

# The Al-Hamra Times

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What goes up if you let it  
go and never comes back?

*A Kite!*

- Amana Naushad Fourth Grade

Assalamualaikum, my name is Ziyaad Hoosen, and I am an 8th grade student at Alhamra Academy. Personally, math is my favorite subject. As Shakuntala Devi once said, "Without mathematics, there's nothing you can do". I think this is very true, however many people beg to differ. For this quarter's newsletter, I decided to run a poll and find out what is the favorite subject at Alhamra. After interviewing one hundred students, this is what I got:

Science: 38%

Math: 35%

Social Studies: 11%

English: 11%

Arabic: 5%

So it turns out that math isn't the best subject. Attaining nearly 40% of the votes, science came out on top.

Following this we have math at 2nd place with 35% of the votes, english and social studies tied for 3rd with 11%, and little arabic sadly sitting at the bottom with just 5% of the votes.

Do I still think math is the best? Yes, but the results say otherwise. In conclusion, science is officially the best subject at Alhamra academy. If you have made it to the end of my editorial, thank you so much for reading. Hope you all have a lovely winter inshAllah.

# Hanshi Alan Q&A

## About His Promotion this Month

*Written by Younes Fedal (Grade 8)*

Me: How long have you been doing Karate?

HA: 37 ½ years at the time of my promotion.

Me: How long have you done Kenpo?

HA: 37 ½ years. Since 1984, but I did it privately from 1985 through 1986.



Picture of Hanshi Alan D'Alessandro after his promotion

Me: Did you have any siblings do it with you?

HA: No.

Me: How did you get into Karate?

HA: There was a dojo in my neighbourhood after I got married. I went and signed up for lessons there.

Me: Who was your first instructor?

HA: Sensei Robert Cook.

Me: How did you meet your current instructor (Senior Grand Master Don Rodrigues)?

HA: I met him through K.R.A.N.E (Karate Referees Association of New England) in 1992.

Me: How big of a role does karate play in your life?

HA: I do it for a living it's my job.

Me: How did you feel when you first started doing Karate?

HA: I felt good, but my wife thought it was silly. I remember when I showed her my horse stance she said "You look so stupid."

Me: How do you feel about your upcoming promotion?

HA: I feel nervous, excited, happy, stunned. See I wasn't expecting to be promoted and then the offer presented itself.

Me: How long have you been a black belt?

HA: I have been a black belt for 28 years now.

Me: If you could change something about the past in Karate what would you change?

HA: I wouldn't change anything. I think that I was a pretty hard worker.

Me: What would you tell yourself if you could go back to when you were first beginning?

HA: I can't believe where I am now.

Me: How many people have you promoted to black belt?

HA: estimated 150.

Me: How many students do you have at your school?

HA: about 125.

Me: Thank you.

HA: No problem.

# Major Politics: Afghanistan

*By: Abdullah Alaloosi*

The invasion of Afghanistan was apart of the anti-terrosism movement, operation enduring freedom began on October 7, 2021. Operation enduring freedom was a defense to the terrorist group Al-Qaeda, after a terrorist act by Al-Qaeda in which 3,000 were killed, and another 6,000 injured. 196 countries supported, and 40 countries volunteered soldiers to end Al-Qaeda, and all other terrorist groups.

Al-Qaeda couldn't fight back against the United States, and 39 other countries, but Al-Qaeda had a secret weapon which was the Taliban. Al-Qaeda had great influence on the Afghani government party, the Taliban. The Taliban would not allow women to go to school, you couldn't freely practice your religion, and you could be jailed for owning technology. The Taliban, and Al-Qaeda worked together and tried to defend against the united countries, but Al-Qaeda, and Taliban were overpowered by the amount of soldiers, and equipment that the countries had. The Taliban rule tumbled.

The united countries decided to put a democratic republic, and they put Hamid Karzai as president. One of the leading generals that invaded the pashtun tribes had 49,000,000 people, or nearly 50% of the total Afgan population.

Operation anaconda, the first major ground attacks was a invasion against 800 Al-Qaeda, and Taliban fighters; 2,000 forein soldiers, and 1,000 Afghan soldiers started the invasion. Fighting of the Taliban cooled, as Iraq was thought a larger threat than the Taliban, or Al-Qaeda. 38,000,000 dollars was given to the Afghan government from 2002-2009. Smaller operations was ongoing to prevent Taliban, or Al-Qaeda to re-submerge.

In October, 2006 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), and Isaf expanding its force from 5,000 soldiers to 65,000, with the task of protecting Kabul, the capital, and its surrounding areas. Later on NATO, and Isaf start intensive combat in Southern Afghanistan. Further amount of soldiers are sent to Afghanistan in late 2007 to prevent losing Afghanistan progression.

2009, President Obama reaffirms the importance of fighting terror. Obama sends 17,000 soldiers to Afghanistan, to counter the resurgence of the Taliban, with forein soldiers on the Pakistani, Afghan border. The Pakistani government made Pakistan a safe haven for Al-Qaeda, and the Taliban. Obama aided Pakistan to fight against the Terrorist. Another 5,000 soldiers were deployed to train the Afghan army, and police, and to give more security for the elections.

Allegations of corrupt Afghan president elections. On August 20, 2009, Hamid Karzai allegedly won the Afghanistan president elections. Un-backed studies showed that president Mr. Karzai won only 49.6% of the votes, below 50% and 1 vote threshold to avoid a runoff election. Mr. Karzai agreed on a runoff vote one week after the election. One week later Mr. Karzai's main rival was Abdullah. Abdullah dropped out of the elections.

President Obama went on national television, and announced to further add another 30,000 soldiers on top of the 65,000 to combat terror. Obama states, "Will increase our ability to train competent Afghan Security Forces, and to partner with them so that more Afghans can get into the fight. And they will help create the conditions for the United States to transfer responsibility to the Afghans." Late 2010, NATO members decided to leave Afghanistan by 2014, because of the amount of American soldiers deployed in Afghanistan. NATO also analyzed that the Afghan government can protect themselves from the Taliban.

Mid 2011, Al-Qaeda, leader Osama Bin Laden was killed. President Obama withdrew 35,000 soldiers. A large anti-Pakistan movement started to take place in Afghanistan, because Pakistani officials were allowing terrorists to live freely, without the worry of consequences. President Obama planned to withdraw 33,000 thousand troops, and by summer of 2012, another 10,000 would be withdrawn. President Obama later stated in October, 2011 that all troops would be withdrawn by 2014. October 7, 2011 marked the 10 years of fighting against terror.

Early 2012 Taliban was willing to negotiate to open an office in Qatar, a sign of peace. The Taliban then accused America of showing acts of violence; burning of Qurans by troops, and allegations a soldier killed 16 Afghan villagers. Mr. Karzai told all foreign soldiers to stay outside of villages, and stay around their military base. This was a step closer to leaving Afghanistan, and letting the Afghan government deal with the Taliban.

Mid 2013, Mr. Karzai starts to take control. NATO gives control to 95 regions to the Afghan government. The United States changes focus from fighting, to train Afghan soldiers, and special counterterrorism operations. The rollback was the same day resuming talks for an office in Taliban in Doha, Qatar. Mr. Karzai thought that allowing an office for the Taliban would legitimize a terrorist group, and would make the Taliban more socially accepted. U.S. forces were leaving Afghanistan in December 2014, and needed to make sure that the Taliban don't take control.

Mid 2014, President Obama made the withdrawal date late 2016. The first phase of president Obama's new plan was to withdraw 10,000 troops combating troops, and leaving the rest to train Afghan soldiers, and the remainings of Al-Qaeda.

Late 2014, Afghanistan's two major politicians agree for a unity of government. Ashraf

Ghani, the new president, agrees to share power with Abdullah, and Mr. Ghani could not agree on topics such as security post, in a time where Taliban were making large movement. This government still might have been better than Mr. Karzai, because Karzai was anti civilian deaths to gain public support, so he can be corrupt without punishment.

Early 2017 the newly elected president, Donald Trump wants to send thousands of U.S. troops. The Taliban were as strong as ever, and the U.S. military describes the war as a stalemate. Kabul gets suicide bombers more than ever. Taliban now control more than a third of Afghanistan, marines are redeployed.

Late 2017 President trump wants to withdraw from Afghanistan, despite his promises to prevent the emergence of terrorist in elections. Trump said he did not know how bad things truly were in Afghanistan. Trump asks India to help Afghanistan, and show his disdain in Pakistan typical for President Trump.

Early 2019 the U.S. and Taliban talk about a peace deal. President Trump withdraws 7,000 soldiers to show appreciation. The Taliban ceasefire. President trump stops the peace talk, a week after the top negotiator said agreement had been reached in principle with the Taliban. in a tweet, President Trump canceled a meeting with Mr. Ghani, and Taliban after a U.S. soldier was killed by a Taliban. The Taliban says is willing to still negotiate, but a cancellation will increase the death toll exponentially.

Early 2020 U.S stop negotiator and Taliban sign an agreement. it states that the U.S. must leave in 14 months, and the Taliban cannot attack U.S. troops, and they cannot let Afghanistan become a haven for terrorist. This peace deal had 1 large problem, the Afghan government was not protected.

Late 2020, troop numbers decreased to 2,500. NATO advises that leaving too quickly will make Afghanistan a terrorist haven. The newly elected president, Joe Biden, withdrew the lasting 2,500 soldiers in mid 2021.

Afghan government was trampled by the Taliban. The Taliban took control over Afghanistan in two weeks. this is because the whole Afghan government was corrupt and all ran away to Turkey with the 3 trillion dollars that the U.S. invested in Afghanistan, since there was no command soldiers were unable to defend the nation, so they too retreated. Since there was no foreign soldiers, or commanders it let the Taliban in with little to no bullets being fired. 2,500 American soldiers, 4,000 U.S. contractors, 66,000 Afghan soldiers, and police, NATO 1,200, Afghan 50,000 suspected to be more, Taliban and Al-Qaeda 51,000 dead, and 3 trillion dollars gone into a pit of fire.

# Adventures of Jaggy The Jaguar: The Temple of Doom (Book 1)

Written by Shayaan Ahmed (Grade 5)

## Prologue

Shayaan had adopted a jaguar. His name was Jaggy. Shayaan could speak a little jaguarick which was the jaguar language. He made a team; Team Adventure is a distinguished team dedicated to save the world and stop evil. Shayaan, Sarah, and Talia were the only ones in the group.

Team Adventure heard about the Forest of Perish. They headed there only to meet Sakina the witch and Sami the Assistant who has the brain of an acorn so we will call him a squirrel. There was an epic battle. Team Adventure was about to lose but Jaggy made a sacrifice. He got hit trying to save Shayaan. He got sliced right down the stomach and was unconscious. Team Adventure ended up winning but Jaggy was in a coma. Team Adventure found someone new. His name was Malek. He joined the Team Adventure.

Jaggy the jaguar was still in the hospital after the Team Adventure had a crazy encounter with Sakina the Witch and Sami the Assistant. Jaggy would be released after his last checkup today. Dr. Aydin was checking Jaggy's pulse. Team Adventure: Sarah, Talia, Malek, and Shayaan were checking magazine after magazine for a mystery or a fraud to bust. That's when Dr. Aydin said that Jaggy was all better! They celebrated! At home Shayaan made Jaggy's favorite foods: deer lamb with deer infused rice with lamb milk blood. Jaggy was weirdly stubborn, he just wouldn't eat.

Shayaan asked Malek, "What's wrong with him?"

"He's probably just recovering from his big hit, Malek answered."

"Yeah," said Sarah, "let him rest."

*Ding dong.* "I'll get it," said Talia racing to the door. When she opened it she saw Dr Aydin.

"Might I suggest the Temple of Doom," said Dr. Aydin.

"What?" said Sarah.

"We don't know what you're talking about." said Shayaan.

"Oh come on," said the doctor. "I know that you are the famous Team Adventure."

"Okay fine, we are," said Shayaan. "but why did you say Temple of Doom?"

"I know that you guys are looking for an adventure," explained the doctor. "The Temple of Doom has been haunted by a ghost, a mastermind vampire, a shapeshifter who can turn into everything and everyone, and an assistant who has a brain of wobbly jelly. You people have got to go and solve this mystery. So go to The Temple of Doom!"

### *Chapter 1*

## **The Journey**

They all packed their bags. It was a two hour drive. Shayaan was driving but people were going so fast that the car crashed. Luckily, nobody was injured. They had to walk two miles. When they got to The Temple of Doom, they saw a huge gate going all the way to space. "Guys look over here" said Malek.

On the left of the colorful border were some words. Sarah tried to run through the border but was flung back. That won't work, said Talia shaking her head. We have to solve a riddle.

### *Chapter 2*

## **The Riddle**

The riddle on the gate said:  
*Sacrifice Enter You To Person Must A*

*Hmmmm* they all thought. "Uh-Oh" said Malek. "I think it means to enter you must sacrifice a person." They were all worried. They all brainstormed ideas. Jaggy had not screamed, howled, or eaten. Jaggy was definitely suspicious. "Okay, I got a plan," said Shayaan after a while. Then he started fighting Malek.

"Shayaan, stop!" yelled Sarah.

"Get away," said Malek. "We know what we are doing."

Shayaan punched Malek in the stomach, then kicked him. Malek fell onto the floor.

"WHATTTT. You just killed Malek" complained Talia and Sarah. but at that moment the gates swung open. They went inside.

"Malek get in," whispered Shayaan. Malek jumped up and slid through the gate as it closed.

"Understand? We had to sacrifice a person for the gates to open" said Malek. "So I faked my death."

"Oh" said Sarah and Talia. and they all walked towards The Temple of Doom.

### *Chapter 3*

## **The Kidnapper**

They took a torch and walked through a narrow dark path. Shayaan was in front holding Jaggy who still hasn't spoken. They kept on hearing *Ohhhhhhhhhh* and stuff like *ahhhhhhhh* but ignored the voices. Then Sarah broke the silence. "If one of us gets captured, should we go after them."

"I think we all have a chance against whoever is haunting this place," Shayaan and Malek agreed.

They walked for five minutes, when suddenly, Sarah started screaming! They turned around to see ghosts coming out of the walls! One of the ghosts snatched Sarah. Then Sarah screamed, "Save yourselves!" They ran away as fast as they could, and soon the ghosts went away. WOW! Sarah said to keep walking, so they did.

### *Chapter 4*

## **The Discovery**

They kept walking until their torch's fire had worn out. It was very, very dark. They thought about taking a break, but they kept going until they reached a big door. but...why was it open? Well, they didn't have any strength left so, *phew*. They all went inside very scared. What!? Dr. Aydin was standing in the middle of the room.

"Muahahaha! You fell for it," said the doctor. Shayaan, Talia, and Malek were confused. They thought he'd been brainwashed.

"Are you okay doct-"

"Muahahaha" interrupted the doctor.

Shayaan asked, "Wait, are you-"

"Yes, I'm the Mastermind Vampire," said the doctor. "I disguised myself as a doctor, went to your house to convince you foolish kids to come here."

"But why?" asked Talia in shock.

"So I could kill you! Now Ayaan, get over here, you have done well," said Aydin.

Jaggy ran over to Dr. Aydin, and turned into a human! "This is ayaan," said the doctor. "He is a magician who can turn into anyone or anything."

"Tell us where you took our friends," yelled Talia.

"No no no" said the doctor. "I must show you my trusted jelly brain assistant. Sami!" What! How could Sami possibly be here!

### *Chapter 5*

## **The Big Battle**

"We have to fight back," Malek whispered. "Or else we'll die."

"Your right Malek," agreed Talia and Shayaan.

Talia fought Sami, Shayaan fought Dr. Aydin, and Malek fought Ayaan who kept on turning into things. but the whole time they kept wondering where Jaggy and Sarah were being held. They were thinking so hard that they were losing! Shayaan could see Talia and Malek were struggling. One final hit and Malek, Talia, and Shayaan were shot back and hit a wall. Aydin told Sami to get the Ruby of Fire.

"The Ruby of Fire kills whoever touches it. The only people who won't die are the haunters of this temple," said Dr. Aydin. Sami pulled out a doorknob looking rock which had the Ruby in it and ...

### *Chapter 6*

## **The Final Chance**

Instead of a rock, a door had opened. Out burst Sarah and the real Jaggy!

"Sami!" Aydin yelled. "What did you do?"

"I'm getting ice cream," replied Sami.

"Noooooooooooo Sami! You released Sarah and Jaggy. Now I'll never win!"

The doctor was fuming. "Nah," said Sami, crunching on an ice cream cone. "The Ruby is safe with me."

"Give it to me," said aydin. Sami grabbed the Ruby and started walking towards aydin. first, Sami dropped ice cream on the Ruby. Then, he tripped and dropped the Ruby. It shattered into tons of pieces.

Aydin yelled, "Nooooooo Sami! Oh Sami, when I'm done with you, you'll be nothing more than a-" *Klunck*. Sarah had knocked him out. Jaggy had scratched ayaan. Sami had managed to escape. Team Adventure ran out of the temple. but Ayaan found them and asked if he could join them. *Hmmm* they all thought. "Sure, you can be our spy," they answered.

Ayaan took an oath not to betray them. Ayaan explained that Sarah was caught by the ghost, Salem.

*Two months later...*

“Ugh, I'm bored,” moaned Talia. “

“Don't worry, tomorrow we're going to the Sea of Death,” said Shayaan.

**NEXT: The Sea of Death**

## Prologue

A lot can happen in two months. for example, Salem the Ghost hid in Team Adventure's trash can. He was caught by Ayaan the Shapeshifter because Ayaan turned into the trash can because he was spying. Salem the Ghost said he was lonely at the Temple of Doom. He thought if he turned good he would be recognized, so he snuck around our house; but nothing gets around ayaan. He was the greatest spy ever.

Also, Sarah and Talia were going shopping when they found a homeless girl. Sarah and Talia took her into Team Adventure's house. They fed her and took care of her. They soon found out she was an elite fighter from the village of Huq. but sadly, they had been attacked by the War Machine village. No one from the Huq village survived. except for Nashmia. She had a black belt. Nashmia immediately fit in with Team Adventure. They officially made her a member of Team Adventure just twelve days ago.

Last time, Shayaan had said that they were going to the Sea of Death. and the day finally came. The Sea of death is a place where people go to forget their lives and die!

Oh, *umm*, not that I'm saying Team Adventure wanted to... they are just going to.. well, overcome everyone's fear and be heroes... you know what i am trying to say!

# 1st Grade Art Gallery

Edited by: Layan Jaara

Name: Yusuf Date: 9-24-2021

A rainbow makes my world  
wonderful. My toys  
make my world  
wonderful. My fish makes  
my world wonderful. My friends  
make my world wonderful.

Name: Ayoub Date: 9/24/21

I like all of these animals  
and my family.

Name: Aok Date:

The rainbow is  
a very colorful

## THANK YOU:

Yusuf Morad

Ayoub Elboussaadi

Abdullah Khan

(more of student's work can be seen on the school's art bulletin board)

Name: Zain mir Date: 14-24-2021



My Doreen the girl  
 makes me happy. My sister  
 makes me happy Hana

Name: Hana Date: 9-21-2021



The is wise.  
 Eliana  
 My Family  
 My cat  
 and the Earth  
 and rain bow

**THANK YOU:**

Zain Mir  
 Hana Hafez  
 Busra Bakirci

*(more of student's work can be seen  
 on the school's art bulletin board)*

Name: Hana Date: 24-20-21



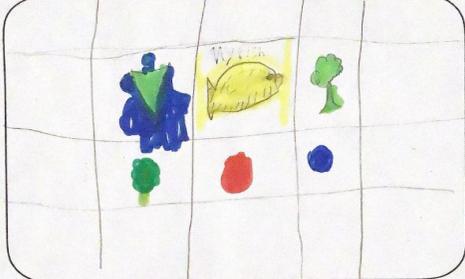
rainbow

Name: Esa Date: 9-23-2021



Trees give us shade

Name: IBRAHIM C. Date: 9-24-2021



all of these things.

Name: Eliana Date: 24-2-2021



family  
rainbow  
CA + Earth  
heart + star  
friend

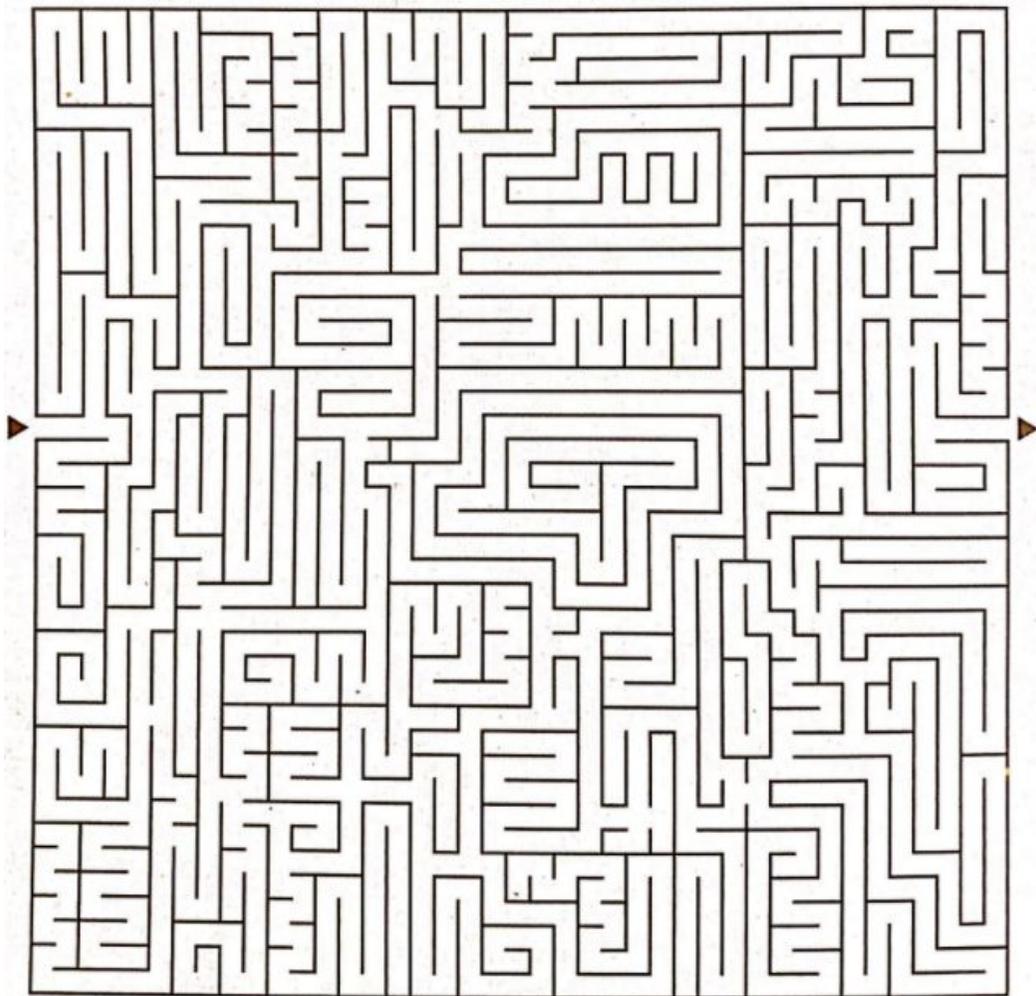
**THANK YOU:**

Esa Ezzyat  
Ibrahim Celik  
Eliana Injar

*(more of student's work can be seen on the school's art bulletin board)*

# Mega Maze

*By Zaina Qureshi (Grade 4)*



## About the Club

The Newsletter club, organized by Sr. Maryam Mehmood, is the first to happen in Al-Hamra Academy. Students from 6th, 7th and 8th grade worked as editors and collected pieces from the school to present to the Al-Hamra community. Each editor was assigned a class to gather the students' works. The editors were also welcome to create the own piece to share. The Newsletter club was an enjoyable experience for everyone. A special thanks to Sr. Maryam, the editors, and all the students who took the time to add to Al-Hamra's first newsletter!



## Meet the Editors

Nazeefah Mowla (Grade 8)  
Younes Fedal (Grade 8)  
Zainab Ridha (Grade 8)  
Hajara D'Urso (Grade 8)  
Layan Jaara (Grade 7)  
Simrah Mowla (Grade 6)



## Volume 2 coming soon!

# References for Afghanistan Article:

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War\\_in\\_Afghanistan\\_\(2001%E2%80%932021\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_(2001%E2%80%932021))

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