will not leave any opportunity for the mischief of evil people," the president said. Delivering a message of "friendship and brotherhood" from King Hamad to Ahmadinejad the visiting Bahraini official stressed the "importance of expansion of relations with Iran for Bahrain's government and nation."

Sheikh Khaled also met with his Iranian counterpart, Manouchehr Mottaki, stressing that the kingdom will continue "good neighbourly" relations with Iran. In a short statement broadcast by Iran's Arabic-language Al-Aalam television, the two men indicated that the diplomatic row was over. "It is a goodwill letter which shows mutual respect between the two countries. This letter responds to all ill-wishers who wanted to hurt the deep relations between the two countries," Sheikh Khaled told reporters of the Bahrain's king message. Last week, Bahrain strongly protested after Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, a prominent member of Iran's powerful Expediency Council, was reported to have said



# Bharata Natyam in brief



In India, there are seven great styles of classical dancing; Bharata Natyam is one of the most ancient and most astonishing. It originated in Tamil Nadu. It is supposed to come from the 5<sup>th</sup> Veda (the Natya Veda), transmitted by Brahma to Nataraja, Tandua and Parvati would have taught Bharata Muni the masculine and feminine part of the dance. The Holy man Natya Shastra that was passed on from generation to generation.

Bharata Natyam is composed of one part pure dancing, the Nritya, and another part of expressive dancing, the Nritya. The Nritya is technical and rhythmic and only has a decorative purpose. As for the Nritya, it tells a story, conveys the meaning of a song through body movement and facial expression. That is what we call the Abhinaya.

### The Path I Have Travelled

Helena Magisson Bharata Natyam Artist from France recently in Mumbai's Goculdas Tejpal Auditorium performed her Arangetram under the guidance of Guru Smt. Neeta Kamath in an Interview Helena Magisson stated to Indo Gulf Global that in 1994 she visited her parents who were then living in India and for the first time in her life, she attended a Bharata Natyam performance. She instantly fell

under the spell of this incredibly rich type of dancing.

In September 2000, in Strasbourg, France, she took first Bharata Natyam class under the instruction of Rajarajeswari, Learning and art form that emanates from such a foreign culture always felt incomplete, therefore she followed two intensive training sessions in India: one in Chennai in August 2005 at the school of Vrmila Satyanarayanan and the other in Delhi in August 2006 with Jamuna Krishnan.

Joining a Bharata Natyam course in India, and surrounding she with Indian students in an atmosphere where the sacred and the tradition are omnipresent, was for her an unavoidable experience. There she understood how demanding this form of art was and how critical daily practice was in order to progress.

Later she studied with Hasita Sonn, in Freiburg (Germany). Hasita introduced her to the complexities and depth of this dance form with regard to respecting tradition. Thanks to Helena's enthusiasm and energy, Hasita ignited and fostered in Helena an even greater joy of dancing.

Since October 2007, she has been taking lessons with Neeta Kamath, who taught her subtleties of Abhinaya with a great focus on precision, coherence through mastering gesture precision, breathing technique, posture and look. Neeta introduced Helena to the richness and beauty of Tala. Neeta also invited her to participate in the elaboration of her own choreographies to make Helena realize the harmony, contrast and flowery embellishments of each dance. Helena agreed to prepare for her Arangetram, not to reach closure but as an entryway to grow into this art form. Knowing also that an Arangetram is a traditional event in India, it is a way to thank all her gurus/masters who have shown her the way.

# Indias first-ever Mixed Martial Arts

Full Contact Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., the pioneer of Mixed Martial Arts in India, will present the first-ever Professional Mixed Martial Arts Fight Network Full Contact Championship (FCC) in the country in the first quarter of 2009. With this pioneering initiative, FCC will bring the globally popular Fight Night culture to India. **Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)** is a full contact combat sport that allows a wide variety of fighting techniques, from a mixture of martial arts traditions and non-traditions, to be used in competitions.

FCC is a unique platform for talented Indians to turn into professional fighters and for a vast majority of sports entertainment lovers to watch real live action packed fights. In Indias first night of Super Fights, 6 professionally trained pairs of fighters in various weight categories between 55 kg and 85 kg and above will vie for top honours in 3 rounds of 3 minutes each. The winners will get the FCC crowns and cash prizes.

Prashant Kumar, the Founder and Managing Director of Full Contact Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., says, It has taken me 2 years to get together a stable of the best fighters in the country. By organising the Full Contact Championship in India, we hope to introduce the concept of professional fighting, where every fighter gets paid to participate and sports entertainment lovers can enjoy watching real fights. We also aspire to provide a platform to all talented Indian fighters from the remotest corners of the country, and take them to an international level.

FCC is also bringing to the Indian audience the globally popular concept of Fight Night. MMA and FCC will be a



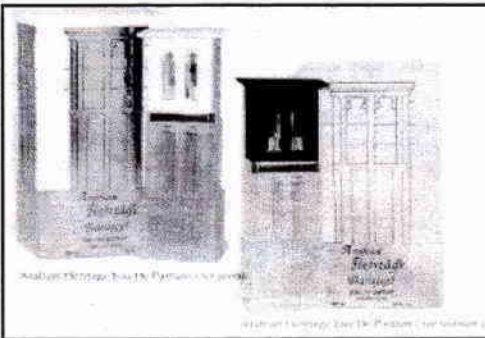
real treat for millions of audience cutting across all socio-economic age barriers. Bruce Lee, popularly recognised as the father of Mixed Martial Arts, is quite popular in India even today and a source of inspiration to millions. India is now ready to fight the world, adds Prashant Kumar.

Full Contact Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. brings the MMA fever to India, for the first time ever, through its pro Fight Network, which comprises trained



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