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VOL 2 | FEBRUARY | ISSUE 2

# Middle East Youth Wing Newsletter

Current Topics >>>>

*A Squash Legend  
in the land of  
deserts...*

Memons are unique in their own sweet way. We have cricketers, bowling champions, public speakers, and many more. But one of the local legends amongst the best is our very own WMO founder member and a Squash seasoned player **Muhammad Rafique Noorani**.

*Continued...*

## *Youth Wing M.E Chapter Striving for a change...*

Youth Wing Middle East Chapter continues to embark on the path to success. The second edition of the second volume covers exclusive articles by our very own writers, and a special dedication to Mr. Muhammad Rafique Noorani – Squash Champion for many years in the local circuit of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

This edition features some very intellectual write ups, and a line up of events by the Youth Wing in the coming days.

After a quiet 3 months following the AGM and the dhow cruise networking event. The youth wing is back with not 1 or 2 but 3 events in a span of 30 days.

- Muhammad Rafique Noorani Squash Open – 28<sup>th</sup> February
- Ladies Badminton Championship – 1<sup>st</sup> March
- MD. Ghazi Vahedna Sports Festival 2014 – 28<sup>th</sup> March.

It's an action packed 1 month for the youth wing and all the memons across Middle East.

We urge the youth to come forward and be a part of this project and submit their work for the world to see.

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# Squash Legend in the land of the deserts

*Muhammad Rafique  
Noorani*

Article by: Muhammad Salmaan Hussain

Not many memons are known for the skills at sports, especially in Dubai. There are a very few, and one of the diamonds amongst the jewels is Muhammad Rafique Noorani. He has not only won a lot of tournaments in Dubai but also has been an active part of Al Nasr Leisureland squash tournaments for over two decades. It is our privilege to have someone of that level, representing our community.

To talk about representing community, he has not just done so by playing squash, he is one of the founder members of the World Memon Organization. Amongst his biggest achievements away from sports include: Held the position of Assistant Secretary General at Middle East Chapter for 9 years, the first ever memon anchor at QTV by ARY Digital and last but not the least, his presence as a public speaker.

We had an exclusive interview with him and spoke about his efforts to make WMO Middle East what it is today and we were thrilled by his stories. In an effort to pay tribute to such an individual, we have organized Muhammad Rafique Noorani Squash Open 2014. An exclusive squash tournament for memons from the Middle East.

We met him to talk about his time playing Squash and also had an opportunity to ask a few questions.

**Q. Your all time favorite player?**

*A: The one and only – Janghir Khan*

**Q. Favorite moment?**

*A: Winning a tournament in 1999 at Al Nasr Leisure Land.*

**Q. Toughest opponent you've faced?**

*A: Ahmed Obaidi, one of best players in UAE in those days*

**Q: What's your favorite shot in Squash?**

*A: The drop shot*

**Q. Who were the best players in your time that you played against?**

*A: Sheikh Ahmed, Dawood, Naresh & Ahmed Obaidi were the top level players of the 90s.*

**Q. How can Squash improve in UAE?**

*A: I believe the youth should participate more in tournaments. And they should start playing squash at an early age to make sure they are professional.*





# Muhammad Rafique Noorani



## And the award goes to...

RAFIQ Noorani, a UAE-based Pakistani businessman, was approved as the coordinator for Dubai by Nazria-e-Pakistan Foundation, Pakistan, for the Year of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah celebrations in 2001. Dr Khalid Abbas, chief coordinator of NPF in the Middle East, said that the year was celebrated in a befitting manner in Dubai like in the other parts of the Middle East. Noorani played a vital role in the celebrations and also in propagating the cause of NPF and the ideology of Pakistan in the region, he said. In recognition of his services, the NPF announced the Quaid-e-Azam Shield for Noorani which was presented to him by Dr Abbas in a simple but dignified ceremony in Dubai recently. — M A Qudoos



## From the editor:

It is appropriate that the founder member of the World Memon Organization in the Middle East has a special bonding with one of the most toughest sports. He is not only one who's ruled for years but his success stories are there to be seen on the hall of fame wall at Al Nasr Leisure Land.

- Muhammad Salmaan (Chairman, WMO Middle East Youth Wing)





# Community Service: a duty, not a dilemma

Why should we serve the community? What do we gain from it? How will I make up for my other activities? All these are questions typically raised when it comes to community service. Community Service is essential for many reasons. Taking part and volunteering teaches compassion and understanding. One of my favorite things about community service is that there are opportunities and choices. You can volunteer for something you really believe and have an interest in, and can volunteer as much or as little as you'd like or have time for. It was a very rewarding experience and I got to do many things I wouldn't of had an Opportunity to do otherwise. Not only is community service fun and rewarding, it also looks great on a resume or college application. Sometimes community service is even required for high school graduation. For many people, community service is more than just fun. For example in my case, I was not even told about it and it just came suddenly. But I must admit, I have had lots to learn ever since I took over the responsibility. And at the same time, it has been a lot of FUN.

There are challenges and hurdles that a person has to go through but it is indeed rewarding. The other terms for social service could be persistence or sacrifice. You as an individual need to learn to control your own wish and will and put the community ahead and that is not an easy task all the time. In my experience of serving the community for more than a year now, I can safely say that I have covered at least 50% of my duties.

If you put in enough time and effort, serving the community is NOT complicated,. If you remember to serve your community today, tomorrow they will reward you by remembering you and giving you the admiration you deserve. There are many people who are known for what they have done for us, for example: Late Haji Abdul Razzak Yaqoob, Late Haji Aboo Baker Cassim etc. They had given their time and served the community for years. They to me, are the biggest reasons to serve the memon community. I personally do not see myself matching their efforts, but I can definitely try to come close.

As I move through life I think I will always be involved in community service. Not just because I think it is important but because it is something I enjoy and look forward to. I love bringing joy and through community service I feel I can accomplish that.

I wish and hope that more and more youngsters will join us, and take part in making sure that Memons become an integral part of any society in any country or part of the world.

Article by: Muhammad Salmaan Hussain – Chairman WMO M.E Youth Wing







*Presents*



# MD GHAZI VAHEDNA SPORTS FESTIVAL 2014

28<sup>th</sup> March - From 3pm

At United Pro Sports



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# Vocational Education and Training - An attractive option

**O**ne of the most common issues youth confronts nowadays is the family pressure to concentrate on attaining high academic qualification whether he/she is lacking interest in studies, or not good at the academics, one has to struggle hard to become a Medical Practitioner, Engineer, Chartered Accountant or an MBA since a university degree only is perceived to be associated with esteem and better financial future. The traditional formula has always been: college = white collar job = success. To achieve this covetable end game, parents prepare their children as young as four years old for the college path. This attitude of the society has resulted in a large number of degree holders remained unemployed. The students who graduate but with little interest in the pertinent field would not be able to meet the employers' demands and hence fail to gain a better position at work or they might find a job in an industry for which their degree was "completely irrelevant". We have seen many people with an MBA degree in hand entering into textile and fashion designing or an engineer working as a project coordinator and so on. Students weak in academics or show lack of interest in studies should be encouraged to take up technical education. Therefore it is advisable for young talent to:

## Take up technical education if academics not your forte'

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) lays emphasis on training for a specific career or trade. Vocational education is primarily non-academic in nature and offers practical training and skills needed to pursue an occupation straightaway. It provides students with courses directly aligned to land a job in a chosen profession or a skilled trade. The end result of vocational education is to enable an individual to attain self-employment. The training is usually provided at high school level or at post-secondary trade schools to prepare the trainees for taking jobs that require skills and pay high salaries immediately after graduation, giving them an advantage over untrained job-seekers who learn about the required skills through formal training provided by the employers.

Earlier vocational training was about acquiring technical skills to qualify as a plumber or electrician, whereas in today's world it means something very different. There are certain appealing areas young people to get involved with. The key vocational disciplines are aviation and transport; aerospace; satellite and communications technologies; renewable and alternative energy and infrastructure.

Dr Naji Al Mahdi, Executive Director of NIVE, spoke at the Global Education Forum (GEF) in Dubai. He said for every single university graduate, the UAE and its neighbors need to produce 10 people with vocational training to contribute to various growing industries, including science and engineering.

According to a recent study conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), there will be a deficit of 40 million working professionals by the year 2020 and about 41% of the employers will be faced with the difficulty of filling positions because of the dearth of suitable talent and skill in their industry.

Low perception of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is also preventing Pakistani youth from considering it a viable and mainstream alternative, resulting in their entry into the labor market with low skills, according to Asian Development Bank (ADB) report.

Unemployment and under-employment are two of the most serious problems being faced by businesses in many countries, including Pakistan, and are becoming the obstacles in the path of economic development. One of the main causes of unemployment is the lack of skilled people or people with the required expertise. "We need a mass skilled work force that knows how to do things in order to grow our industries, Instead we as a nation are producing more university graduates who end up joining the unemployment queues."

The significant advantage of TVET to the economy of a country is that it helps in fighting and alleviating unemployment. In fact, it has also been referred to as the solution to unemployment as it helps in developing the skills of the jobless people so that they can meet the requirements of employers during the recruitment process. At time when unemployment is at an all time high and college/university fees continue to climb, the old formula no longer upholds. If financial freedom is your ultimate end game, then going into business for yourself can increase earnings exponentially.



# Emad Sangani



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# WHO ARE WE TO JUDGE

An eye opener by Nida Abdul Aziz

*We came into this world to worship Allah, do our bit, make life easier for others, empathize, encourage peace and simply put: Live and Let Live. However, no matter how good our intentions may be, we end up hurting others by judging them all the time, often forgetting how it feels to be on the other side of the game. I will use first person ("I", "we" and "us") in this entire article, because if I am writing this article does not mean I am any different.*

*"In the end, it'll all be between you and Allah, it was never between you and them anyway, and then who are we to judge?"*

Here are a few common instances which I am pretty sure we all can relate to:

-If a girl does not wear the hijab or does not cover herself, we jump to the conclusion that she is distant from Allah. She has one flaw that is visible to us, and she may have a hundred other strengths that only Allah can see. Her connection with the Almighty may be much stronger than ours could ever be. She is accountable solely to Him, not to us and our perfect society.

-If a person has come of age and does not get married, we immediately come to the conclusion that his/her nose is in the air, he's/she's too fast and education has ruined him/her; never thinking that this is part of their destiny and they will only get married when the Almighty wills, it has nothing to do with their character or attitude. Remember that pointing a finger at a chaste person's character is part of the 7 kabeera gunahs (major sins).

- If we come across a bad driver on the road, we immediately start abusing them (ladies are especially stereotyped as bad drivers, although a study in the UAE has proven the contrary), not for once thinking that they may be in an emergency situation. There was a man who drove rashly and broke nine signals because his daughter was serious in the hospital, imagine how many abuses and stares he must have gotten.

As mentioned in these instances, we never know a person's circumstances, Allah is All Knowing and it is solely Him who is meant to judge us, it is our duty to do our bit, not to criticize others. We are in no position or power to do so anyway. All of us are entitled to answer Him one day, and we should be ashamed (no offense to anyone) that being familiar with aspects of the dunya such as nafs, desires, shaitaan, temptations etc. we still don't stop criticizing others in their own difficult journey of life. Animals empathize with other animals, Jinns support each other, then why is it us humans, who fail to understand and support our brothers and sisters? Why do we keep finding faults in one another?

*"We judge ourselves by our intentions and others by their actions."*

Why do we keep making life difficult for one another? Don't we remember how it feels when we are being judged? Remember, Allah may forget and forgive Huquq ul Allah (The Rights Allah has towards us) but He will not forgive Huquq ul Ibad (The Rights His slaves have towards us). We tend to easily overlook the fact that Allah is not only Ar-Raheem (The Most Merciful) but also Al Adil (The Just), Al Hakim (The Judge) and Al Baseer (The All Seeing).





**"Everyone Loves you when you're dead."**

This statement cannot be any truer! All our lives we curse, abuse, hurt, and make life difficult for them, and when they die we have all the love in the world for them. I agree we also love, care and do well for others, but the negativity tends to eat up the good. Relationships and trust take years to build and seconds to break, for this reason. It would be so much easier if we remember that nobody is here to stay, everyone is fighting their own battle and giving their own test that we know nothing about! Kullu Nafsin Zaikatul Maut (surah Al-Imran) meaning: "Every soul shall taste death."

**"You can tell more about a person by what he says about others than you can by what he says about himself." - Audrey Hepburn**

Believe it or not, the person who is constantly criticizing and making generalizations about others is the most looked down upon, and is certainly avoided at most times. Intellectual and sensible people are uncomfortable with them around, and disrespect them because if they can talk about so and so then they can talk about them as well.



**"When you point a finger at someone, four of your fingers point back at you."**

Before we spill dirt on someone else's linen we should always remember that we would despise being in the same situation as them, we never forget those who talk ill about us, then why be like them. If we simply try to keep in mind that the Almighty is watching us at all times, then we wouldn't get into this mess in the first place. Because, let's face it, we all are good people at heart, or like to be ;) and at the end of the day, after doing so, we feel more guilt than pleasure. At times, there are instances when people in your surrounding are discussing someone unpleasantly, and even though you feel uncomfortable, it would appear prudish to intrude and stop them. In such situations, try to ask help from Allah, and politely try to change the topic. If we make the intention to change, then Allah would surely help us out. :)

No, no...  
This isn't gossip.  
It's the truth.



# SAY NO TO CRITICISM

Idea initiated by Salmaan Hussain, Chairman of WMO ME Youth Wing.





**World Memon Organization**  
**Middle East Chapter**  
**Youth Wing**

With the vision to grow, the Middle East Youth Wing looks ahead of time and plans each event carefully. If you want to be part of the Youth Wing and join us in our cause to unite the community and give the youth a chance to globalize and show their talent. Subscribe to our website: [www.wmomeyouthwing.webs.com](http://www.wmomeyouthwing.webs.com) or email us on: [wmome.youthwing@gmail.com](mailto:wmome.youthwing@gmail.com)

We thank all those who contributed to this edition.

**DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is a compilation of events conducted by the WMO M.E Youth Wing, and articles from the young memons from across the globe. We do not intend to offend anyone in anyway.**

**Future Events**

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – Muhammad Rafique Noorani Squash Open –**  
At Al Nasr Leisure Land – 4pm onwards

**1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 – Ladies Badminton Championship 2014 – At**  
American School – 1 30pm onwards

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – MD Ghazi Vahedna Sports Festival 2014 – At**  
United Pro Sports Al Quoz – 3pm onwards

To register for the above events email us on:  
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***From the  
Editor***



It has been an entertaining yet difficult journey for me so far, and I pray that I can continue on the good work. With the vision of enlighten talent through this newsletter we have now put together our 4<sup>th</sup> edition and it is a mixture that entertains every reader.

Going forward I and the youth wing team will hope to receive more support from everyone in anyway possible.

We run a charitable organization hence funding is at times an issue. I plead to everyone to stand up for our community and make your contributions through anyway possible.

Lastly, I thank all my members and friends who has helped the youth wing grow and make it as strong as it stands today.

JazakAllah Khair

*Salmaan Hussain  
Chairman – WMO  
M.E Youth Wing*

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